

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

October 19, 2001

Committee
Report No.

01-198

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 October 3, 2001, makes reference to County Communication No. 01-177, from the Council Chair, transmitting a letter dated June 2, 2001, from Carole Joy Ameral, Executive Director, West Maui Taxpayers Association, relating to concerns at Pohaku Park (a.k.a. S-Turn Park).

By letter dated August 9, 2001, your Committee Chair requested recommendations or suggestions relating to lighting and park maintenance at Pohaku Park from the Director of Parks and Recreation.

By letter dated August 9, 2001, your Committee Chair requested recommendations and suggestions relating to the maintenance of a storm drain located near Pohaku Park from the Director of Public Works and Waste Management.

By letter dated August 9, 2001, your Committee Chair requested recommendations and suggestions relating to noise disturbances and crime at Pohaku Park and surrounding areas from the Chief of Police.

By letter dated August 21, 2001, the Director of Parks and Recreation addressed maintenance and lighting concerns.

By letter dated September 4, 2001, the Director of Public Works and Waste Management addressed storm drainage concerns.

By letter dated September 26, 2001, the Chief of Police addressed related concerns about crime and noise disturbances at or near Pohaku Park.

At its meeting of October 3, 2001, your Committee met with the Planning Development Chief for the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Director of

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Public Works and Waste Management, the Chief of Police, and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

Your Committee received testimony from two individuals who expressed concerns initially raised in the above-stated correspondence. However, each of the testifiers indicated that the County had addressed all the issues with the exception of the request for lighting. Both testifiers suggested that the installation of lighting at Pohaku Park would help to address safety and crime activity in the area. One of the testifiers suggested that the County consider installing solar lighting at the park. Another testifier informed your Committee that the West Maui Taxpayers Association is willing to cost-share with the County for the installation of lighting at the park.

The Chief of Police informed your Committee that the number of patrols in the area have been increased, and crime activity at the park has been limited to five minor incidents over the last six months. He further stated that because of a lack of manpower Countywide, the installation of lighting would assist the Department's patrols in the area by helping to reduce any incidents of crime. The Chief indicated that his only concern with solar lighting is that the lights remain on for the entire night.

The Planning Development Chief for the Department of Parks and Recreation reviewed the Department's efforts to address the concerns about park maintenance and landscaping. He noted that the lighting problem will be addressed by the installation of two 150-watt high-pressure sodium vapor lights to be placed on existing power poles at the park. He further indicated that Maui Electric Company should install the lights within two months. The Planning Development Chief stated he would communicate your Committee's recommendation to Maui Electric Company that shields be installed on the lights to prevent unnecessary glare on the shoreline and to neighboring properties.

Your Committee noted that the concerns about Pohaku Park have been adequately addressed by the County, and that the West Maui Taxpayers Association will continue to monitor and ensure the installation of lighting at the park. Your Committee recommended filing of the matter.

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Your Parks and Recreation Committee RECOMMENDS that County
Communication No. 01-177 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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