

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

# PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

March 1, 2002

**Committee**  
**Report No.**

02-25

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 February 13, 2002, makes reference to County Communication No. 01-151, from the Council Chair transmitting a letter dated April 28, 2001, from Carole Joy Ameral, expressing concerns about the condition of the Banyan Tree in Lahaina.

Your Committee notes that it previously reported on this matter through Committee Report No. 01-185. In that report, your Committee recommended the adoption of a proposed resolution entitled "SUPPORTING AN ENHANCED MAINTENANCE EFFORT FOR THE LAHAINA BANYAN TREE". The purpose of the resolution is to urge the Mayor to provide the necessary funding for the care and maintenance of the tree, and develop a master plan that would help extend its life. Committee Report No. 01-185 was adopted at the Council meeting of October 4, 2001 (Resolution No. 01-167).

Your Committee deferred the matter to enable your Committee to continue to receive status reports on the condition of the tree.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Executive Director of the Lahaina Restoration Foundation, and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

The Executive Director of the Lahaina Restoration Foundation provided your Committee with an overview of the condition of the tree. He stated that as a result of the recent rains and the addition of an improved irrigation system, the condition of the tree has improved considerably over the past year. However, he indicated that soil compaction and nutrient studies must be performed to determine the status of the root system and to help create a maintenance program to extend the life of the tree. He further stated that a request to install additional lighting has been submitted to the Mayor for walkways below the canopy of the tree. He also indicated that because of the recent rains, the tree

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has experienced considerable growth and must be pruned. This request has been submitted to the County Arborist.

In response to an inquiry by your Committee, the Executive Director stated that the additional lighting is required for the safety and security of the public, and furthermore, the existing lighting remains on from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

The Director of Parks and Recreation stated that he will follow up on the requests for additional lighting, soil testing and pruning of the tree. He further stated that once the soil testing is complete, the Department, in consultation with the County Arborist Committee, will develop a maintenance plan to help extend the life of the tree.

Your Committee noted that Resolution No. 01-167 requested that a line item appropriation be created specifically for the maintenance of the tree. Therefore, your Committee requested that correspondence be sent to the Administration, reiterating its support for a line item appropriation for the maintenance of the tree, and requesting the completion of soil testing, pruning, and the creation of a maintenance plan for the tree. As a result, your Committee voted to file the communication.

Your Parks and Recreation Committee **RECOMMENDS** that County Communication No. 01-151 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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