

**COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI**  
**POLICY COMMITTEE**

February 16, 2007

**Committee**  
**Report No.**

07-3

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

Chair and Members:

Your Policy Committee, having met on January 30, 2007, makes reference to County Communication No. 07-7, from the Council Chair, relating to the matter of nominations to boards, committees, and commissions.

By correspondence dated December 29, 2006 (received December 29, 2006), the Mayor transmitted the nomination of Kent Hiranaga to the Maui Planning Commission to replace Diane Shepherd, for a term expiring on March 31, 2008, along with his personal history form.

By separate correspondence dated January 26, 2007, Gill Newton, Vicki J. Schulte, Robert Wintner, Eve Clute, Michael J. Duberstein, and Joy Brann submitted written testimony in opposition to Mr. Hiranaga's nomination.

By separate correspondence dated January 27, 2007, Liza Botz, Cecilia Vessel, and Ann Fielding submitted written testimony in opposition to Mr. Hiranaga's nomination.

By separate correspondence dated January 29, 2007, Robin Newbold and Eloise Engman submitted written testimony in opposition to Mr. Hiranaga's nomination.

Your Committee notes that specific appointment procedures are outlined in Section 13-2, Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended, and Chapter 2.41, Maui County Code.

Your Committee further notes that the deadline for the Council to approve or disapprove the nominee who is subject to the 60-day Council approval process is February 27, 2007.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Senior Executive Assistant to the Mayor; a Deputy Corporation Counsel; and Kent Hiranaga, the nominee.

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Your Committee received public testimony from three individuals in opposition to Mr. Hiranaga's nomination. Your Committee also received written testimony from Martha Woodbury in opposition to Mr. Hiranaga's nomination.

After receiving brief comments from the Senior Executive Assistant to the Mayor, your Committee proceeded to interview Mr. Hiranaga, President of Maui Kai Realty.

A member of your Committee expressed concern with having four out of the nine members on the Maui Planning Commission represented by the real estate industry.

Your Committee discussed having a balanced geographical representation on the Maui Planning Commission. Your Committee notes that Mr. Hiranaga resides in Spreckelsville and is being nominated to replace an outgoing commissioner from Kihei. Your Committee further notes that of the remaining eight members on the Maui Planning Commission, two members represent the Wailuku-Kahului community plan area, two members represent the Paia-Haiku community plan area, one member represents the Hana community plan area, one member represents the Makawao-Pukalani-Kula community plan area, one member represents the West Maui community plan area, and one member represents the Kihei-Makena community plan area.

Your Committee discussed the timeframe in which Mr. Hiranaga submitted his application form. Mr. Hiranaga stated that he intended to apply for a position on the Maui Planning Commission under the current Administration; however, his application form dated November 28, 2006 (received on November 30, 2006) was submitted to the Council on December 29, 2006 by the prior Mayor. As a result, Mr. Hiranaga is being nominated to replace Diane Shepherd for a one-year term expiring on March 31, 2008.

Your Committee discussed the possible disapproval of Mr. Hiranaga in order to allow the Mayor to submit a nominee that possesses similar views and principles of the current Administration. The Senior Executive Assistant to the Mayor noted that the Mayor would have liked the opportunity to nominate a replacement for Diane Shepherd to the Maui Planning Commission.

Your Committee discussed Mr. Hiranaga's prior participation on the Board of Variances and Appeals, as well as on the Board of Water Supply, and felt that he would be a hard-working individual who would protect the interests of Maui.

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Based on the information received, your Committee voted to recommend approval of the nomination of Kent Hiranaga.

Your Policy Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That the nomination of Kent Hiranaga to the Maui Planning Commission be APPROVED for a term expiring on March 31, 2008; and
2. That a copy of this committee report be TRANSMITTED to the Mayor of the County of Maui.

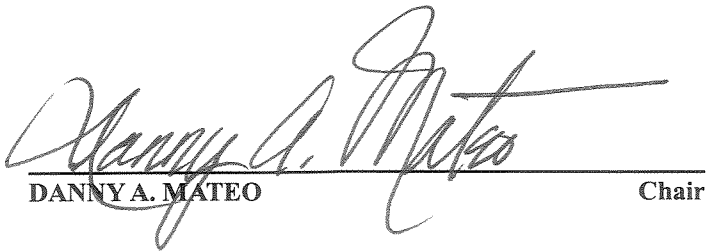
Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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