

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

PARKS AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

July 27, 2004

Committee

Report No.

04-118

As Amended

NOTE: The recommendation contained in this committee report was amended by the Council at its meeting of July 27, 2004, by deleting the bracketed material and underscoring the new material. This committee report was then adopted as amended.

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 July 8, 2004, makes reference to County Communication No. 04-156, from Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson, relating to stronger protective measures for Maui County's agriculture industry.

By correspondence dated June 28, 2004, your Committee's Chair transmitted a copy of Resolution No. 00-24 entitled "RECOGNIZING THE THREAT OF INVASIVE ALIEN PLANT SPECIES TO THE ECOSYSTEMS, NATIVE FORESTS AND HIGH QUALITY WATERSHED" for background information.

The purpose of Resolution No. 00-24 is to urge the Administration to ensure that any plant purchased, planted, sold, distributed, or otherwise used or condoned by the County is currently identified, and that the species is not known to be invasive elsewhere or likely to be invasive in Hawaii.

By correspondence dated July 2, 2004, your Committee's Chair transmitted a proposed resolution entitled "URGING STATE AND COUNTY OFFICIALS TO PROTECT THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY FROM INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES".

The purpose of the proposed resolution is to urge the Administration and the Maui Planning Commission to expedite review and approval of permits for the

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proposed Invasive Species Interdiction Inspection Facility and complementary facilities at the Kahului Airport and to urge the State to promptly and fully staff the facilities with qualified personnel. This facility is also known as the Alien Species Action Plan (ASAP) Facility.

By correspondence dated July 6, 2004, your Committee's Chair transmitted a 1998 "Memorandum of Understanding" between various Federal and State agencies regarding the prevention of alien species introduction through the Kahului Airport.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, a Staff Planner from the Department of Planning, and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

There was no public testimony.

Your Committee received the following documents:

1. Written testimony dated July 7, 2004, from Sandra Lee Kunimoto, Chairperson, Board of Agriculture, expressing support for the proposed resolution advocating the construction of the ASAP Facility.
2. Written testimony dated July 8, 2004, from Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company (HC&S), in strong support of measures to protect Maui's agricultural industry from alien pests.
3. Written testimony dated July 8, 2004, from Warren Watanabe, President of the Maui County Farm Bureau, requesting the passage of the proposed resolution.
4. Written testimony dated July 8, 2004, from Paul Koehler, Site Manager, Monsanto Company and Board Member of the Maui County Farm Bureau, urging the Administration and the Maui Planning Commission to expedite the review and approval of required permits for the proposed ASAP Facility.

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The Staff Planner provided an update on the progress of the proposed ASAP Facility. He indicated that the process has been significantly delayed by inactivity on the part of the applicant, inadequate information regarding the ASAP Facility, and legal filings by interveners of the project. The applicant has filed for a District Boundary Amendment because a portion of the project is within the State's Agricultural District. As a result, the State land use boundaries must be reclassified from Agricultural to Urban prior to approving the ASAP Facility.

Your Committee recommended that the proposed resolution be revised to include the Maui County Farm Bureau as a recipient.

Your Committee voted to recommend adoption of the revised proposed resolution, and filing of the communication.

Your Committee is in receipt of a revised proposed resolution entitled "URGING STATE AND COUNTY OFFICIALS TO PROTECT THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY FROM INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES", incorporating your Committee's revision.

Your Parks and Agriculture Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Resolution No. _____, attached hereto, entitled "URGING STATE AND COUNTY OFFICIALS TO PROTECT THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY FROM INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES" be ADOPTED; and
2. That [County Communication No. 04-156 be FILED] the matter of protecting the agriculture industry from invasive alien species be REFERRED to the Parks and Agriculture Committee.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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JO ANNE JOHNSON Chair

JOSEPH PONTANILLA Member

ROBERT CARROLL Vice-Chair

CHARMAINE TAVARES Member

MICHAEL J. MOLINA Member