

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI  
**PUBLIC WORKS AND  
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

July 18, 2003

Committee  
Report No.

03-65

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

Chair and Members:

Your Public Works and Traffic Committee, having met on July 3, 2003, makes reference to County Communication No. 03-134, from the Director of Public Works and Environmental Management, transmitting a proposed resolution entitled "AUTHORIZING CLOSURE OF OLD WELAKAHAO ROAD AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH PIILANI HIGHWAY TO ACCOMMODATE THE PIILANI HIGHWAY INTERIM FOUR-LANE WIDENING PROJECT, KIHEI, MAUI, HAWAII". The purpose of the proposed resolution is to authorize the closing of a portion of Old Welakahao Road to accommodate the expansion of Piilani Highway to four lanes.

By correspondence dated June 3, 2003, your Committee Chair requested George A. Rixey, President of the Kihei Community Association, to review the proposed resolution and provide comments or recommendations on the closure of Old Welakahao Road.

By correspondence dated July 3, 2003, your Committee Chair transmitted correspondence dated July 2, 2003, from Neal Bal, Captain, Department of Fire and Public Safety, indicating that the Department has no problems with or comments on the closure of Old Welakahao Road.

By correspondence dated July 3, 2003, your Committee Chair transmitted correspondence dated July 2, 2003, from Ferdinand Cajigal, Engineering Program Manager, Maui District Office, State Department of Transportation, explaining the background for the closure of Old Welakahao Road.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Deputy Director of Public Works and Environmental Management; a Captain and Community Police Officer, Department of Police; and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

The Deputy Director provided your Committee with an overview of the matter. He stated that the closure of Old Welakahao Road will accommodate the

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State Department of Transportation's interim four-lane widening project along Piilani Highway. He noted that the closure will also allow the installation of a left-turn lane into the Kihei Wastewater Reclamation Facility (KWWRF). He further indicated that even though this portion of Old Welakahao Road is closed, the new Welakahao Road will provide a connection to Piilani Highway.

Your Committee expressed concerns that the roadway improvements on Piilani Highway, which are authorized by the proposed resolution, have already been completed without Council approval. Your Committee expressed disappointment that the request to close Old Welakahao Road was transmitted to the Council after the improvements had already been installed. Your Committee noted that the roadway improvements included a left-turn lane into the KWWRF and a guardrail restricting access to Old Welakahao Road. Your Committee expressed its displeasure that the road had been physically closed prior to Council review.

Your Committee requested that the State Department of Transportation be advised that any request affecting County roadways, which requires legislative or administrative authorization, should be approved by the appropriate agency or legislative body, prior to implementation.

Your Committee also raised concerns about the creation of additional left-turn lanes on Piilani Highway. Your Committee felt that because of the increasing volume of vehicles traveling on the highway, allowing additional left-turn lanes may impact the flow of traffic. Your Committee recommended that the Department of Public Works and Environmental Management consider the construction of an underpass from Old Welakahao Road to the KWWRF. Your Committee requested that the Department provide cost estimates for the installation of an underpass versus signalization at this location. Your Committee suggested that vehicles entering the KWWRF should revise their route to eliminate a left-turn into the site from Piilani Highway. Your Committee felt that vehicle traffic entering the KWWRF should be required to travel in a northerly direction along Piilani Highway and turn right into the facility.

Your Committee noted that the purpose of the proposed resolution is to authorize the closure of Old Welakahao Road, pursuant to Section 264-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which requires that County roads be closed by adoption of a resolution. Consequently, your Committee felt that the reference in the proposed

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resolution, relating to a left-turn lane into the KWWRF, was not relevant to the closure of the road. Therefore, your Committee requested that the proposed resolution be revised to delete the fourth clause, relating to the installation of a left-turn lane into the KWWRF.

Your Committee voted to recommend passage of the proposed resolution, as revised, and the filing of the communication.

Your Committee is in receipt of a revised proposed resolution, approved as to form and legality, from the Department of the Corporation Counsel.

Your Public Works and Traffic Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_, as revised herein and attached hereto, entitled "AUTHORIZING CLOSURE OF OLD WELAKAHAO ROAD AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH PIILANI HIGHWAY TO ACCOMMODATE THE PIILANI HIGHWAY INTERIM FOUR-LANE WIDENING PROJECT, KIHEI, MAUI, HAWAII" be ADOPTED; and
2. That County Communication No. 03-134 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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**MICHAEL J. MOLINA** Chair

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**DAIN P. KANE** Member

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**CHARMAINE TAVARES** Vice-Chair

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**JOSEPH PONTANILLA** Member

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**G. RIKI HOKAMA** Member