

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
HOUSING AND
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

July 7, 2006

Committee
Report No.

06-78

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

Chair and Members:

Your Housing and Human Services Committee, having met on June 22, 2006, makes reference to County Communication No. 06-150, from the Director of Housing and Human Concerns, transmitting a document entitled "Grants Review Committee Community Partnership Grants FY 2007 and FY 2008 Grant Allocation Recommendation".

Your Committee notes that on April 27, 2006, the Grants Review Committee (GRC) recommended funding for 53 Community Partnership Grant applications.

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

There was no public testimony.

The Director stated that the list of grant allocation recommendations transmitted to your Committee was also submitted to the Mayor at the same time. She explained that the Department intends to award the grants in accordance with the GRC's recommendations, although the Department can increase grant amounts, as needed, using funds from the Grants Management Division's "miscellaneous grants".

Your Committee asked why the GRC recommended grants that were far less than what the agency requested, such as the Maui Farm, and why the GRC awarded some agencies two grants, such as the Molokai General Hospital. The Director explained that the GRC is directed to support existing programs before funding new ones. Therefore, the Maui Farm grant was decreased substantially from what they requested because they were seeking funding for a new program. Furthermore, she stated that an agency can receive more than one grant if the requests are for different programs. Therefore, Molokai General Hospital was awarded one grant for its "Children & Youth" program, and a second grant for its "Family Strengthening" program.

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Your Committee inquired about unused funding when an agency moves off-island or goes out of business. The Director stated that unused funds may be reallocated to a similar organization, if necessary.

Your Committee asked if the grant review process is staggered, noting that the recommendations are for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and 2008. The Director responded that the GRC's review occurs on an annual basis, but the Department would like to consider doing reviews every other year, or looking at fewer applications on an annual basis, in the future.

Your Committee also asked how agencies that receive grants are monitored to ensure that the funding is used appropriately. The Director explained that grant recipients are required to submit quarterly reports on grant spending, and the Department takes appropriate action if there is any appearance of misuse of funds.

Your Committee discussed creating a list of Council priorities for the GRC to use in evaluating grant applications in the future. The Director surmised that the GRC would be open to receiving the Council's guidance. She explained that administrative rules for the GRC cover how the GRC functions, and does not provide criteria to evaluate applications. The Director commended the GRC for its commitment, and for initiating efforts to provide consistency and fairness with determining its grant allocation recommendations.

Your Committee voted to recommend filing of the communication.

Your Housing and Human Services Committee **RECOMMENDS** that County Communication No. 06-150 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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