

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

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

August 25, 2015

**Committee
Report No. _____**

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

Chair and Members:

Your Economic Development, Energy, Agriculture, and Recreation Committee, having met on August 4, 2015, makes reference to County Communication 14-10, from Councilmember Mike White, on the matter relating to the Upcountry Dog Park in Makawao, Maui, Hawaii.

Your Committee notes the Council's Economic Development, Energy, Agriculture, and Recreation Committee (2013-2015 Council term) met on this matter on June 17, 2014, October 14, 2014, and December 2, 2014.

Your Committee notes the Council referred County Communication 14-10 to your Committee (County Communication 15-1) at its meeting of January 2, 2015.

Your Committee noted the project, originated by interested members of the public in 2007, was formally initiated in December 2012, when the County designated a 7.5-acre parcel for a dog park next to Eddie Tam Memorial Center in Makawao. In 2013, the Department of Parks and Recreation agreed on a modified park plan for 3.25 acres in the same area.

Your Committee noted the Department of Parks and Recreation has worked in conjunction with a volunteer group, Friends of the Upcountry Dog Park ("Friends"), to develop a well-maintained, safe space for off-leash dog activity.

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At the meeting of June 17, 2014, testimony was received from Friends' members and others expressing concerns about the lack of progress of the project, overgrown irrigation trenches, and drainage issues.

By correspondence dated September 3, 2014, the Interim Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation informed your Committee the Department would address drainage, irrigation, design, and construction issues.

At your Committee's meeting of August 4, 2015, the Director of Parks and Recreation informed your Committee that, after a delay caused by contractual issues, the park is scheduled to open on December 5, 2015. The Director further said the Department planned to conduct landscaping work in the months leading up to the opening.

Upon inquiry by the Chair of your Committee about water availability, the Director stated the Department installed a water line connected to the Eddie Tam Memorial Center lines, so that there is a water spigot for drinking water and a portable irrigation line. The Director added the park will rely on natural rainfall more than irrigation.

A Friends representative confirmed the drainage issues have been addressed, but expressed concern about lack of adequate water for the park in the event rainfall is insufficient.

The Director informed your Committee the Department plans to collaborate with Friends for park maintenance when the park opens.

Your Committee commended Friends and the Department for their efforts to complete the park.

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Your Committee voted 4-0 to recommend filing of the communication. Committee Chair Guzman, Vice-Chair Cochran, and members Couch and Crivello voted "aye." Committee members Hokama, Victorino, and White were excused.

Your Economic Development, Energy, Agriculture, and Recreation Committee RECOMMENDS that County Communication 14-10 be FILED.

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



DON S. GUZMAN, Chair