

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

October 2, 2002

Council Chamber

CONVENE: 1:34 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson, Chair
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Danny A. Mateo, Member
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member
Councilmember Charmaine M. Tavares, Member (In 1:35 p.m.)

STAFF: Gary R. Saldana, Legislative Analyst
David M. Raatz, Legislative Attorney
Camille Sakamoto, Committee Secretary
James Johnson, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson

ADMIN.: Dennis Schwind, Executive Assistant, Department of Management
Floyd S. Miyazono, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
David Goode, Director, Department of Public Works and Waste Management
Judith M. E. Williams, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Stanley Izumigawa, President, 100th Infantry Veterans, Maui; and Secretary, 442nd Veterans
Doug Halbert, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Korean War Veterans, and American Legion
Robert Watanabe, President, Maui County Veterans Council
Willard Matsumoto, President, 442nd Veterans Club
Additional attendees (11)

PRESS: *Akaku--Maui County Community Television, Inc.*

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . .*(gavel)*. . . The Parks and Recreation Committee will come to order. I'd like to welcome everyone here this afternoon. We have present with us, Councilmember Robert Carroll, who's our Vice-Chair. . . Councilmember Danny Mateo. . . Councilmember Michael Molina; and excused is Councilmember Charmaine Tavares. From the Administration we also have David Goode, who is our Director of the Department of Public Works and Waste Management; Mr. Floyd Miyazono, the Director of Parks and

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Recreation; Denny Schwind, who is with the Office of the Mayor; Judith Williams, our Deputy Corporation Counsel; Camille Sakamoto, who is our Committee Secretary; and Gary Saldana, our Legislative Analyst. Since we have only one item. . .oh, and excuse me, we do have Councilmember--

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: --Charmaine Tavares.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: I'm sorry I'm late.

CHAIR JOHNSON: You snuck in there at the last minute, Charmaine.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Yeah . . .(laughter) . . .

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . .(laughter) . . . Thank you all for coming. And I'm glad to see we have a wonderful turnout of our veterans. Thank you very much for coming for this occasion. Since we only have one item on our agenda, I'll just briefly summarize. And that is PR-10, which is a proposed bill relating to naming the Makawao Veterans Cemetery Pavilion.

ITEM NO. 10: PROPOSED BILL RELATING TO NAMING THE MAKAWAO VETERANS CEMETERY PAVILION (C.C. No. 02-187)

CHAIR JOHNSON: The Committee is in receipt of a proposed bill entitled a bill for an ordinance amending Chapter 12.40, Maui County Code, relating to names of public facilities. And the purpose of the proposed bill is to name the building located on the grounds of the Makawao Veterans Cemetery to the Kaoru Moto Memorial Pavilion, and to authorize the installation of a plaque denoting Mr. Moto's accomplishments. And this eve, this afternoon we do have. . .at least one individual who has signed up to testify. I will give you up to ten minutes to testify. And if you would just please restate your name for the record when you come forward. The first individual will be Mr. Stanley Izumigawa. So if you could come forward, Mr. Izumigawa, and just restate your name?

NOTE: *Pause while Mr. Izumigawa approached the podium.*

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MR. IZUMIGAWA: . . . Thank you, Madam Chairman. I am President of the 100th Infantry Veterans Club on Maui, and Secretary for the 442nd Club--but that's only because no one else wants to . . .

ALL: . . .(laughter) . . .

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MR. IZUMIGAWA: . . . do the job.

ALL: . . .(laughter) . . .

MR. IZUMIGAWA: . . . I've looked over the material that was just distributed. And it seems like you have most things covered so . . .

. . . I . . . will touch on those things that I . . . well, want to . . . do to sort of clarify some things. Okay? Kaoru Moto was a member of the 100th Infantry Battalion.

. . . Of the Congressional Medals of Honor that have been awarded, there have been only two awarded to anyone from Maui County. . . in the history of the County--as far as we know. One was Kaoru Moto, the other was Barney Hajiro. . . of the 442nd. Personally, it is my belief that it should be a State policy. . . if not a National one, that anyone who has been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor should have at least a public facility named after him. . . or her. Okay.

. . . I know that there are other states that have done this--they have named facilities after Medal of Honor winners--so doing so will not be a precedent. Okay? In the case of Mr. Moto, I think it is particularly appropriate because he's a Makawao boy, that's his home town, and he worked at this. . . Veterans' Cemetery for many years. About the time that. . . Kaoru Moto and the others were. . . awarded, belatedly, the Medal of Honor. . . *The Maui News* carried an editorial that said. . . the youth of Maui needs heroes to look up to. And I have to wonder. . . is there any better example of hero than a Medal of Honor recipient? The Japanese Americans, during World War II, were in a very. . . unique situation. Men like Kaoru Moto and others in the 100th, 442nd, the MIS. . . by their deeds and actions helped to show the country that Americanism is not a matter of looks and race. . . it's more mind and heart.

