

# **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENERGY, AGRICULTURE, AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**Council of the County of Maui**

## **M I N U T E S**

**Council Chamber**

**December 17, 2013**

**CONVENE: 1:37 p.m.**

**PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:**

Councilmember Don S. Guzman, Chair  
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Elle Cochran  
Councilmember Stacy Crivello

**EXCUSED:** Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa  
Councilmember Michael P. Victorino  
Councilmember Mike White

**STAFF:** Kim Willenbrink, Legislative Analyst  
Pauline Martins, Committee Secretary

Ella Alcon, Council Aide, Molokai Council Office (via telephone  
conference bridge)

Denise Fernandez, Council Aide, Lanai Council Office (via telephone  
conference bridge)

Dawn Lono, Council Aide, Hana Council Office (via telephone  
conference bridge)

**ADMIN.:** Brianne Savage, Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Jason Lopez, Recreation and Support Services Division Chief, Department  
of Parks and Recreation  
Tara Sabado, Recreation Specialist, Inclusion, Recreation and Support  
Services Division, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Marian Feenstra, Aquatics Division Chief, Department of Parks and  
Recreation  
Bradley Pierce, Park Maintenance Superintendent, Park Maintenance  
Division, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Robert Halvorson, Planning and Development Division Chief, Department  
of Parks and Recreation  
James "Kimo" Merrill, Electrical Pump Mechanic-Maintenance Repairer,  
Aquatics Division, Department of Parks and Recreation

**OTHERS:** Dave Jorgensen, Youth and Adult Soccer

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John Harrison  
Nanette Lara, Treasurer, Pookela Soccer Club  
Edward Codelia  
Trisha Kapuaala  
Vernon Kapuaala, President, Hawaii Soccer Federation  
Francisco Mora  
Rodney Kilborn, Promoter, Handsome Bugga  
Donna Willard, Director, Hawaii Surfing Association  
Sharon Suzuki, President, Maui Electric Company, Limited  
Mat McNeff, Renewable Energy Services Manager, Maui Electric  
Company, Limited  
John Mauri, Power Supply Manager, Maui Electric Company, Limited  
Dan Takahata, Engineering Manager, Maui Electric Company, Limited  
Lisa Briggs, Regional Director, Government and Community Affairs, Sempra  
U.S. Gas & Power  
Kanoa Taylor, Plant Operations Manager, Sempra U.S. Gas & Power  
Plus (19) other people

**PRESS:** *Akaku Maui Community Television, Inc.*

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CHAIR GUZMAN: ...*(gavel)*... Good afternoon. The Economic Development, Energy and Agriculture, and Recreation Committee will now come to order. The time is 1:35 on Tuesday, December 17, 2013. I'll make a little brief announcement. If you have a cell phone please put it on silent or any noisemaking devices please put it on silence. I'm going to go ahead and introduce our Members that we have on the floor this afternoon. We have our Vice-Chair Robert Carroll.

VICE-CHAIR CARROLL: Good afternoon, Chair.

CHAIR GUZMAN: We have Stacy Crivello.

COUNCILMEMBER CRIVELLO: Good afternoon, Chair.

CHAIR GUZMAN: And Elle Cochran.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Aloha. Good afternoon.

CHAIR GUZMAN: Excused as part of the Committee is Mike White temporarily, he'll be joining us shortly. As well as Mike Victorino will be excused, and Gladys Baisa is also excused. We're going to have, for the Administration we'll have Brianne Savage, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation and her Division heads representing, will put on a presentation for EAR-1 and

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EAR-26. We have also as a resource personnel Sharon Suzuki, the president of Maui Electric Company, and she'll be putting on a presentation for EAR-6; Lisa Briggs, Director in Government of [sic] Community Affairs, for Sempra U.S. Gas & Power, and that, she'll be presenting for EAR-6. For our Committee Staff we have our Legislative Analyst Kim Willenbrink --

MS. WILLENBRINK: Good afternoon.

CHAIR GUZMAN: --as well as our Secretary Pauline Martins. I'm going to go ahead and check in with our office, District Office starting with Hana District Office.

MS. LONO: Good afternoon, Chair. This is Dawn Lono at the Hana Office.

CHAIR GUZMAN: Good afternoon, Ms. Lono. Also Lanai District Office.

MS. FERNANDEZ: Good afternoon, Chair. This is Denise Fernandez on Lanai.

