

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
**HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE**

September 3, 2004

**Committee
Report No.**

04-150

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

Chair and Members:

Your Housing and Human Services Committee, having met on August 16, 2004, makes reference to County Communication No. 04-76, from the Director of Housing and Human Concerns, requesting an opportunity to have a member of the University of Hawaii's Social Science Research Institute present their preliminary findings of a needs assessment study conducted for Maui County.

According to the communication, the information received from the needs assessment study could be used as a basis to help formulate decisions on prioritizing and funding for social service programs and other needs in our community.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Director of Housing and Human Concerns; the Acting Grants Administrator, Department of Housing and Human Concerns; a Deputy Corporation Counsel; and Dr. Judith Inazu, Principal Investigator and Associate Director of the Social Science Research Institute and Co-Director of the Office for Evaluation and Needs Assessment Services, University of Hawaii at Manoa.

There was no public testimony.

Your Committee received a copy of the needs assessment study entitled, "Maui Voices: 2003-2004 Maui Needs Assessment Study, Final Report" from the Department of Housing and Human Concerns.

Dr. Inazu presented your Committee with an oral and written overview of the needs assessment, the methodology utilized to obtain data, and the data results.

She said that the purposes of the assessment were to determine the human and social needs of the residents of Maui County, and provide County

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officials with a decision-making tool. Focus group interview sessions and random telephone surveys were held in 2003.

The top tier of overall needs was: (1) affordable housing; (2) education; and (3) substance abuse.

The second tier of overall needs was: (1) transportation/infrastructure; (2) strengthening the economy/employment opportunities; and (3) environmental protection.

The third tier of overall needs was: (1) health care; (2) support for the elderly; (3) youth programs; (4) family strengthening programs; and (5) assistance for the homeless and needy.

Your Committee questioned Dr. Inazu about various aspects of the methodology utilized for the assessment and the data results. Your Committee also questioned the Director of Housing and Human Concerns about the possibility of new or increased County funding for a number of new or existing programs to address the needs identified in the assessment.

Your Committee noted that the assessment findings were very valuable and hoped that the results could be incorporated into the upcoming General Plan update, as well as in the next budget. Additionally, your Committee stated that each department of the County might benefit by receiving a copy of the assessment for budget purposes when determining the programs and services that should be offered by the departments.

Your Committee agreed that the Chair of your Committee should send the report to the various departments as a decision-making tool.

Your Committee thanked Dr. Inazu for her informative presentation, and voted to recommend that the communication be filed.

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Your Housing and Human Services Committee RECOMMENDS that
County Communication No. 04-76 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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