

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

December 6, 2002

Committee
Report No. 02-189

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 November 13, 2002, makes reference to County Communication No. 02-186, from Councilmember Wayne K. Nishiki and Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, transmitting a proposed resolution entitled "URGING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING A GYMNASIUM IN KIHEI, MAUI, HAWAII".

The purposes of the resolution are to:

1. urge the Administration to explore the feasibility of constructing a gymnasium in the Kihei region and possible coordination with the State Department of Education; and
2. request that the Administration report its findings and recommendations to the Council as expeditiously as possible prior to the Council's budget deliberations for Fiscal Year 2004.

By correspondence dated September 27, 2002 and September 30, 2002, respectively, your Committee Chair requested the Superintendent of Education, State Department of Education (DOE), and the Director of Parks and Recreation to provide information relative to planning, design and funding of a gymnasium facility in Kihei.

By correspondence dated October 10, 2002, the Director of Parks and Recreation stated that since the matter requires significant research and planning by the Department, a formal response is pending.

By correspondence dated October 18, 2002, the Superintendent of Education, DOE, indicated that the Department has no immediate plans to build a gymnasium facility in Kihei.

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By correspondence dated October 29, 2002, your Committee Chair requested the Department of Parks and Recreation to provide preliminary funding estimates for the planning and design of a gymnasium facility in Kihei.

By correspondence dated October 31, 2002, your Committee Chair requested the DOE to further consider their projected schedule for building a high school and gymnasium facility in Kihei.

By correspondence dated November 1, 2002, your Committee Chair requested the Department of Parks and Recreation to provide more detailed information about constructing a gymnasium facility in Kihei.

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

Your Committee received testimony from one individual. The testifier stated that the proposed gymnasium facility should be built in connection with a high school or community college. He noted that the County should consider building the gymnasium on the real property recently purchased in Kihei consisting of approximately 50 acres. The testifier further noted that the gymnasium facility should be large enough to accommodate national invitational sporting events.

In response to an inquiry by your Committee, the testifier indicated that the gymnasium should consist of approximately 5,000 seats, which would be large enough to attract network television broadcast of events.

Your Committee received a written response dated November 13, 2002, from the Director of Parks and Recreation, providing appropriation requests for potential capitol improvement projects to be considered during the Fiscal Year 2004 Budget deliberations.

The Director stated that the Department is in favor of the proposed gymnasium facility in Kihei. He further indicated that the Department has made certain accommodations to enhance County facilities to encourage national sporting events and network broadcasts of such events.

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Your Committee noted that the DOE has no immediate plans of constructing a gymnasium facility in Kihei. Your Committee further noted that the DOE does not anticipate planning for a high school with a gymnasium facility until the year 2010. Your Committee noted that the necessity for the gymnasium facility is accentuated when reviewing the United States Bureau of the Census figures. Census figures show that the population of South Maui has swelled 54 percent over the last decade and the population of children under 18 years old has increased 77 percent during the same period. Therefore, your Committee expressed an urgency to expedite the construction of a gymnasium in order to respond to the recreational needs of the fastest growing region in the County of Maui.

Your Committee requested that the proposed resolution be revised to include transmitting certified copies to the Governor-Elect, Maui County's delegation to the State Legislature, and the Mayor-Elect.

Your Committee is in receipt of a revised proposed resolution incorporating your Committee's suggested revisions.

Your Parks and Recreation Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Resolution No. _____, as revised herein and attached hereto, entitled "URGING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING A GYMNASIUM IN KIHEI, MAUI, HAWAII", be ADOPTED; and
2. That County Communication No. 02-186 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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