

**MAUI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY BOARD**

MINUTES

August 12, 2016

**Planning Conference Room
Kalana Pakui Building**

CONVENE: 1:11 p.m.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:
David Goode, Chair
Don Couch, Vice-Chair
Elle Cochran, Member
Stacy Crivello, Member
Ford Fuchigami, Member
Don Medeiros, Member
William Spence, Member

STAFF: David Raatz, Director, Office of Council Services
Chancy Hopper, Supervising Legislative Attorney, Office of Council Services
Raynette Yap, Committee Secretary, Office of Council Services
Marc Takamori, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation

OTHERS: Ed Kushi, First Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation
Counsel
Michael Hopper, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation
Counsel
Donna Brown
John Seebart
Tiare Lawrence
Merritt Kaufman
Marie Schroeder
Terry Schroeder
Albert Perez
Mariah Gill
Plus (4) Others

AGENDA ITEM I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CHAIR GOODE: . . .(*gavel*). . . Good afternoon. This is the Friday, August 12th meeting of the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization.

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AGENDA ITEM II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

CHAIR GOODE: And, Members and folks...Members of the organization—and I see we have a number of folks in the audience—we have one agenda item. The agenda item is Review, Discussion, and Action on the Hiring of an Executive Director. So this is old business because we had it at our last meeting and we needed to carry it over and created this extra meeting for the hiring of the Executive Director. And the reason I'm emphasizing that is for the folks that are wishing to testify. Looking at some of the items that were written down here, I didn't look through them all, but I didn't see the word "Executive Director." So I'm going to ask you...I'm going to ask you to tie your testimony to the item that's on the agenda. I understand you want to talk about something else, but please tie it to the item on the agenda. You'll have three minutes to testify and...

MR. KAUFMAN (*from the gallery*): And what's the item on the agenda again?

CHAIR GOODE: The item is the Review, Discussion, and Action on the Hiring of an Executive Director. So our first testifier is Ms. Donna Brown.

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MS. BROWN: Okay. So we were led to believe the meeting was about something else, but I'll tie this to the hiring of the Executive Director. So I'm with the Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council.

CHAIR GOODE: Excuse me, Ms. Brown, can you state your name for the record.

MS. BROWN: Donna Brown.

CHAIR GOODE: Thank you.

MS. BROWN: And we are a council that was appointed by the Governor to make recommendations to the Coastal Zone Management Program. And we...so I would like to ask that the new director be aware of these issues about the road falling into the ocean between the Pali to Lahaina. And we submitted a letter to the Director of the State Department of Transportation last October and never got any reply yet back to it, and it was addressing this issue. So I have a copy of the letter that I brought and I could read it or I could just give it to you. But what we'd like to do is make sure that whoever gets hired is aware of this issue and would like to try to get the road relocated instead of continuing to build seawalls.

CHAIR GOODE: Okay. Alright, thank you.

MS. BROWN: Okay. So thank you.

CHAIR GOODE: Anything else?

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MS. BROWN: I'll just submit the letter then?

CHAIR GOODE: Yeah, if you could give that to the staff please.

MS. BROWN: Okay. Thanks.

CHAIR GOODE: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Okay. Seeing none, next testifier, John Seebart.

MR. SEEBART: Good afternoon. John Seebart, for the record. Same story, I thought we were talking about seawalls. So I would hope that when you hire the new Executive Director, it's a person who not only has expertise in transportation but environmental impact and has some knowledge of what goes on with these things so that not only the seawalls but other things that come up in the future. The person has an outlook or a view to preserving the environment of Maui, which ultimately is the basis for our economy. And this road, certainly, that people are worried about is certainly of an economic interest to west Maui and thereby through various taxes to the State and the County. And I just think it's important that when the director's chosen that he has some kind of sensitivity to those issues. Thank you.

CHAIR GOODE: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Seebart. Any questions to the testifier? Mr. Couch?

VICE-CHAIR COUCH: Thank you, Mr. Chair; thank you, Mr. Seebart. You're the second person to come up and say you were led to believe it was a different issue. How...was that through our notice or...

MR. SEEBART: No. There was social media that requested everybody show up because this was the topic, the seawall issue.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR GOODE: Okay. Our next testifier is Ms. Tiare Lawrence.

