

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
POLICY COMMITTEE

February 8, 2008

Committee
Report No.

_____ 08-25

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

Chair and Members:

Your Policy Committee, having met on January 22, 2008, makes reference to County Communication No. 07-349, from the Director of Housing and Human Concerns, transmitting a proposed resolution entitled "AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE SECTION 8 PROGRAM HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MAUI AND LANDLORDS OF FAMILIES RECEIVING SECTION 8 PROGRAM ASSISTANCE".

The purpose of the proposed resolution is to delegate the authority from the Mayor to the Director of Housing and Human Concerns to execute Section 8 Program housing assistance payments contracts between the County and landlords of families receiving Section 8 Program assistance.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Director of Housing and Human Concerns, the Corporation Counsel, and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

There was no public testimony.

Your Committee notes that the Section 8 Program Assistance Voucher Program provides rental assistance to low-income households. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and administered locally by the County.

The Director reported that the Department of Housing and Human Concerns issues between 300 and 400 housing assistance payments contracts per year, depending on how often families with vouchers move. She explained that a new contract needs to be executed whenever a family with a Section 8 Assistance Voucher moves into a new unit.

The Director also reported that the housing assistance payment contracts currently originate with the Housing Division and are then routed to the Budget Director, the

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Director of Finance, the Director of Housing and Human Concerns, and the Department of the Corporation Counsel before they are sent to the Mayor for signature. Her Department is requesting that the authority to sign the housing assistance payment contract be delegated to the Director of Housing and Human Concerns to expedite the process.

Your Committee asked whether the Director would designate a staff person to sign the contracts. The Director stated that she did not feel it would be appropriate to designate a staff person from the Housing Division to sign the contract, and she intended to sign them herself, or have the Deputy Director of Housing and Human Concerns sign them in her absence.

Your Committee discussed whether the Managing Director should review all contracts before the Mayor signs them. The Corporation Counsel stated that the Managing Director does not currently review contracts, and the Mayor relies on the Department of the Corporation Counsel to review all contracts.

Your Committee also discussed whether a report of the contracts signed by the Department should be given to the Managing Director.

Your Committee requested that the Director research whether the Managing Director's review would be beneficial to the process, or if a report of the signed contracts would be sufficient to keep the Managing Director apprised of the number and types of contracts being issued. Your Committee also requested that the Director provide a list of contracts currently issued by community plan area.

Your Committee voted to recommend adoption of the proposed resolution and filing of the communication.

Your Policy Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Resolution No. _____, attached hereto, entitled "AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE SECTION 8 PROGRAM HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MAUI AND LANDLORDS OF FAMILIES RECEIVING SECTION 8 PROGRAM ASSISTANCE", be ADOPTED; and

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DANNYA MATEO Chair

BILL KAUAKEA MEDEIROS Member

G. RIKI HOKAMA Vice-Chair

MICHAEL J. MOLINA Member

MICHELLE ANDERSON Member

JOSEPH PONTANILLA Member

GLADYS C. BAISA Member

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO Member

JO ANNE JOHNSON Member

Resolution

No. _____

AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE SECTION 8 PROGRAM HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MAUI AND LANDLORDS OF FAMILIES RECEIVING SECTION 8 PROGRAM ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS, the County of Maui (hereinafter called "County") receives funding for the Section 8 tenant-based Housing Choice Voucher program ("Section 8 Program") from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"); and

WHEREAS, under the Section 8 Program, the County of Maui is deemed to be the Public Housing Agency ("PHA"), and is authorized by federal and state law to develop and operate housing and housing programs for low-income families; and

WHEREAS, each owner of real property to be rented to Section 8 Program participants must enter into a Housing Assistance Payments Contract ("HAP contract") with the PHA to receive Section 8 Program assistance payments on behalf of the Section 8 Program participants; and

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, currently the Mayor, on behalf of the PHA, executes all HAP contracts; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Housing and Human Concerns administers the Section 8 Program's day-to-day operations; and

WHEREAS, in order to promote efficiency within the Department of Housing and Human Concerns, the Mayor desires to delegate the execution of HAP contracts to the Director of the Department of Housing and Human Concerns, or to the Director's designee, which delegation is not prohibited pursuant to the Section 8 Program; now, therefore,

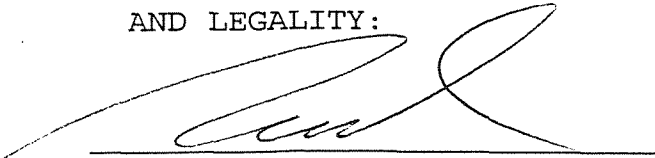
BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it does hereby authorize the Director of the Department of Housing and Human Concerns or the Director's designee to execute all HAP contracts on behalf of the PHA; and

Resolution No. _____

2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the County of Maui, the Director of the Department of Housing and Human Concerns, the Director of Finance and the Corporation Counsel.

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGALITY:



EDWARD S. KUSHI, JR.
Deputy Corporation Counsel
County of Maui

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