

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

PARKS AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

April 2, 2004

Committee
Report No.

04-73

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

Chair and Members:

Your Parks and Agriculture Committee, having met on February 20, 2003 and March 4, 2004, makes reference to County Communication No. 01-204, from the former Mayor, relating to the creation of additional County campsites.

Your Committee notes that County Communication No. 01-204 was referred to the prior Council's Parks and Recreation Committee at the Council meeting of July 20, 2001. The Parks and Recreation Committee reported on this matter through Committee Report No. 01-144, which recommended that a proposed resolution entitled "ACCEPTING DEDICATION OF LAND PURSUANT TO SECTION 3.44.015, MAUI COUNTY CODE" be adopted. At its meeting of August 21, 2001, the Council adopted Committee Report No. 01-144 (Resolution No. 01-134).

Your Committee further notes that the Parks and Recreation Committee also reported on this matter through Committee Report No. 01-252, which recommended that (1) a proposed bill entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13.04, MAUI COUNTY CODE, PERTAINING TO PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES CUSTODIAL DEPOSITS AND CAMPING AREAS", be passed on first reading and be ordered to print; and (2) a proposed resolution entitled "URGING THE MAYOR TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS OF OPERATION FOR CAMPING AT PAPALAUA WAYSIDE PARK AND REQUESTING ENHANCEMENTS TO CERTAIN COUNTY PARKS AND CAMPSITES", be adopted. At its meeting of December 17, 2001, the Council adopted Committee Report No. 01-252 (Bill No. 116 (2001) and Resolution No. 01-218).

Your Committee further notes that the Parks and Recreation Committee also reported on this matter through Committee Report No. 02-188, which recommended that (1) the matter of appropriating \$125,000 for a park master plan for Papalaua Wayside Park, One Alii Beach Park, and Papohaku Beach Park be referred to the Council Chair for the term beginning January 2, 2003 for

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consideration in the Fiscal Year 2004 Budget Session; and (2) that County Communication No. 01-204 be referred to the Council Chair for the term beginning January 2, 2003. At its meeting of December 6, 2002, the Council adopted Committee Report No. 02-188.

At its meeting of January 10, 2003, the Council referred County Communication No. 01-204 to your Parks and Agriculture Committee (County Communication No. 03-11).

By correspondence dated February 12, 2003, your Committee requested that the Director of Parks and Recreation provide the following information with regard to a list of 20 potential campsites: (1) determine which of the proposed locations can be established as campsites during Fiscal Year 2004; (2) provide preliminary funding requirements for establishing campsites at the locations that can be created during the next fiscal year; and (3) identify locations that require land acquisition, which the Department may wish to pursue during the Fiscal Year 2004.

By correspondence dated February 14, 2003, your Committee requested that the State Department of Land and Natural Resources consider a parcel of land located on the Lahaina side of Kahakuloa Bay near Waihali Stream as a potential campsite.

By correspondence dated February 17, 2003, Jack Thompson proposed acquiring land for a Spreckelsville camping area between the Maui Country Club golf course and the ocean.

At its meeting of February 20, 2003, your Committee met with the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

There was no public testimony.

Your Committee notes that camping is permitted in the following parks: One Alii Beach Park – Molokai; Papohaku Beach Park – Molokai; Kanaha Beach Park – Kahului, Maui; Papalaua Wayside Park – Lahaina, Maui (Maui County Code Section 13.04.160).

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Your Committee further notes that the initial list of 15 potential campsites provided by the Department of Parks and Recreation during the prior Council's term (2001-2002) increased to over 20 after the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee conducted community meetings.

Your Committee reviewed the list of proposed campsites and recommended deleting Kaumahina Wayside Park (near Honomanu Bay and Keanae) and Pua'a Ka'a Wayside Park (near Nahiku) in the East Maui area based on community objections.

The Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation expressed concerns regarding developing additional campsites because of the lack of enforcement. He stated that a goal of the Department is to develop standards of operation for camping before adding new campsites.

Your Committee deferred the matter pending further consideration.

By correspondence dated February 12, 2004, Jack Spruance, Ranch Manager of Pu`u O Hoku Ranch, inquired whether the County of Maui would like to acquire, either by purchase or land exchange, an approximately 7.42-acre parcel of land surrounding Kahinapohaku Fishpond, which includes "Murphy's Beach".

By correspondence dated February 27, 2004, your Committee's Chair transmitted a draft resolution entitled "URGING THE ADMINISTRATION TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF APPROXIMATELY 7.42 ACRES ALONG THE SOUTHEASTERN COAST OF MOLOKAI FOR PARK PURPOSES". The purpose of the draft resolution is to urge the Administration to consider the County's possible acquisition of an approximately 7.42-acre parcel of land along the southeastern coast of Molokai, surrounding Kahinapohaku Fishpond and including Murphy's Beach, owned by Pu`u O Hoku Ranch (TMK: 5-8-001:001).

At its meeting of March 4, 2004, your Committee met with the Director of Parks and Recreation; the Recreation Division Chief, Department of Parks and Recreation; and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

There was no public testimony.

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Your Committee reviewed the draft resolution. Your Committee noted that the subject property is the prime area that Molokai residents and visitors use for camping and beach activities on the southeastern coast. Since 1993, attempts had been made to secure the parcel. The property has a nice sandy beach and a grassy area for picnicking. There is no running water or other amenities in the area.

Your Committee also noted that most of the County parks on Molokai are leased from private parties and that the only property owned by the County is the Duke Maliu Park. Your Committee expressed concern that the landowner may sell the subject property to a private party.

Your Committee noted that the subject property had a fair-market value of \$162,500 in 1994 and that the Real Property Tax assessment for the current fiscal year is \$371,000.

The Recreation Division Chief stated that camping is a high priority for our residents and families. She said the Department would need funding to adequately maintain the property for the safety of our residents and visitors.

Your Committee recognized the importance of acquiring beach property before it is lost.

After a brief discussion, your Committee voted to recommend adoption of the proposed resolution and filing of the communication.

Your Committee is in receipt of a proposed resolution, approved as to form and legality by the Department of the Corporation Counsel.

Your Parks and Agriculture Committee **RECOMMENDS** the following:

1. That Resolution No. _____, attached hereto, entitled "URGING THE ADMINISTRATION TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF APPROXIMATELY 7.42 ACRES ALONG THE SOUTHEASTERN COAST OF MOLOKAI FOR PARK PURPOSES", be ADOPTED; and

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2. That County Communication No. 01-204 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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