MS. LAWRENCE: Aloha, Committee. My name is Tiare Lawrence. For the ED position, I do request that the ED make the realignment of Honoapiilani Highway a priority. That's how I'm going to tie it in and now I'm going to talk about seawalls 'cause you guys are here. Again, I'm here again and I'm going to keep coming. I'm going to keep coming until the realignment of Honoapiilani Highway becomes a priority; because, growing up, I've utilized a lot of the beaches and a lot of them are now gone, they're gone. There are seawalls blocking access, places that we once used to go to pick limu in Ukumehame is now boulders. It's a passionate issue for a lot of people in our community. And I feel that what's happening with the bouldering project and also plans to do a hardening down at mile marker 14 is putting the cart before the horse, and I want to use an example of the International Airport and what's happening on Maui. We're spending \$300 million on a car-rental facility. And, in the long term, the plan is to have Maui go into international airport, but you're putting the cart before

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the horse, again, because we need to learn from Oahu's mistakes. They didn't have the infrastructure to support all of that growth, and look at the situation that they're in now. And I feel that by delaying the realignment, which is already 20 years behind, is putting the cart before the horse. And I think realignment of Honoapiilani Highway needs to become a priority. And there is Cane Haul Road there, there's landowners that are willing to work it out with the State and the County; and I feel like it needs to happen. Before Maui can even think of becoming an international airport, we need to think about the infrastructure first because we cannot support that type of growth. And when we look at Lahaina, Lahaina is the bread winner. Economically, when it comes to tourism industry, it's a bread winner. And already, we're getting so many Yelp reviews about how horrible and how horrid the traffic is going to west Maui. As you know, a lot of the car accidents that take place are on that highway. So I think the realignment of Honoapiilani Highway needs to become a priority. I think it would allow us to have safer roads. And, in the long-term range, it would be environmentally friendly; and, economically, it would be beneficial. And, on the bonus side, we'd create jobs that will probably last six to ten years versus these two to three month temporary projects that are only causing more long-term adverse impacts to our community versus looking at the long-term benefits. So and I'd like to ask the State to reconsider the bouldering project that's about to happen. I surf Awalua a lot. I know that the bouldering project is going to have adverse impacts on fisherman like my brother who go to throw net down there, like Uncle Snick who's here today, and all the surfers there. You know, in the EA, they claim, oh, it's not going to have impacts to the surf. Well I've...I grew up surfing my whole life. I've seen these projects come in...the bouldering project at Ukumehame now causes backwash...

CHAIR GOODE: Ms. Lawrence?

MS. LAWRENCE: Sorry.

CHAIR GOODE: I'm sorry, we're going to have to go back to the Executive Director, which is what's on the agenda.

MS. LAWRENCE: Yeah.

CHAIR GOODE: Can't really get into a discussion about the bouldering project today.

MS. LAWRENCE: And I'll be back on the 20th to talk more about seawalls if you put it on the agenda, yes.

CHAIR GOODE: Okay. I appreciate that, 'cause that's a Sunshine Law issue and it's something we have to be really careful of.

MS. LAWRENCE: Absolutely. And, yeah, so...

CHAIR GOODE: I didn't mean to cut you off, just want to...

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MS. LAWRENCE: So for the director position, can you please hire somebody that will make Honoapiilani a priority? Mahalo.

CHAIR GOODE: Perfect. Any questions for the testifier? Okay. Seeing none, thank you. Merritt Kaufman is our next testifier.

MR. KAUFMAN: Hi. I'm Merritt Kaufman, and I came here to talk about the hiring of an executive director for the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization. That's the...what they're directing, right?

CHAIR GOODE: That's us.

