

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

July 20, 2001

**Committee
Report No.**

01-123

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 February 14, 2001 and July 2, 2001, makes reference to County Communication No. 99-182, from former Councilmember John Wayne Enriques, relating to traffic safety at the intersection of Makawao, Baldwin and Olinda Avenues in Makawao.

Your Committee notes that County Communication No. 99-182 was referred to the prior Council's Public Works and Water Committee at the Council meeting of July 2, 1999.

By memorandum dated August 23, 1999, the Council Chair transmitted a copy of a letter dated August 17, 1999, from Rita Silva, expressing concerns relating to the subject intersection.

By memorandum dated September 1, 1999, the Council Chair transmitted a copy of postcards from Sherry L. Blair and Mark Peterson, requesting that a traffic light be installed at the subject intersection.

By memorandum dated March 30, 2000, the Council Chair transmitted a copy of an electronic mail dated March 24, 2000, from Bernadine Ranger, expressing concerns relating to the condition of Baldwin Avenue.

By letter dated April 13, 2000, Rita Silva requested that a traffic control device be installed at the subject intersection.

At its meeting of November 15, 2000, the Public Works and Water Committee recommended that County Communication No. 99-182 be referred to the Council Chair for the term beginning January 2, 2001, for a recommendation as to referral or other disposition.

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At its meeting of January 12, 2001, the Council referred County Communication No. 99-182 to your Public Works and Transportation Committee (County Communication No. 01-8).

By electronic mail dated February 14, 2001, Susan Werner expressed support for the four-way stop at the intersection of Makawao, Baldwin and Olinda Avenues.

At its meeting of February 14, 2001, your Committee met with the Director of Public Works and Waste Management, an Assistant Chief of Police, and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

Your Committee received testimony from Madelyn D'Enbeau, representative for the Makawao Main Street Association. She stated that the Association supports the placement of a fourth stop sign on Baldwin Avenue at the intersection of Makawao, Baldwin, and Olinda Avenues. However, she further stated that the Association's position is that the installation of a traffic light to implement the stop would be undesirable. The representative explained that as it currently exists, the three stop signs at the intersection causes confusion for many motorists, who unknowingly stop at the Baldwin Avenue entrance to the intersection. The addition of the Baldwin Avenue stop sign would lessen the confusion for many motorists and would provide for smoother traffic flow at the intersection.

Your Committee received testimony from another individual who reiterated the sentiments expressed by the representative of the Makawao Main Street Association.

The Director of Public Works and Waste Management advised your Committee that the Department has conducted traffic-flow studies at the intersection and has determined that a fourth stop sign is warranted. The Director agreed to install a temporary stop sign at the intersection pursuant to Section 10.28.130 of the Maui County Code. This section authorizes the Director of Public Works and Waste Management to place traffic control devices on County roadways, without the approval of the Council, for an eight-week trial period. Subsequent to the eight-week trial period, the Director must submit a report to the Council for further action.

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The Director further advised your Committee that he will refer the matter to the Traffic Safety Council for its review.

Your Committee deferred the matter pending receipt of a report from the Director on the effectiveness of the temporary traffic control device and a recommendation from the Traffic Safety Council.

By letter dated June 15, 2001, the Director of Public Works and Waste Management reported that the Traffic Safety Council recommended the continued operation of the four-way stop and transmitted a proposed bill entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 10.44, MAUI COUNTY CODE, PERTAINING TO STOP REQUIRED". The purpose of the proposed bill is to install a permanent four-way stop at the intersection of Makawao, Baldwin and Olinda Avenues.

By facsimile letter received on June 29, 2001, Rosemary Kuulei Moore, President of the Makawao Merchants Association, expressed support for the four-way stop at the intersection of Makawao, Baldwin and Olinda Avenues.

At its meeting of July 2, 2001, your Committee met with the Director of Public Works and Waste Management; a Lieutenant of the Traffic Section, Department of Police; and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

The Director of Public Works and Waste Management provided a brief overview of the matter. He indicated that his Department has monitored the effectiveness of the temporary four-way stop. The results of his Department's monitoring, and feedback received from community members have been in support of the four-way stop. In addition, the Traffic Safety Council has investigated the intersection and has recommended its continued operation.

In response to your Committee's inquiry, the Director stated that the Department is proposing that the following improvements be made to the intersection: (1) the words "Stop Ahead" be painted on Baldwin Avenue before the intersection; (2) old stop signs at the intersection be replaced; and (3) an additional stop sign be placed on Baldwin Avenue, at the intersection.

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A Lieutenant from the Traffic Section, Department of Police, also provided an overview of the matter. He indicated that the proposed improvements to the intersection should result in enhanced safety for motorists, as well as for pedestrians.

Your Public Works and Transportation Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Bill No. _____(2001), attached hereto, entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 10.44, MAUI COUNTY CODE, PERTAINING TO STOP REQUIRED", PASS FIRST READING and BE ORDERED TO PRINT; and
2. That County Communication No. 99-182 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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