

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
PLANNING COMMITTEE

January 6, 2012

**Committee
Report No.** _____

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

Chair and Members:

Your Planning Committee, having met on December 12, 2011, makes reference to County Communication 11-295, from Councilmember Donald G. Couch, Jr., relating to a presentation by Dan Burden, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Walkable and Livable Communities Institute (“WALC Institute”).

The WALC Institute is a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching the benefits of designing communities that promote civic engagement through safe, sustainable housing, education, cultural diversity, and recreation. As noted on its website at <http://www.walklive.org/>, the WALC Institute supports multimodal transportation within communities, allowing for cars, bicycles, pedestrians, and transit.

Mr. Burden’s presentation to your Committee focused on select neighborhoods and communities on the Island of Maui. He provided photographs of areas that, over time, could be transformed into thriving, walkable communities with suitable bike paths, crosswalks, lighting, and shopping. He also displayed graphics showing how various communities throughout the nation are reversing urban sprawl using the concept of walkable communities to rebuild their towns and neighborhoods into visually appealing, sustainable villages. He reminded your Committee that legislative support for this type of endeavor is vital.

The Director of Planning noted that Mr. Burden’s promotion of walkable and livable communities was consistent with long-range planning for Maui County as stated in the draft Maui Island Plan.

Your Committee notes that the Countywide Policy Plan, adopted by Ordinance 3732 (2010), establishes a number of policies supporting walkable communities, including the following at page 67:

“Make walking and bicycling transportation safe and easy between and within communities.”

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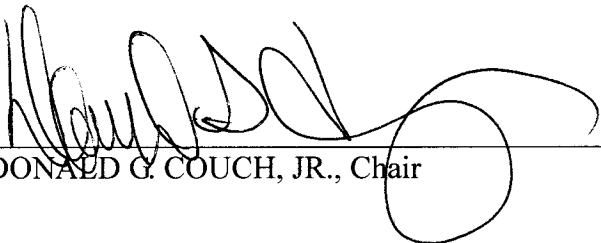
“Require development to be designed with the pedestrian in mind.”

Your Committee noted the improvements favoring walkability that the County has begun in Wailuku and may initiate in other parts of Maui. Change of the magnitude suggested by Mr. Burden and supported by the Countywide Policy Plan, will be costly over the short term and will take time and planning to implement. However, reduction of sprawl will promote efficiency for the County over the long term.

Your Committee voted 5-0 to recommend the filing of the communication. Committee Chair Couch, and members Mateo, Pontanilla, Victorino, and White voted “aye”. Vice-Chair Baisa and member Cochran were excused.

Your Planning Committee RECOMMENDS that County Communication 11-295 be FILED.

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



DONALD G. COUCH, JR., Chair