CHAIR GUZMAN: Good afternoon, Ms. Fernandez. Also for Molokai District.

MS. ALCON: Good afternoon, Chair. This is Ella Alcon on Molokai.

CHAIR GUZMAN: Good afternoon, Ella, Ms. Alcon. Okay. In terms of announcements, anyone who wants to testify, please sign up outside of the Chambers at the lobby. Also, for testimony, testimony is only limited for the items on the agenda today as well as pursuant to Council Rules you'll have three minutes to testify, one minute to conclude. And please when you come to the podium state your name for the record and any organization that you represent. For now we'll go ahead and start with the testimonies. Ms. Willenbrink, can you please call your first testifier.

MS. WILLENBRINK: Yes, Chair. Our first testifier this afternoon is Dave Jorgensen, and he will be followed by John Harrisson.

**... BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY ...**

MR. JORGENSEN: Good afternoon, Chair Guzman, members of the Committee. My name's Dave Jorgensen, appearing today as an individual on behalf of the youth and adult soccer leagues in Hawaii and, well in Maui and in Hawaii in general. I'm a past board member of HYSA Maui. I've been a player, a coach, a referee, an administrator of youth and adult soccer for a very long time, and I'm pleased to be able to present some testimony today. I apologize, it's going to be a little bit disjointed because of some other obligations I had today that prevented me from getting a little more organized. But I first want to thank and commend the Department. Chair Guzman, you were at the meeting the other night. There was a meeting held with HYSA Maui by the Parks Department, by Director Correa, Deputy Director Savage, and Jason Lopez from the

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Department, and it was very helpful to get some of the issues out there as far as the condition of the parks, the use of the parks, and the scheduling. On behalf of all the leagues and all the players, we want to, you know, certainly support and encourage the maintenance of the parks and the increased maintenance of the parks. For years, you know, the parks just need to be better maintained. We've offered in the past starting back, well frankly from when I took over the men's league back in 1992 and I formed the coed league about 21 years ago, we've offered to help the County to do what we can, to go down and work the fields. Historically we were, pretty much all we were able to do was conduct some trash pickups around Keopuolani, get all the leagues together and go pick up trash. And then more recently some of the leagues have been purchasing goals to use on the fields with the league's own money, doing the lining of the fields. But as far as actually maintaining the fields, the grass, filling the holes, doing that kind of thing, we still stand ready to help do that. Historically and particularly I remember former Mayor Lingle kind of yelling at me one time 'cause she said we just can't do that, stop asking, and it was, you know, whatever. But at the meeting the other night that was one of the suggestions the Parks Department had about that we could possibly partner up and help maintain the fields. Real briefly on the one issue that has come up about limiting when certain leagues can use the fields and the idea being to, you know, something less than year round. My daughter and a bunch of her teammates from Baldwin that they graduated together, several of them are playing college ball in college. They're all on some level of scholarship. The only reason they were able to be at that level was because they were playing year round. When my daughter got recruited and signed the letter of intent, the next letter we got from the coach was we're looking forward to having you here, please make sure you play in leagues and in tournaments between now and when you show up in July. We live on Maui, if there wasn't a league, if soccer wasn't allowed to be played as an organized activity during the summer months, she would not have had the opportunity to get ready to play in college. So any rules that are going to be adopted and the Parks Department made very clear there'd be, you know, there's a process and they will be going out to hearing, and I appreciate everybody keeping us posted. I also, just my final comment would be I am the president of the coed soccer league that runs down at Keopuolani and we very much expect that the adult leagues will be included in any decisions that are made. Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIR GUZMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Jorgensen. Is there any follow-up questions for the testifier from the Members?

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Chair?

CHAIR GUZMAN: Yes, go ahead, Ms. Cochran.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Jorgensen. It sounds like you're pretty active and knowledgeable about the soccer life here. And my question is in regards to West Maui. You know our last budget cycle we appropriated monies in particular for lighting in order

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to have soccer being played in the evening. Are you aware or have you heard of that comment and concern?

MR. JORGENSEN: Lighting on the West Side?

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Yes.

