

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

July 10, 2006

Site Inspection

CONVENE: 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla, Chair
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Member
Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, Member
Councilmember Danny A. Mateo, Member

STAFF: Richelle Kawasaki, Legislative Attorney

ADMIN.: Milton Arakawa, Director, Department of Public Works and Environmental
Management
Kalbert Young, Director, Department of Finance
Milton Matsuoka, Captain, Department of Police
Victor Ramos, Acting Captain, Department of Police
Neal Bal, Deputy Chief, Department of Fire and Public Safety
Marian Feenstra, Aquatics Division Chief, Department of Parks and Recreation
Cindy Young, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation
Counsel

OTHERS: Mike Maberry, Assistant Director, External Affairs, University of Hawaii,
Institute for Astronomy
Steve Perkins, Program Director, Maui Economic Development Board, Inc.
Lee Altenberg, Associate Professor, Department of Information and Computer
Sciences, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Frank "Bud" Pikrone, General Manager, Wailea Community Association
Leslie Wilkins, Vice President, Maui Economic Development Board, Inc.
Skippy Hau, Aquatic Biologist, State Department of Land and Natural Resources
Eugene Bal, III, Executive Director, Maui High Performance Computing Center
Beryl Bal
Earl Kono
Ian Kono
Cheryl King
Hannah Bernard

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PW-18 OUTDOOR LIGHTING

The Committee assembled in the Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB) building's parking lot in the Maui Research and Technology Park at 1305 North Holopono Street, Kihei, Maui.

Chair Pontanilla convened the site inspection and explained that the purpose of the inspection was to observe the low pressure sodium lights installed at the MEDB building.

Lee Altenberg, Associate Professor, Department of Information and Computer Sciences, University of Hawaii at Manoa, said that he was encouraged to see low pressure sodium lights installed at the MEDB building, but he noted that the walkway lights were unshielded and may pose a light trespass problem. Mr. Altenberg said that the County should require all outdoor lamps to be fully shielded to avoid glare. Mr. Altenberg stated that he has been working with an ad hoc group to continue to address the issue of light trespass. He acknowledged that technical concerns remain, but the major areas of concern have been addressed. He further acknowledged that the Department of Police objects to low pressure sodium lights. Mr. Altenberg expressed his support for an outdoor lighting ordinance to be enacted quickly by the County.

Frank "Bud" Pikrone, General Manager, Wailea Community Association, said that the ad hoc group referred to by Mr. Altenberg is looking for compromises, such as mixing different types of light, to address various concerns. He said that large box stores with bright lights in their parking lots are the major light polluters. Mr. Pikrone said that a slide presentation at the Committee's next meeting will illustrate different aspects of the problems that need to be solved.

Hannah Bernard said that the suggestions in the proposed outdoor lighting bill that was supported by the Subcommittee on Outdoor Lighting Standards were appropriate for wildlife and astronomers. Ms. Bernard said that low pressure sodium lights that are unshielded may pose problems for wildlife such as nesting sea turtles. She noted that various groups are committed to working together.

The Police Captain said that the Department of Police continues to be concerned for public safety and police officer safety with regard to the proposed lighting changes.

Mike Maberry, Assistant Director, External Affairs, University of Hawaii, Institute for Astronomy, said that the bill that is currently being proposed would not require a lower amount of light, only a change to the color of lighting provided by street lights and parking lot lights. He indicated that he was wearing a red shirt since red seems to be the color most impacted by low pressure sodium lighting.

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Your Committee observed the differences in the appearance of Mr. Maberry's red shirt in low pressure sodium lighting, in white light, and in a mixture of lighting using the lights at the MEDB building, a flashlight, and the headlights of a vehicle.

The Police Captain asked about a possible strobing effect when different types of lighting are mixed.

Mr. Altenberg noted that a strobing effect may occur depending on how fast a vehicle is passing by light poles, and depending on the distance between poles. He analogized this effect to what occurs when cars drive on Mokulele Highway when light filters through the Wiliwili trees.

Cheryl King said she was available to answer questions regarding wildlife issues.

The Director of Public Works and Environmental Management used green, blue, red, and white soda cans as visual aids. He also used a brown aluminum can, and an orange juice bottle for illustrative purposes. All of these items were shown in low pressure sodium lighting, in white light, and in a mixture of low pressure sodium lights and white light. The Director of Public Works and Environmental Management noted that Maui Electric Company will be installing and testing low pressure sodium lighting in four different locations in August 2006.

The Parks and Recreation Aquatics Division Chief said that the Department of Parks and Recreation is in support of limiting light pollution.

There being no further questions or discussion, Chair Pontanilla adjourned the inspection at 7:56 p.m.

APPROVED:



JOSEPH PONTANILLA, Chair
Public Works Committee

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