

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

December 6, 2002

**Committee
Report No.**

02-187
As Amended

NOTE: The recommendation contained in this committee report was amended by the Council at its meeting of December 6, 2002, 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 Recreation Committee, having met on July 17, 2002 and November 13, 2002, makes reference to County Communication No. 02-77, from the Planning Director, transmitting a status report on the South Maui Inventory Study.

At its meeting of July 17, 2002, your Committee met with the Director of Parks and Recreation; the Planning Program Administrator, Long Range Planning Division, Department of Planning; Chris Hart and David Sereda, Chris Hart and Partners; Joe Bertram, Bikeways Maui; and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

Your Committee received testimony from four individuals.

One testifier noted that the South Maui Inventory Study should focus on improvements and maintenance to existing parks and facilities prior to investing funding into future park development. He noted that certain parks have dilapidated equipment, lack comfort stations, and need better maintenance.

Another testifier expressed appreciation for efforts to enhance Little League baseball fields in Kihei. She noted that the Council and the Department of Parks and Recreation have been very responsive to the needs of the community for youth baseball. She also indicated her appreciation for the

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presentation on the "South Maui Region Parks and Open Space Master Plan" (Plan).

One testifier stated that the County should levy more tax dollars to create additional parks and maintain existing facilities. He noted that communities on the mainland appropriate twice as much for park expansion and improvement than the County of Maui. He further stated that the County should charge visitors for the use of parks. He also stated that timeshare condominium projects should be assessed for park development.

The last testifier indicated that the North-South Collector Road (Collector Road) should be a maximum of two lanes, but with a right-of-way equivalent to four lanes to install bike paths and pedestrian walkways. A greenway, which incorporates trees for shading and promotes native Hawaiian landscaping, should be constructed in conjunction with the Collector Road.

Your Committee received the following documents:

1. A conceptual rendering of the South Maui Region, Parks and Open Space Master Plan, dated July 17, 2002, from Chris Hart, Chris Hart and Partners.
2. Correspondence from Robert Bulther, transmitting documents relating to a proposal for a new tennis park.

Mr. Hart provided your Committee with a computer-generated presentation of the Plan. He noted that the Plan consists of three parts: (a) the park and open space inventory; (b) the Kihei Community Park Concepts; and (c) the South Maui Open Space Vision. The inventory included Federal, State and County parks, open space and facilities, as well as public safety and emergency response facilities. An assessment of existing conditions and usage of these facilities was also considered. He stated the inventory encompasses nearly 300 facilities, parks and open space.

Mr. Hart noted that the Plan included a review of national standards for park facilities based on population. He stated that the South Maui area is falling far behind the national average for recreational facilities on a per capita basis.

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The Kihei Community Park Concepts included a review of the 44.8-acre site acquired by the County for park and public use facilities. He stated that the proposed regional park may include three baseball fields, three soccer fields, six tennis courts, three comfort stations, bike and walking trails, a youth center or pavilion, and 320 parking stalls.

Mr. Bertram provide your Committee with an overview of the South Maui Open Space Vision of the Plan. He noted that the vision is to incorporate the use of easements, shoreline areas, drainage ditches and open space to provide an integrated network that connects the recreational facilities with bike and pedestrian paths. He stated that during the compilation of the Plan, many community groups had been contacted for input. He also indicated the consultant's goal is to obtain comments from about 1,000 residents regarding the Plan. Mr. Bertram stated that the Plan encourages the use of natural terrain and the environment to develop greenways, trails, and bike and pedestrian paths. He noted that portions of the Collector Road can become greenways by using landscaping adjacent to the road to establish buffers between vehicle traffic, cyclists and pedestrians. He further stated that a "downtown" area should be established which incorporates a civic center, shopping, schools, churches parks and recreational facilities.

Mr. Bertram noted that the Plan does not encourage the use of such traffic calming devices as "roundabouts", despite the fact that they are good features to slow traffic and beautify neighborhoods.

The Director stated that he supported the recommendations offered in the Plan and suggested that greenways should be incorporated into future development throughout the County. He also noted that recreational facilities, parks and open space in South Maui have not kept pace with the significant amount of growth experienced over the last ten years.

Your Committee deferred the matter pending further discussion.

By correspondence dated July 26, 2002, your Committee Chair transmitted a hard copy of Chris Hart's, computer generated presentation entitled, "South Maui Region, Parks and Open Space Master Plan", submitted to your Committee at its meeting of July 17, 2002.

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By correspondence dated October 29, 2002, your Committee Chair requested the Department of Parks and Recreation to provide funding requirements for a site analysis and design of a regional park and the enhancement of existing parks in South Maui.

At its meeting of November 13, 2002, your Committee met with the Director of Parks and Recreation; the Deputy Planning Director; Chris Hart, Chris Hart and Partners; and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

Your Committee received correspondence dated November 13, 2002, from the Director of Parks and Recreation, providing estimated cost for completing the regional park in South Maui.

Your Committee received an overview of the matter from the Director. He stated that \$150,000 was allocated during Fiscal Year 2002 to fund the Plan. He also indicated that \$400,000 has been appropriated in Fiscal Year 2003 to fund planning and design of the regional park proposed in the Plan. He noted that the estimated cost for completing the regional park in South Maui is approximately \$11 million. As a result, the Director is recommending that the regional park be funded incrementally over three years. The Director proposed that the three phases of the regional park consist of the following:

1. Phase One, \$3,700,000: Completion of three Little League baseball fields, jogging and bike paths, access ways and comfort station;
2. Phase Two, \$3,300,000: Completion of three soccer fields and comfort station; and
3. Phase Three, \$4,000,000: Completion of a youth center or pavilion, tennis courts, and parking area.

Your Committee noted that the Planning Commission should review the Plan and consider a Kihei-Makena Community Plan amendment to reflect the inclusion of the proposed regional park. Your Committee further stated that the

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park lands should also be utilized to develop a senior center. Your Committee requested that the Plan be transmitted to the Department of Planning for review.

Your Committee voted to recommend that: (1) the above-referenced incremental cost estimates for developing a regional park in South Maui be transmitted to the Budget and Finance Committee; (2) the Budget and Finance Committee consider appropriating \$3,700,000 for the first phase of the proposed regional park during its Fiscal Year 2004 Budget deliberations; (3) a copy of this committee report be transmitted to the Budget and Finance Committee; and (4) the communication be filed.

Your Parks and Recreation Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That the matter of developing incremental cost estimates and appropriating \$3,700,000 for the first phase of the South Maui regional park be REFERRED to the Council Chair for the term beginning January 2, 2003 for consideration in the Fiscal Year 2004 Budget Session; and
2. That County Communication No. [02-186] 02-77 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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JO ANNE JOHNSON Chair

MICHAEL J. MOLINA Member

ROBERT CARROLL Vice-Chair

CHARMAINE TAVARES Member

DANNY A. MATEO Member