

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

# PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

September 24, 2002

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

02-132

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 and September 4, 2002, makes reference to a Miscellaneous Communication dated December 11, 2001, from the County Clerk, referring the matter relating to State and County coordination to identify a park site at Hale O Lono, Molokai.

By correspondence dated January 28, 2002, your Committee Chair requested that the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, provide information relating to the designation of a park at Hale O Lono Harbor on Molokai.

By correspondence dated February 1, 2002, W. Mason Young, Acting Administrator, Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, DLNR, reiterated the State's interest in designating a park at Hale O Lono, Molokai.

At its meeting of February 13, 2002, your Committee met with the Director of Parks and Recreation; a Deputy Corporation Counsel; and Hal Silva, Lahaina Harbor Agent, Small Harbors Division, DLNR.

Your Committee received testimony from one individual who spoke in favor of a park at Hale O Lono. However, the testifier suggested that your Committee hold a meeting on Molokai to take public input on this matter, collect more information on the issue and determine the status of negotiations between the DLNR and Molokai Ranch, Ltd., for land in this area. The testifier also indicated that the DLNR may be considering designating a portion of the harbor for commercial activity and residential/resort development, which may not be compatible with a park for this location.

Mr. Silva reviewed correspondence dated February 1, 2002, from W. Mason Young, Acting Administrator, Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, DLNR, expressing the desire of the State to work with the County to create a park at Hale O Lono. He indicated that the State is seeking direction

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from the County on facilities and amenities to be included at the park. He further stated that the State requests that the area of the park “optimizes boating activities”.

The Director stated that the Department has no plans for this area; however, he indicated an interest in receiving public input from the Molokai community to determine their recommendations for a park at Hale O Lono.

In response to an inquiry from your Committee, Mr. Silva indicated that the State has no immediate plans for improvements to the harbor area. He indicated that he is unaware of the cost for maintaining Lono Road (the dirt road to Hale O Lono Harbor) and consequently is not familiar with the projected cost to the County for maintaining the road.

Your Committee noted that a meeting should be held on Molokai to receive testimony from the public on this matter. Your Committee further noted that the State Legislature is currently considering transferring parks and campsites to the County. As a result, your Committee decided to wait for a resolution of this matter before considering acquisition of this site. Your Committee further noted that the Council’s Molokai representative should be present at the next meeting that this matter is discussed.

Your Committee deferred the matter pending further discussion.

By correspondence dated February 19, 2002, your Committee Chair requested that the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, DLNR, provide the following information: (a) potential acreage of a proposed park; (b) road maintenance costs; (c) status of existing or proposed land leases surrounding the Hale O Lono Harbor area; (d) any communications or community meetings with Molokai residents which discusses the designation of a park at this site; and (e) future plans for developing the area.

By correspondence dated March 4, 2002, Gilbert S. Coloma-Agaran, Chairperson, DLNR, submitted information addressing a series of questions from your Committee Chair relating to park and commercial development proposed at Hale O Lono Harbor.

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By correspondence dated March 27, 2002, your Committee Chair requested that Gilbert S. Coloma-Agaran, Chairperson, DLNR, provide additional information relating to proposed site improvements, funding of park enhancements and clarification of certain matters.

By correspondence dated March 27, 2002, your Committee Chair requested that Harold Edwards, Senior Vice President, Development Division, Molokai Ranch, Ltd., provide a site plan and information relating to park development at Hale O Lono Harbor.

By correspondence dated April 5, 2002, Harold Edwards, Senior Vice President, Development Division, Molokai Ranch, Ltd., submitted a site map identifying park enhancements at Hale O Lono Harbor.

By correspondence dated April 10, 2002, Gilbert S. Coloma-Agaran, Chairperson, DLNR, provided information regarding site improvements, funding, and clarification of certain items relating to Hale O Lono Harbor.

At its meeting of September 4, 2002 on Molokai, your Committee met with the Director of Parks and Recreation; a Planning Program Administrator, Department of Planning; and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

Your Committee received testimony from two individuals. Both testifiers stated that Hale O Lono should be designated as "Park" in the Molokai Community Plan (Plan). One testifier stated that the County should take over the property to guarantee the maintenance of the area. The other testifier suggested that a boat ramp should be installed for recreational boating and fishing.

The Director stated that the Department recommends the designation of a "Park" at this location. He further stated that additional park space and camping are needed on Molokai.

The Planning Program Administrator stated that designating a park at Hale O Lono is consistent with the implementing actions, policies and objectives of the Plan. He stated another policy and objective of the Plan is to establish public vehicular access to Hale O Lono Harbor. He further indicated that the County must work closely with the residents of Molokai to develop priorities for implementing the Plan.

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Your Committee is in receipt of a proposed resolution entitled "REFERRING A PROPOSED BILL RELATING TO A COMMUNITY PLAN AMENDMENT AT HALE O LONO HARBOR TO THE MOLOKAI PLANNING COMMISSION". The purpose of the resolution is to:

1. refer a draft bill entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE MOLOKAI COMMUNITY PLAN AND LAND USE MAP FROM AGRICULTURE TO PARK FOR PROPERTY SITUATED AT HALE O LONO HARBOR, MOLOKAI, HAWAII" to the Molokai Planning Commission;
2. request that the Molokai Planning Commission transmit its finding and recommendations to the Council; and
3. request that the Department of Planning prepare a Community Plan Map based on the findings and recommendations of the Molokai Planning Commission.

The purpose of the draft bill is to amend the Molokai Community Plan and Land Use Map to redesignate Hale O Lono Harbor from "Agriculture" to "Park".

Your Committee expressed concerns regarding designating Hale O Lono as "Park" if the property is within the State Conservation District. Your Committee requested that the State land use classification of this location be clarified.

Your Committee also indicated that the Plan recommends a park area of 40 acres of "fast land" (land that is spread out or dissipated). Your Committee further noted that approximately 25 of the 61 acres, identified by the State as a potential park, is considered "fast land". The balance of the area is identified as "submerged" lands. As a result, your Committee recommended that the designation of "Park" at Hale O Lono be 40 acres, consistent with the Plan. Your Committee also noted that the site plan submitted by the DLNR is conceptual and does not reflect the desires of the County for design and improvements for Hale O Lono Harbor.

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Your Committee requested that the resolution be revised to:

1. state that its purpose is solely for designating land as "Park" for the Hale O Lono Harbor area;
2. delete references regarding the "conceptual" site plan provided by the DLNR; and
3. reflect a consistency with the Plan, which requires that a "Park" designation in the Hale O Lono Harbor area encompass 40 acres of "fast land".

Your Committee voted to recommend adoption of the revised proposed resolution and filing of the Miscellaneous Communication.

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

Your Parks and Recreation Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_, attached hereto, entitled "REFERRING A PROPOSED BILL RELATING TO A COMMUNITY PLAN LAND USE AMENDMENT AT HALE O LONO HARBOR TO THE MOLOKAI PLANNING COMMISSION", be ADOPTED; and
2. That the Miscellaneous Communication be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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**JO ANNE JOHNSON** Chair

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**MICHAEL J. MOLINA** Member

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**ROBERT CARROLL** Vice-Chair

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**CHARMAINE TAVARES** Member

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**DANNY A. MATEO** Member