

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
**PARKS AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

September 1, 2006

**Committee
Report No.**

06-103

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

Chair and Members:

Your Parks and Economic Development Committee, having met on June 8, 2006 and August 17, 2006 (site inspection and meeting), makes reference to County Communication No. 06-155, from Councilmember Michelle Anderson, transmitting a document entitled "SOUTH MAUI REGION PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN".

Your Committee notes that one of six implementing actions of the Kihei-Makena Community Plan pertaining to land use is to "prepare an Open Space Master Plan for the region to provide a unified system of non-motorized access to community resources", and to establish "standards for the use of drainageways, gulches, wetlands, and easements for public access".

Your Committee notes that the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan is a direct response to the Kihei community's vision of establishing an open space framework of contiguous trails and designated pathways, consistent with the objectives of the Kihei-Makena Community Plan.

Your Committee notes that the Council approved an \$85,000 grant to the Department of Planning for the purpose of funding the Kihei Community Master Plan during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2002 Budget.

Your Committee further notes that the Council approved a \$15,000 grant to the Kihei Community Association (KCA) for the development of open space guidelines in South Maui in the FY 2007 Budget.

At its meeting of June 8, 2006, your Committee met with the Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation; Chris Hart, Chris Hart & Partners, Inc.; and Joe Bertram III, Bikeways Maui.

There was no public testimony.

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Mr. Hart presented a computer-generated slideshow of the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan and provided your Committee with a copy.

The Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation expressed support for the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan, but was concerned with the long-term maintenance of the additional parks and open space corridors recommended in the plan. Your Committee suggested that the Department of Parks and Recreation include estimated funds needed for the maintenance of the additional parks and open space corridors in the County's annual budget.

Your Committee suggested that an inventory and map of the cultural resources located within the Kihei-Makena Region be included in the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan, consistent with an implementing action of the Kihei-Makena Community Plan.

Your Committee discussed the lack of detail in the maps contained in the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan. Your Committee suggested that information such as tax map key numbers, names of properties, and names of side streets, be included on the maps.

Your Committee suggested entering tax map key numbers and other pertinent information into the County's Land Application, Permitting, and Request for Service System (KIVA Net) to notify County departments that parcels adjacent to the North-South Collector Road, from Uwapo Road to Kilohana Drive, will be designated as the proposed North-South Collector Open Space Corridor. Your Committee further suggested that all maps included in the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan be incorporated in the County's Geographic Information System (GIS).

Mr. Bertram acknowledged the conceptual nature of the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan. He further acknowledged that the additional \$15,000 allocated to KCA in the FY 2007 Budget will allow the KCA to include more details in the plan and provide estimated costs to implement the plan.

Mr. Bertram discussed the need to adopt the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan and incorporate all maps in the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan within the Kihei-Makena Community Plan as quickly as possible. He further discussed the urgency in preserving the parcels needed to establish portions of the proposed North-South Collector Open Space Corridor.

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Your Committee briefly discussed the park amenities for the proposed 44-acre Kihei Community Park, located adjacent to Kihei Elementary and Lokelani Intermediate Schools. Your Committee further discussed including at least one regulation softball field within the Kihei Community Park plan.

Your Committee suggested cross-referencing the parks and open space priorities as noted in the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan with the present priorities of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Your Committee further suggested updating the 2003 data referenced in the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan with current data.

Your Committee suggested that the Department of Public Works and Environmental Management comment on the proposed open space corridors adjacent to the North-South Collector Road, with a particular focus on the proposed road alignments and how these open space corridors will connect to existing roadways.

Your Committee suggested utilizing community programs such as the Adopt-A-Park program to assist with the maintenance of parks and open space areas.

Your Committee further suggested using the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan as a model for other communities to establish parks and open space corridors.

Your Committee deferred the matter pending further discussion.

By correspondence dated June 20, 2006, the Chair of your Committee requested that the Department of Public Works and Environmental Management comment on the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan (October 2003) as it pertains to the proposed open space corridors adjacent to the North-South Collector Road, focusing particularly on the proposed road alignments and how these open space corridors will connect to existing roadways.

By correspondence dated June 20, 2006, the Chair of your Committee requested that the Department of Management include all maps contained in the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan pertaining to the proposed Kihei Community Park Plan and proposed open space corridors within the County's GIS.

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By correspondence dated June 20, 2006, the Chair of your Committee requested that the Mayor identify the Administration's plans for the remaining 106 acres of the 150-acre site originally proposed for the Kihei Community Park.

By correspondence dated June 26, 2006, the Director of Public Works and Environmental Management transmitted comments regarding the proposed open space corridors for the sections of the North-South Collector Road from Uwapo Road to Kilohana Drive in Kihei.

By correspondence dated July 6, 2006, the Managing Director transmitted maps from the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan that were enlarged by the County's GIS Division.

By correspondence dated August 10, 2006, the Chair of your Committee transmitted a proposed resolution entitled "SUPPORTING THE SOUTH MAUI REGION PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN". The purpose of the proposed resolution is to support the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan (October 2003), prepared by Chris Hart & Partners.

By correspondence dated August 16, 2006, the Chair of your Committee transmitted the following from Peter Medwick: a copy of an informational flyer from the KCA; a copy of House Resolution No. 119, House Draft 1, House of Representatives, Twenty-Third Legislature 2006, State of Hawaii entitled "ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, TO FURTHER PROMOTE ITS STATEWIDE GREENBELTS STRATEGY"; suggestions from Kauhale Street residents pertaining to the portion of the open space corridor adjacent to their neighborhood; and information derived from the Safe Routes to School program website.