. . . Naming this facility after Kaoru will not only help preserve his legacy, it will do so also for the legacy of the 100th, the 442nd, the MIS. . . and all the other veterans who have served. . . in the course of any war for our country. To my knowledge, there is no facility presently named after a war hero. Yeah? We have not lobbied or pressured anyone to move this request along. Uh. . . whatever the Veterans Council has done is about all that. . . you know, we're involved in. I don't even know if any of the others have planned to testify or not, but. . . I hope that. . . you will approve this request. Grazie.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh. . . thank you. Are there any questions of the testifier?

. . . Seeing none, I just wanna thank you very much, Stanley, for coming.

MR. IZUMIGAWA: Thank you.

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CHAIR JOHNSON: Are there any other individuals?

. . . We have one other testifier. If there's anyone else that would like to come forward and say a few words?

NOTE: *Pause while Mr. Halbert approached the podium.*

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . . And just state your name for the record.

MR. HALBERT: My name is. . .my name is Doug Halbert--

VICE-CHAIR CARROLL: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . the mic.

MR. HALBERT: --and I'm from Wailuku.

CHAIR JOHNSON: There you go.

MR. HALBERT: Okay. My name is Doug Halbert, and I live here in Wailuku. And I wanted to come before you, Chairman Johnson and Members of the Council, to just point out one simple thing--in the audience today we have representatives of the VFW, Post 3850. . .in Wailuku; the Korea War Veterans Association, No Ka Oi Chapter; the Disabled Americans Veterans; the Military Order of the Purple Heart; the 442nd; the 100th; the Maui Veterans Council; the American Legion; and the Marines organization. We have a unanimous group of veterans here who endorse the passage of this piece of legislation. And that's all I am here to say. Are there any questions?

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . . Thank you so much, Mr. Halbert. And I would like--for the benefit of the viewing audience--if all of the veterans that are in the audience would please stand and be recognized.

ALL: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . . Thank you so very much.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR JOHNSON: I just would like to say that on behalf of every one of the Council Members--and even those who are not here, that you have served our country very well. We are proud of you, and we are honored to have this resolution before us. I'm very, very pleased that you all came. Because it is only through the recognition of the accomplishments of people who have served with you and those who have gone before all of us. . .in death, in service to their country and in service in whatever way they can, that the memory which lives on through you is

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recognized. And it is so important that we honor those individuals who have given up so much. So we are very honored to have you all here to honor this wonderful gentlemen. I would like. . .right now to hear from any of the Administration officials, or Mr. Miyazono, if they would have a few words to offer.

MR. GOODE: . . . Uh. . .Chairwoman Johnson and Members of the Committee, as you can see from some of the correspondence from both. . .our Department, who does have the responsibility of maintaining the facility, and the Mayor's Office. . .we're unequivocally in support of. . .this bill and I can think of no other individual. . .that deserves this more than Mr. Kaoru Moto. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you. Mr. Schwind, do you have anything to offer?

MR. SCHWIND: . . . Again, my name is Dennis Schwind, I'm the Mayor's liaison with the Maui County Veterans Council. I can speak on behalf of the Mayor that he supports the naming of the facility at the Makawao Veterans Cemetery after Kaoru Moto a hundred percent. He has indicated this in a letter of support to the Facilities Naming Commission. And we would hope that you folks agree with this recommendation today. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Schwind. Are there any other Council Members that, before we entertain a motion, that would just. . .offer something? Thank you--

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Chair?

CHAIR JOHNSON: --Mr. Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. You know in this time of war and renewed patriotism, I don't think we can ever fully repay our veterans who defend our country and the freedoms that we enjoy--especially those who are in. . .who have been and who are in combat. As a young man, I was fortunate to know Mr. Moto and. . .he happened to be one of my neighbors in Makawao. I always remembered him as a quiet humble man, and really hard-working individual taking care of the Makawao Veterans Cemetery. But only after he passed away I found our Mr. Moto's incredible accomplishments. And he was a decorated veteran and, of course, received the highest honor in this country--the Medal of Honor. Um. . .it just left me totally. . .impressed and just in awe of him. And Madam Chair, I am just totally pleased to fully support this resolution naming the facility after Mr. Moto. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you very much. Councilmember Tavares?

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: I'll wait 'til after--

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CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. At this point. . .because we can also offer our comments after we make the motion, the Chair would entertain a motion. . .to pass. . .the measure that we have before us, which is PR-10, the proposed bill relating to naming the Makawao Veterans Cemetery Pavilion after Mr. Kaoru Moto.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: So--

VICE-CHAIR CARROLL: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Second.

CHAIR JOHNSON: We have. . .our Vice-Chair Carroll who has moved, we have a second, I believe Mr. Mateo. . .seconded the motion, and with that. . .the Chair would not entertain discussion.

