

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

March 17, 2006

**Committee
Report No.**

_____ 06-41

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

Chair and Members:

Your Public Works Committee, having met on February 27, 2006, makes reference to County Communication No. 06-60, from the Director of Public Works and Environmental Management, transmitting a proposed resolution entitled "AUTHORIZING MAUI ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED TO REPLACE AND INSTALL A UTILITY POLE ON AINAKULA ROAD, KULA, MAUI".

The purpose of the proposed resolution is to authorize Maui Electric Company, Limited (MECo) to install two utility poles located within the County right-of-way along Ainakula Road, Kula, Maui (TMK: (2) 2-3-14:004). Your Committee notes that the title of the proposed resolution references a single pole, while the body of the proposed resolution references two poles.

By correspondence dated February 21, 2006, the Department of the Corporation Counsel transmitted a revised proposed resolution entitled "AUTHORIZING MAUI ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED TO INSTALL TWO UTILITY POLES ON AINAKULA ROAD, KULA, MAUI".

The revised proposed resolution clarifies that the request is for authorization to install two 45-foot utility poles in place of an existing 40-foot utility pole on the subject property.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Director of Public Works and Environmental Management; a Deputy Corporation Counsel; and Darren Yamamoto, Customer Designer, MECo.

There was no public testimony.

The Director provided an overview of the matter. He indicated that the Department of Public Works and Environmental Management has reviewed the plans for the proposed installation of two 45-foot utility poles in place of an existing 40-foot utility pole, and is recommending adoption of the proposed resolution.

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Mr. Yamamoto informed your Committee that two wooden poles are required in order to meet the subdivision's request for underground utilities. Without the additional pole to complete the circuit loop, utility lines would have to be exposed above ground.

In response to your Committee's inquiry about whether surrounding neighbors have been notified of the proposed installation, Mr. Yamamoto stated that MECo does not assume responsibility for notifying surrounding property owners when the request is not initiated by MECo.

Your Committee expressed concern that the increased height of the new utility poles (from 40 feet to 45 feet) may detract from the view plane of surrounding homeowners. Your Committee notes that the topography of the area is a downhill slope, and the utility poles would be placed at the lowest part of the property.

A member of your Committee noted that remnant portions of utility poles have been left in other subdivisions. Mr. Yamamoto assured your Committee that MECo will completely remove the existing pole so that no hazardous remnant is left behind.

Your Committee also noted that MECo should submit more detailed and descriptive maps in the future.

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

Your Public Works Committee **RECOMMENDS** the following:

1. That Resolution No. _____, as revised herein and attached hereto, entitled "AUTHORIZING MAUI ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED TO INSTALL TWO UTILITY POLES ON AINAKULA ROAD, KULA, MAUI", be **ADOPTED**; and
2. That County Communication No. 06-60 be **FILED**.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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JOSEPH PONTANILLA **Chair**

G. RIKI HOKAMA **Member**

MICHAEL J. MOLINA **Vice-Chair**

DANNY A. MATEO **Member**

ROBERT CARROLL **Member**