At its site inspection in Kihei on August 17, 2006, your Committee met with the Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation; the South Maui District Supervisor, Department of Parks and Recreation; the Deputy Planning Director; a Planner, Department of Planning; the Deputy Director of Public Works and Environmental Management; the Senior Executive Assistant to the Mayor; a Deputy Corporation Counsel; and Joe Bertram III, KCA.

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Your Committee received testimony from three individuals in support of the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan. David Frazier, President of the KCA, stated that the plan has been a vision for many years and would be a major enhancement to the community. Joe Bertram said he would like to see prohibitions for automobiles factored into the overall plan. Christine Muschietti, a Kauhale Street resident, expressed support for the proposed greenways.

The Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation provided a brief overview of the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan.

Mr. Bertram identified the proposed locations of the North-South Collector Open Space Corridor, specifically the proposed open space corridor adjacent to Kauhale Street and Kihei Shores Condominiums. He stated that approximately \$612 million in funds from the Safe Routes to School Program (a Federal-Aid program of the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration) are available to help establish safe walking and biking routes for children to travel to school. He further stated that the contiguous corridors would also provide access to the proposed Kihei high school.

The Senior Executive Assistant to the Mayor identified the location of a parcel along Ponana Street, Kihei, which is necessary to complete a segment of the proposed North-South Collector Open Space Corridor from Ke Alii Alanui Drive to Wailea. Your Committee notes that the County is considering acquiring this parcel, comprised of 4,650 square feet, for \$350,000.

Mr. Bertram stated that the additional \$15,000 allocated during the FY 2007 Budget will be used to establish specific open space guidelines within the conceptualized South Maui Parks & Open Space Master Plan. He further stated that portions of the North-South Collector Open Space Corridor consist of a 10-foot waterline easement, thereby, enabling the corridor to be at least 10 feet wide. Mr. Bertram stated that the ideal width of the corridor would be between 60 and 80 feet.

Your Committee briefly discussed the overall maintenance of the open space corridors, including the maintenance of trees adjacent to the corridors. Your Committee further discussed how involvement from community members and community groups must be sought to adequately maintain these areas.

Your Committee viewed the proposed open space corridor adjacent to Kauhale Street and Kihei Shores Condominiums.

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Your Committee deferred consideration of the matter pending a meeting at the Kihei Community and Aquatic Center.

At its meeting in Kihei on August 17, 2006, your Committee met with the Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation; the Deputy Planning Director; a Planner, Department of Planning; the Deputy Director of Public Works and Environmental Management; the Senior Executive Assistant to the Mayor; a Deputy Corporation Counsel; and Joe Bertram III, KCA.

Your Committee received testimony from ten individuals in support of the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan. The testifiers expressed support for bicycle and walking trails that would create safe, open space corridors for residents to use, in addition to establishing a “sense of place” in the Kihei-Makena Community Plan region.

Your Committee also received a copy of the KIVA Net Permit Application screen; and a copy of contact information for representatives of the Department of Planning and the Department of Public Works and Environmental Management from Peter Medwick.

The Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation expressed support for the plan as a means for beautifying the park system within the Kihei-Makena region. He expressed concern for keeping the open space corridors both clean and safe once the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan is implemented.

The Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation stated that a designated County crew or community groups such as Adopt-A-Park programs, rotary clubs, and service clubs may assist with the maintenance of the corridors. In lieu of asphalt, he suggested using crushed limestone or other natural materials to pave the corridor if the material is safe, cost-effective, and complies with the American with Disabilities Act.

The Deputy Planning Director stated that an amendment to the Kihei-Makena Community Plan will enable the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan to be incorporated into the Community Plan. He also stated that the Department intends to propose a community plan amendment shortly after the proposed resolution, entitled “SUPPORTING THE SOUTH MAUI REGION PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN”, is adopted.

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Your Committee discussed the adoption of the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan as an implementing action of the Kihei-Makena Community Plan. Your Committee further discussed whether a community plan amendment is necessary, since the adoption of the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan is merely fulfilling a mandate of the Kihei-Makena Community Plan.

The Deputy Corporation Counsel suggested that the Department of the Corporation Counsel and the Planning Department jointly decipher the language contained within the Kihei-Makena Community Plan as it pertains to the adoption of the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan. He stated that the resolution, although non-binding, would be a first step to moving the matter forward. He further stated that the maps contained within the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan does not appear to be to scale, nor do they contain tax map key numbers. He further stated that private property rights may be affected for these parcels designated for the North-South Collector Open Space Corridor.

Your Committee expressed gratitude to the County's GIS Division for providing maps of the park inventory and future vision plan located within the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan.

As a means to express the Council's support for the South Maui Region Parks & Open Space Master Plan, your Committee voted to recommend adoption of the proposed resolution.

Your Parks and Economic Development Committee **RECOMMENDS** that Resolution No. _____, entitled "SUPPORTING THE SOUTH MAUI REGION PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN", be **ADOPTED**.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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JO ANNE JOHNSON Chair

ROBERT CARROLL Member

CHARMAINE TAVARES Vice-Chair

DANNY A. MATEO Member

MICHELLE ANDERSON Member