

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

March 16, 2001

Committee
Report No.

01-54

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Parks and Recreation Committee, having met on February 28, 2001, makes reference to County Communication No. 01-57, from the Director of Parks and Recreation, transmitting a proposed resolution entitled "AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE HOOKIPA BEACH PARK BY MIKE WALTZE PRODUCTIONS/RED BULL NORTH AMERICA".

The purpose of the proposed resolution is to authorize Mike Waltze Productions/Red Bull North America the use of Hookipa Beach Park for its Red Bull Kite Sailing Contest Event and Exhibition from September 10 through 20, 2001.

Pursuant to Section 13.04.130(B) of the Maui County Code, Type V activities, which are held in excess of three consecutive days, require Council approval by resolution.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Director of Parks and Recreation, a Deputy Corporation Counsel, and Mike Waltze of Mike Waltze Productions.

Your Committee received testimony from two individuals who felt that a kite sailing event will place undue stress on Hookipa Beach Park ("Hookipa"). They asked that your Committee carefully consider safety and environmental factors, rather than focus purely on economic benefits.

Mike Waltze requested the use of Hookipa for a total of 11 days for the fourth annual kite surfing competition. One day is needed to set up, four to six days is needed for the actual competition, and four days is reserved in the event of unsatisfactory weather.

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Mr. Waltze indicated that kite surfing is experiencing the same sort of opposition as windsurfing when windsurfing was first introduced to Maui years ago. At that time, many individuals called for a total ban of the sport. Today, Maui is reputed as the "epicenter" for windsurfing. Leading-edge local designers of windsurf equipment, and televised world-class events held on Maui have promoted our island as the choice destination for windsurfers. Similarly, kite surfing, an extension of windsurfing, is experiencing opposition.

In response to concerns expressed, Mr. Waltze explained that safety is a primary focus for him when organizing events. With respect to beach access, he asserted that the beach will be open to the public, as participants will be restricted to kite surf within a certain section of the ocean. In addition, participants will be restricted to compete between the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. He further asserted that, in return for being granted the use of Hookipa, Red Bull North America (the major sponsor of the event) is willing to fund the replenishment of sand at the beach.

Mr. Waltze justified the decision to request the use of Hookipa versus Kanaha Beach Park. He noted that the Hawaii Tourism Authority, a sponsor of the event, has recommended that the event be held at Hookipa because of its suitable conditions for promoting Maui. In addition, the members of the Hawaii Kite Surfers Association agreed not to engage in kite surfing at Kanaha.

The Director of Parks and Recreation commented on Mr. Waltze's professionalism and willingness to address concerns, such as parking, traffic, and safety. He reiterated that, in return for granting Mr. Waltze the use of Hookipa, Red Bull North America will fund the replenishment of sand at the beach. The County will also benefit through permit fees collected in the amount of \$300 per day or 10 percent of gross receipts, whichever is higher.

In response to concerns relating to the number of events at Hookipa, the Director indicated that his Department is considering revisions to the Administrative Rules to limit events. Subsequent to the completion of a final draft, the Department is required to conduct a public hearing.

Although your Committee stated its concerns relating to the numerous events and the duration of the proposed event, it also recognized the benefits the

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County will receive. Based on the fact that the Department is considering revisions to the Administrative Rules, your Committee voted to recommend the adoption of the proposed resolution.

Your Parks and Recreation Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Resolution No. _____, attached hereto, entitled "AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE HOOKIPA BEACH PARK BY MIKE WALTZE PRODUCTIONS/RED BULL NORTH AMERICA" be ADOPTED; and
2. That County Communication No. 01-57 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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