

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

June 21, 2002

**Committee
Report No.**

02-62

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Budget and Finance Committee, having met on June 4, 2002, makes reference to County Communication No. 01-271, from the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, relating to the matter of economic recovery actions. In light of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States and the effect on the economic well being of our State and County, the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee recognized that economic recovery actions might need to be taken in an expeditious manner.

Your Committee notes that while considering the disposition of County Communication No. 01-271 at its meeting of October 4, 2001, the Council revised the communication to also include referral of the matter of recent health-related concerns facing Maui County.

Your Committee further notes that it previously reported on this matter through Committee Report No. 02-4. In that report, your Committee recommended that a proposed resolution entitled "AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF HAWAII, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, RELATING TO TIRE DISPOSAL FOR THE MOSQUITO CONTROL AND DENGUE FEVER PREVENTION PROGRAM" be adopted and that a proposed bill entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX A OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2002 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI AS IT PERTAINS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT" pass first reading and be ordered to print. The purpose of the proposed resolution was to authorize the acceptance of \$30,000 in funds from the State of Hawaii, for tire disposal relating to the eradication of dengue fever in Maui County. The purpose of the proposed bill was to amend the grant revenues in Appendix A of the Fiscal Year 2002 Budget by appropriating the \$30,000 grant.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

June 21, 2002
Page 2

Committee
Report No. 02-62

Your Committee further notes that Committee Report No. 02-4 was adopted at the Council meeting of January 22, 2002.

Your Committee further notes that the Hawaii Emergency Laulima Partnership (HELP) program, comprised of a coalition of various local social service agencies and the County of Maui working together in a partnership, was established to assist Maui County residents who experienced loss or reduction in income as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO) managed the three-month program, which provided emergency assistance to families in the areas of food, housing, utility bills, and medicine.

By correspondence dated March 4, 2002, Gladys C. Baisa, the Executive Director of MEO, transmitted the final report on the HELP program for the period of November 2, 2001 to February 2, 2002.

By correspondence dated May 23, 2002, Gladys C. Baisa, the Executive Director of MEO, transmitted the HELP Activity Final Report for the period of November 5, 2001 to February 28, 2002.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Budget Director; a Deputy Corporation Counsel; Sandy Baz, Deputy Director of MEO; and Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez, Special Projects Director of MEO.

Mr. Baz provided your Committee with a brief overview of the HELP program. He informed your Committee that various methods were used to inform the public about the program, including local radio stations and AKAKU Community Television announcements, brochures, non-profit agencies, mailings that were included with monthly statements from Maui Electric Company, and advertisements placed in *The Maui News*.

He informed your Committee that many of the individuals who received assistance were from working families that held two to three jobs, who either lost their jobs or had their hours reduced, and were requesting help for the first time. Although MEO did not maintain statistics regarding the occupations of individuals receiving assistance, Mr. Baz estimated that the majority of the applicants were hotel workers.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

June 21, 2002
Page 3

Committee
Report No. 02-62

Your Committee requested MEO to provide a breakdown of the marketing expenditures and a list of nonprofit agencies, private entities and individuals that provided assistance with the program.

After discussion, your Committee voted to file the communication.

Your Budget and Finance Committee **RECOMMENDS** that County Communication No. 01-271 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

June 21, 2002
Page 4

Committee
Report No. 02-62

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