MR. KAUFMAN: Okay. Alright. So I just hope that whoever our new Executive Director is doesn't make some of the same...or doesn't overlook some things that have happened where there's been cases where they fix...they make a road into...we have too much traffic on one road so they make it two lanes going both ways. By the time it's done being completed, I mean you have two lanes going each way, we need three lanes going each way. So I've seen that happen, you know, and the environment is definitely getting ruined by...I mean it's going to...by just...it just is, I've seen it all over the island. The reefs are already dying. They've stopped...they've changed the fishing policies, especially on the west side because the reefs are dying and you can't get uhus at all. And all...I've noticed some spots surfing that are almost unsurfable already in the past two years. I don't know how long this...certain State projects have been, but I'm sure...if we have the right Executive Director and just to make the right decisions I suppose. 'Cause it's said you see we have so much potential here and there's so much stuff that, you know, we've seen the mistakes happen in other places and I know we all want the same outcome. You know, I know...you know, I make lots of mistakes. Everyone makes mistakes and we just have to learn from our mistakes and just do what's really right for the whole island and the entire community and not, you know, and no one wants to waste taxpayer money. Taxpayers don't want it, I know the Metropolitan Planning Organization, it's the last thing you guys want as well. But the environment has to take precedence of everything and definitely lifestyles that are...which are the reasons why people are coming to visit Hawaii and Maui. This really has to take precedence over putting Band-Aids on something that needs, like, surgery, basically. 'Cause, but yeah, I'm sure you guys will find the right Executive Director. Do we have any idea...or do we...so I'm a little unprepared, you probably figured that out by now. But the...is the...are the people who could possibly be the Executive Director here right now, too, that you're looking at?

CHAIR GOODE: Mr. Kaufman, this isn't like a Q&A type thing.

MR. KAUFMAN: Yeah?

CHAIR GOODE: So just complete your testimony, and then we'll ask...we'll see if we have any questions of you.

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MR. KAUFMAN: Okay. This is review, discussion, and action. So is discussion not part of questioning at all?

CHAIR GOODE: It's discussion amongst the Board, so right now -

MR. KAUFMAN: Oh.

CHAIR GOODE: --we're in the public testimony point.

MR. KAUFMAN: Okay.

CHAIR GOODE: But I think you've done a pretty good job of making your points.

MR. KAUFMAN: Yeah.

CHAIR GOODE: You have anything else to add.

MR. KAUFMAN: I just...I got three minutes, so I'd like to use it all, Mr. Goode.

CHAIR GOODE: I'll give you an extra 15 seconds 'cause I went on.

MR. KAUFMAN: Okay. Well, yeah, I just...and thanks for letting me talk and I just really, you know, I think we can fit it all on the same page and we can all...we all want the same thing; so let's just do what we can and, you know, make it all happen, right. Thank you.

CHAIR GOODE: Alright. Thank you. Any questions for Mr. Kaufman? Okay. Seeing none -

MR. KAUFMAN: No?

CHAIR GOODE: --next testifier—thank you—next testifier is Teddy Schroeder.

MS. SCHROEDER (*from gallery*): Terry.

CHAIR GOODE: Terry. Did I say Teddy? Terry, Terry Schroeder.

MR. SCHROEDER: Terry Schroeder from the west side and I'm here to support the new Executive Director as long as he agrees with not building seawalls on the Honoapiilani Highway. So as a resident who get involved in local things—we saw Elle just last week at the Ridge to Reef Rendezvous—but so we're here to support moving of the highway rather than building seawalls at the Olowalu to Ukumehame area. And that's all I need to say. I don't mean disrespect, these are prescription.

CHAIR GOODE: Okay. Thank you. Any questions? Okay. Seeing none, our last testifier signed up is Albert Perez. Oh wait, I have one...go ahead...I had one more so go ahead.

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MR. PEREZ: Okay. Good morning, aloha. I'm Albert Perez, Director of Maui Tomorrow. And I am testifying on what appears to be my only option is the Executive Director; so I will relate that to what's being going on. I would hope that this body would want to hire somebody who's knowledgeable about coastal processes, because most of our highways are along the coast throughout the state, and that's no exception here on Maui. It's clear that there has been damage already, especially Ukumehame. The manta rays, the sightings offshore of that seawall, are now down by 75 percent. So the new Executive Director should also be knowledgeable about our Chapter 343, the State Environmental Law, not just because it's an impediment to engineering projects that the Department of Transportation would like to complete but because it's important and the Legislature has adopted it as something that is important to the people in the State of Hawaii. So the new Executive Director should be knowledgeable about the strong environmental aloha aina community that we have here on Maui. We're very active. And I would say that the job and the processes that the Metropolitan Planning Organization has to go through, the goals that you adopt, those would be achieved more easily if you weren't always running afoul of environmental law. So I would just like to say that the boulder revetment in Awalua, north of Olowalu, is going to have impacts. The Director of Transportation has the power to pull back that project. We've seen people out there, now with clipboards, that are about to get started as far as we can tell. Even if you have to pay some kind of fine for...I don't know what they call it. You've let a contract...so you put back...