MR. JORGENSEN: I believe, well if I'm not mistaken I think it's behind the Boys and Girls Club in the park that's back there. I'm not sure where the lights were going to go. I know that West Maui and currently South Maui have a very big need for more soccer fields, and I apologize to other people, other sports but I'm involved in soccer. The issue and again I'm here on behalf of youth and adult, but on behalf of adult, the adults work, we can only play our leagues at night or on weekends. But a lot of the adult players, they work then, too, so nighttime is really when we can play. Right now the only field, there's three, two fields that we can play on, Eddie Tam, the one field at Eddie Tam and Keopuolani Park Field 5. There's no lights that are adequate to play soccer on any other field, and either because the area is too small like in Kihei there's the nice field out there now but it's way too small for adults to have games. In Kihei right...I mean I'm sorry, in Lahaina right now the very weird and a little bit scary thing is the high school games are going to be, are being played at the youth center on the highway side of the Boys and Girls Club because the stadium is being worked on. And fields like that, AYSO plays there but the condition is not good and there's no lights. So I wasn't aware that money had been requested for lights out there, but on behalf of the soccer community, certainly would support that and get behind any efforts to do that, because there are a lot of people on the West Side who play soccer and there's very, very, very limited areas. So in the adult coed league a bunch of people drive over every Saturday to play in the league. Lahaina has a full team and then there's some other Lahaina people who play on the other teams.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Okay. Yes, thank you very much for your comments. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR GUZMAN: Thank you. Any further questions, follow-up, clarifications? Seeing none, thank you very much, Dave.

MR. JORGENSEN: Thank you.

MS. WILLENBRINK: John Harrisson, followed by Nanette Lara.

MR. HARRISSON: Aloha, Chair, Council members. My name's John Harrisson and I'm here to represent the soccer community as well. I'm a referee in youth soccer as well as high school soccer and the adult leagues. I'm a resident as well that's very concerned about the state of the current soccer infrastructure here on Maui. And the Parks and Rec park survey showed that soccer was the number one participation sport on Maui, and so soccer really should be a priority

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of the Department. But again, our infrastructure is really substandard. I think one issue is the relative youth of soccer here on Maui as well as in the United State, and so I think some of the administrators involved who were raised on other sports may not have the interest or knowledge of soccer, but that said, Maui has already produced a couple of MLS players. We've got right now a group of top young soccer athletes, two Maui players are currently with the LA Galaxy Academy including my son. But without year-round soccer and decent facilities, there's no way that we can produce players that can reach that kind of standard. I know there's been some discussion of limiting the period during the year when soccer permits will be allowed, and I want to echo Dave's comments that soccer is not just a seasonal sport, it's really if you are going to achieve a high level it's a year-round sport. The other plea I would make to the Parks and Rec Department is that they maybe be a little more open minded, for example when asked to grant a permit for indoor soccer for futsal, the response was that it's not a legitimate sport, and it most certainly is. I, one thought that occurred to me in terms of a solution would be to, for the County to approve a volunteer unpaid position of like a soccer ombudsman or liaison so that Maui's soccer community could provide advice and input on issues regarding soccer. Be a two-way communication channel which I think would be very beneficial. Finally, as my day job is in economic development, sports is already clearly an economic driver for the Maui economy, and I think there's a lot more that could be done to develop that sector, not just in terms of ocean sports but in soccer in particular. And the provision of a top-class soccer or multipurpose facility I think would do a lot to bring in State and regional tournaments, and through the comprehensive economic development strategy would have a good chance of attracting Federal and State funding for our sports facilities. Thank you.

CHAIR GUZMAN: Thank you, Mr. Harrison. Members, do you have any follow-up questions to clarify? Any questions?

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Yeah, Chair?

CHAIR GUZMAN: Yes, Ms. Cochran.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you for being here. You mentioned futsal, was that? I never heard, that's an indoor soccer type game?

MR. HARRISSON: Yeah, it's an indoor, it can be played outdoors but it's an indoor game, and top clubs around the world, especially clubs like Barcelona, Real Madrid or certainly Brazilian teams as well but all across Europe play futsal. It's an important part of youth development, so for example the US soccer development academies, and my son's in one now, are very strong advocates of a short futsal season or a couple of seasons per year. Because you play basically on a basketball court so you have to develop quick decision making, good footwork, movement skills, you have to...it's a very fast, technical game, and it's a very important way of developing player skills. And that's why it's embraced pretty much everywhere else.

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COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Thank you for that clarification. Thank you, Chair.

MR. JORGENSEN: Thank you.