VICE-CHAIR CARROLL: Thank you, Chair.

. . . I am proud to be able to make this motion. I am also a veteran, although I did not serve during wartime. We talked about heroes. . .and we have a true hero being honored before us today. We're not even naming. . .the Makawao Veterans Cemetery after him--in case anybody might have that misinformation. Some people do, so let's make that really clear. We're naming the pavilion after him and putting up a plaque. I think it is the very least we can do for someone of his stature. He gave to the community and to his country until his dying day. I, too, met him several times and I'm very proud to be able to say that I had met him and I've known him. And I can think of. . .many more things that we could do. . .besides honoring just. . .by putting his name on a plaque and renaming this pavilion. But one of the most important things, I think, is that we never forget him and all those that served with him. And of course, I support the motion.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you. Councilmember Mateo?

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Thank you, Madam Chair. My colleagues have had the honor and the privilege of, of knowing Mr. Moto. The fact that we will have a facility to always remember the gift of freedom and the gift of commitment and sacrifice that he has made for our country, I'm really proud to be able to support this measure. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you very much. Did you have anything further, Mr. Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Uh. . .other than the fact that he was also a very good, caring family man and raised some wonderful children, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you. And Councilmember Tavares?

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COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Hi. Thank you very much. I'm very happy to be part of this. . .moment. . .to honor. . .Mr. Moto. I believe that, I think I heard some. . .someone say one time--and I, I have a bad memory for who said what--but somebody had said that our current generation does not understand. . .what it's like to live with a war, a full-blown war where people, thousands and thousands of people sacrifice their lives to protect our freedoms. And I'm. . .especially aware of this because if it weren't for these gentlemen and ladies who served our nation. . .we would not be sitting here being legislators in a democracy. And too often, I think, we forget that we owe it to these folks that we enjoy the privileges and the freedoms that we have here in America. And I know this is a time when you have renewed patriotism and renewed interest in American history, and I hope that this continues to go on and that we instill in our young people in our country the importance of belief in something so dear and so important that people are willing to give their lives for that belief and for those. . .for those freedoms for America. So it is a pleasure for me, really, to be a part of this moment today. And I thank all the veterans for all of their sacrifices and for their families' sacrifices while they served our country. And for the veterans who are not here with us today, I hope that some of the things that we, that we that are alive are doing. . .cherish, show that we are cherishing their memories and appreciate very, very much what they have done for all of us. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you very much. That was very well said, Councilmember Tavares. I really do think that all of us, at this moment and particularly with the. . .threat of war which looms ever large. . .it is very poignant that. . .we recognize what has happened in the past and that there are sacrifices that many times we are called on to make. Wars are not always of our own individual choosing. Sometimes they're brought upon us by circumstances that are totally out of our control. But the fact that you were called. . .that you answered that call, and that you served. . .and you did us all very proudly. . .with every effort that you have made, I think that there are many times we forget about that. And that's the thing that, to me, is really important about having a facility. . .that recognizes that name, that accomplishment, and it will always be that association that we go right back to when we think of courage and honor and all of the values that we've all. . .been so proud of all these years. So every time we see that, it will be a reminder. So I wanna thank each and every one of you. And as Charmaine so eloquently said, to every one of the veterans, if they're within. . .earshot or within the viewing audience, we, we all honor you. And he was one of your membership. He was one of those citizens that gave everything that he possibly could and saved many lives in that course. So we thank you very much. Uh. . .with that, I, I wanna make one mention, and that is that this item will also be filed, that's included in the motion. And I would also like to, as Councilmember Molina, because this is really a Public Works, you know, related issue, if, when this does get to the full Council. . .sometimes there's other

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committees that are involved, that . .if there is any issue regarding to Public Works, since we've had Mr. Goode here today, that perhaps committee referral or any input from that committee would be waived so that we can expedite this and. . .see that this goes through on our watch.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: So noted, Madam Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, thank you very much, Councilmember Molina. And with that, I will call for the question. All those in favor, please say "aye".

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Aye.

. . . No "nays"?

. . . Thank you very much. This motion has been passed and the measure will be sent on to the full Council. And we encourage you all again to please come to the Council meeting.

**VOTE: AYES: Councilmembers Mateo, Molina, Tavares,
 Vice-Chair Carroll, and Chair Johnson.**

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

**ACTION: Recommending FIRST READING of proposed bill and
 FILING of communication.**

CHAIR JOHNSON: If there is no further business--are there any other comments by any of the other Administration officials? Any other, further business?

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. . . Seeing none, and none by the Staff, I wanna thank each one of you. This has been a very short meeting, but a very important one. Thank you all. God bless. Meeting is adjourned . . .(*gavel*). . .

ADJOURN: 1:53 p.m.

APPROVED:

JO ANNE JOHNSON, Chair
Parks and Recreation Committee

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Transcribed by: Camille Sakamoto