CHAIR GOODE: Could you get back to the Executive Director position for me, Mr. Perez? Thanks.

MR. PEREZ: Yes. The Executive Director should knowledgeable about these types of contracts and how, you know, they could have input to the Department of Transportation on what the relative cost would be in terms of paying contractor penalties versus the actual known damage that is actually unquantifiable offshore with our coastal ecosystems. So thank you very much.

CHAIR GOODE: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Okay. Seeing—thank you—seeing none, I did have one other person signed up. I apologize. Marie Schroeder had signed up.

MS. SCHROEDER: Aloha. I'm Marie Schroeder. I live on the west side.

VICE-CHAIR COUCH: Use the microphone please.

MS. SCHROEDER: And before that, we've been coming to Maui every year since 1986 and have watched things decline. I'm hoping the Executive Director will be aware of keeping our environment as it...the paradise that it is and not put more seawalls as we're finding such problems arising from them. We have it at our own place in Kahana, and so it's proving to be a problem. And I do also work with people coming and renting vacation rentals; and they have stated to me that with the slow traffic on the Pali that they're considering going other places 'cause they spend hours on the Pali

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wasting their vacation time. So it's a very important issue and the Director needs to be aware of these things that affect us all. Thank you for listening.

CHAIR GOODE: Alright. Thank you. Any questions? Okay. Thank you. One more testifier. Mariah Gill?

MS. GILL: Thank you. Mariah Gill, Environmental Consultant. I'm not going to eat up too much of your time. I just wanted to speak on, you know, when you're hiring the Executive Director—I'm really excited for you to do that today and I hope that gets done—I ask that the new Executive Director in this organization really hit the ground running. And, as you can see, there's a lot of energy on some very serious traffic issues, especially along Honoapiilani Highway that need to be addressed. I ask that the Executive Director really get started with establishing that Community Advisory Committee. As you can see, there's a lot of people here that are willing to help get these issues addressed, get the realignment back on the STIP. And so I offer my help, whatever is needed, and I congratulate you and applaud you for hiring the Executive Director today, and I ask that you get...get going. So thank you very much.

CHAIR GOODE: Alright. Thank you, Ms. Gill. Any questions? Okay. Seeing none, is there anybody left that has not testified that would like to testify? Okay. Seeing none, I'd like to close public testimony.

MEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

CHAIR GOODE: Okay. Members, so our business, as I mentioned earlier, is review, discussion, and action on the hiring of an Executive Director. And, previously, we took this in executive session. I think it's appropriate that we go back into executive session, because we will be talking about certain individuals, qualifications, et cetera. So do we have a motion?

VICE-CHAIR COUCH: Mr. Chair, I move that we go into executive session in reference to HRS...pursuant to HRS Section 92-4 and 92-5(a)(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to consider the evaluation and hiring of an officer.

MEMBER COCHRAN: Mr. Chair, I second the motion.

CHAIR GOODE: Okay. We have a motion by Mr. Couch and seconded by Ms. Cochran to go into executive session. Any discussion? Okay. Seeing none, all in favor say, "aye."

MEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR GOODE: Any "noes"? Okay.

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VOTE: AYES: Chair Goode, Vice-Chair Couch, Members Cochran, Crivello, Fuchigami, Medeiros, and Spence.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVED; RECESS open meeting and CONVENE executive meeting

CHAIR GOODE: So we will be going into executive session so we'll need to clear the room and we'll go out of executive...out of regular session now. Recess. . . *(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 1:32 p.m.

RECONVENE: 2:19 p.m.

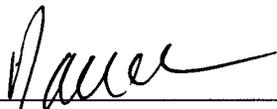
CHAIR GOODE: . . . *(gavel)*. . . Okay. The recessed regular meeting is back in session. And we concluded our business in executive session. Anything else to discuss at this point, Members? Okay. Seeing none, any objections to move to adjourn?

MEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR GOODE: Okay then this meeting is concluded. . . *(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 2:20 p.m.

APPROVED:



DAVID GOODE, Chair
Maui Metropolitan Planning
Organization Policy Board