CHAIR GUZMAN: Any other questions? I have one question. Mr. Harrison, you mentioned about State and regional tournaments as possibly an economic development source.

MR. HARRISSON: Yeah.

CHAIR GUZMAN: Do you happen to know how many we've conducted or hosted on Maui of --

MR. HARRISSON: In terms of soccer, we...

CHAIR GUZMAN: --State or regional type tournaments?

MR. HARRISSON: Yeah, we have kind of tournaments that occur on, over a weekend, for example the Hawaii Cup and the No Kai Oi Tournament in the summer; however, the State high school and State club championships are held at Waipio on Oahu every year just because really nowhere else has the facilities. So I think that that's why, and I know Shan Tsutsui has done a lot in this area but a lot of people are talking about the desirability of having a large and ideally multipurpose maybe Olympic quality center where professionals and Olympians can come as well as for our local community so that State competitions could be held. Just this last summer the Western Region Club Tournament of US Soccer was held at Waipio in Honolulu. It rotates between states. Last year it was in Honolulu, but something like that would bring in a huge amount of funds into our economy.

CHAIR GUZMAN: It could be a possibility because we do have that 209 acres that we currently purchased and then the 60 acres that you mentioned from the State via Shan Tsutsui's efforts. And I also believe that Maui Lani has 15...10 acres, I think?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: It's more like 12.

CHAIR GUZMAN: Twelve? Did you have a comment, Mr. Victorino?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Well yeah, you know, there's nobody in this room probably knows more soccer than I do and he knows I know that --

MR. HARRISSON: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --because I've been doing this for over 30 years and passed the buck onto or passed the mantle onto Mr. Kapuaala, because I could no longer do the Hawaii Cup with my time. I do believe that in our heyday we had 96 teams, was the most teams we brought.

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We brought in teams from West Germany, Mexico, Taiwan, all over the world and all over the United States from New York to California and every point in between. So yes, there's definite economic engine that would be driving. We could have tournaments here because the old saying, you build it, they will come if we have the facilities. And we've gone all over Maui, we've played at Keopuolani, we've played at Kahului Community Center, we've played at what you call that, Maui High fields. I mean we've had soccer tournaments all over this island, so I agree with that. The question I have for you, Mr. Harris [sic], you're talking about year round soccer and, you know, and I came from the day when soccer wasn't quite year round, we had definitive seasons. And whether it was AYSO, HYSA, now, you know, we have others in the US, YSA and all that, the challenge I think we face is the amount of fields necessary for year-round soccer, not so much tournaments, not so much, you know, match play but year-round soccer, because I think this is where the challenge, the amount of club teams we have now has exacerbated. I mean there's I think about 7-8 different club teams now, back in the day we had maybe 2 or 3 at most. So I've seen the evolution come about. So you're saying if we could get something and I think part of that 209 acres is a soccer complex, is a baseball complex, you know, to do both in that area in Central Maui. Having the State tournament here for high school is predicated on us fixing up the War Memorial which we are in the present time doing. We're going to put pits on one side and so it could be now a full-size soccer field which then the HHSAA does not have any excuses to come back to Maui, 'cause that's been their excuse all these years. So I think I agree with you, I just think we still have to find where we could have definitive seasons, and then the club teams themselves have to, you know, we have to work with them on how we can provide fields on a rotating basis. I think this is the other challenge we face. But definitely, economic engine, no question, soccer can bring in a lot of money, 'cause when they come they don't come as a team, they come as a family. Most teams will bring in at least 100 to 150 supporters when they come from the mainland 'cause they plan their whole vacation around it and Mr. Harrison can attest to that.

MR. HARRISSON: Yeah, for sure, and it's certainly good that War Memorial is being renovated. But for and until we have that kind of large scale soccer complex, I think the fields we do have do require considerable improvement and improved maintenance just on a regular basis. I know the soccer community would like to be involved if it could to help share some of the load, but in terms of just the sheer numbers that you refer to, I think right now between AYSO and HYSA and the Hawaii Soccer Federation as well as the adult leagues we have, it's definitely well into the four figures. You know it's certainly well over 1,000 participants, you know, a lot of weeks or cumulatively over the year. So the number of viable fields is a real issue. Yeah.

CHAIR GUZMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Harrison.

MR. HARRISSON: Thank you.

CHAIR GUZMAN: Just for the record I'd like to acknowledge the presence of Mike Victorino. Thank you.