

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
**PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

April 20, 2001

Committee
Report No.

01-76

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

Chair and Members:

Your Public Works and Transportation Committee, having met on March 30, 2001, makes reference to County Communication No. 01-74, from the Mayor, transmitting a proposed bill entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES".

The purpose of the bill is to authorize the Mayor to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the State Commission on Water Resource Management. Under the Agreement, the County will grant a sum of \$10,000 to the State to support the establishment of a Drought Coordinator position. The Drought Coordinator will assist with the implementation of Phase 1 of the Hawaii Drought Plan.

By electronic mail dated March 28, 2001, Elliot Krash, President of the Kula Community Association, expressed support for the proposed bill authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the State Commission on Water Resource Management.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Budget Director, an Executive Assistant to the Mayor, and the First Deputy Corporation Counsel.

Your Committee received testimony from one individual who expressed support for the proposed bill authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement.

The Executive Assistant to the Mayor provided a brief overview of the matter. He indicated that subsequent to the formulation of the Hawaii Drought Plan last year, it became evident that the success of the plan was contingent on the establishment of a Drought Coordinator position. Because the State did not

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budget for the establishment of such a position, the four counties and the State agreed to provide \$10,000 each as interim funding.

The County of Maui's grant of \$10,000 will be funded through the Mayor's Office and the Department of Water Supply (DWS), with a provision of \$5,000 each.

The Executive Assistant noted that the grants from the counties and the State will fund the Coordinator's salary and the purchase of equipment. The Coordinator's scope of responsibilities will include gathering data on drought conditions and locating funding sources.

Your Committee disagreed with the decision to request partial funding from the DWS, rather than requesting the entire amount of the grant.

Your Committee requested the following information from the Mayor's Office: (1) an explanation for the five-month delay in informing the Council of the matter; (2) a copy of the Hawaii Drought Plan; (3) a copy of the Mayor's letter to the Governor dated August 10, 2000, in which the Mayor offers the State a \$10,000 grant; and (4) the name of the Hawaii Drought Coordinator and the date the Coordinator assumed his responsibilities.

Your Committee also requested information from the DWS relating to its long-range capital improvement plans to address and mitigate the impact of future droughts.

Although your Committee questioned the need for such a large sum of money for the few remaining months in the current fiscal year, it expressed support for the general concept. Your Committee, therefore, voted to recommend the passage of the proposed bill and to file the communication.

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Your Public Works and Transportation Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Bill No. _____ (2001), as attached hereto, entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES" PASS FIRST READING and BE ORDERED TO PRINT; and
2. That County Communication No. 01-74 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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