

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

October 3, 2003

Committee
Report No.

03-116

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 September 18, 2003, makes reference to County Communication No. 01-117, from the Director of Public Works and Waste Management, relating to a request to rename a portion of Old Makena Road, also known as Makena-Keoneoio Road, to Kukahiko Road.

Your Committee notes that according to County Communication No. 01-117, the Commission on Naming Streets, Parks and Facilities (Commission) recommended denial of the request to rename a portion of Old Makena Road to Kukahiko Road, pursuant to Section 2.38.090 of the Maui County Code (MCC).

Your Committee further notes that County Communication No. 01-117 was referred to the prior Council's Public Works and Transportation Committee at the Council meeting of April 6, 2001.

By correspondence dated May 3, 2001, the Committee Chair transmitted correspondence dated April 25, 2001, from Dr. Wendell A. Osorno, expressing support for the request to rename a portion of Makena Road to Kukahiko Place.

By correspondence dated June 14, 2001, Bob Brooks, Resident Manager of Makena Surf, expressed support to rename a portion of Makena Road to Kukahiko Place.

By correspondence dated June 15, 2001, Maile Lu'uwai, expressed support for the renaming of Makena Road to Kukahiko Place.

By correspondence dated June 19, 2001, Randy Piltz offered support for the request to rename Makena Road to Kukahiko Place.

By correspondence dated June 25, 2001, the Council Chair transmitted correspondence dated June 19, 2001 from Roy Figueiroa, General Manager,

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Makena Resort Corp., expressing no objection to renaming a portion of Makena-Keoneoio Road.

By correspondence dated June 26, 2001, Richard T. Bissen, Jr., offered support to rename Makena Road to Kukahiko Place.

By correspondence dated June 29, 2001, the Committee Chair noted that the Department of the Corporation Counsel opined that the renaming of existing streets is not authorized by the MCC.

By correspondence dated June 29, 2001, the Committee Chair transmitted the following information from Laurie Chang:

1. A petition signed by 46 residents and property owners in support of renaming a portion of Makena Road; and
2. Letters from 18 individuals supporting the renaming of Makena Road.

At its meeting of July 2, 2001, the Committee met with the Director of Public Works and Waste Management; a Lieutenant, Traffic Section, Department of Police; and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

The Committee received testimony from nine individuals. Seven individuals spoke in favor of the name change to Kukahiko Place, and two individuals expressed opposition to the name change. The testimonies received in support of renaming Makena Road were based on the historical significance and the presence of the Kukahiko family in Makena for eight generations. In addition, testimony received alluded to the difficulty that emergency response services may experience as a result of a fragmented road with similar names and the lack of adequate numerical addresses in the area.

The Committee received the following items at its meeting:

1. Written testimony dated May 4, 2001, from Keiki Chang Kawai`ae`a, offering support for renaming Makena Road;

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2. A copy of Section 2.38.060, MCC, pertaining to Standards for Naming Streets and a map of Makena Road, submitted by Norma Piltz;
3. Correspondence dated June 26, 2001, from Earl Kukahiko supporting the proposed name change; and
4. Minutes from the March 8, 2001, Commission meeting, submitted by the Committee Chair.

The two testifiers who opposed the request stated that the Kukahiko name can be preserved in the Makena area by naming a new road on the family's behalf. They also noted a desire to preserve Makena Road because of its historical and cultural significance.

The Director of Public Works and Waste Management provided a brief overview on the matter. He indicated that the Commission reviewed the request, as transmitted from the Maui Planning Commission, and recommended that the request be denied.

A Deputy Corporation Counsel provided the Committee with an opinion on the matter of renaming streets. He indicated that the Council currently does not have the authority to rename existing streets. He noted that the MCC presently allows for the renaming of parks and facilities.

The Lieutenant provided an overview on safety response time to the Makena area. He indicated that because of the similarities in street names in Makena, people calling for assistance must use landmarks to help identify their specific location.

In response to an inquiry by the Committee, a Deputy Corporation Counsel stated that prior to consideration of this request, Section 2.38.090(A), MCC, should be amended to allow for the renaming of streets.

The Committee questioned how the request could have been allowed to proceed to this point. The Committee noted that the applicant should have been advised, prior to the matter being considered by the Commission, that the MCC does not permit the renaming of existing streets.

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The Committee requested information to assist in determining why authority to rename existing streets was excluded from Chapter 2.38, MCC.

The Committee deferred the matter pending further discussion.

By correspondence dated July 24, 2001, the Committee Chair transmitted background information relating to the drafting of Chapter 2.38.

By correspondence dated November 2, 2001, the Committee Chair requested that the Department of Public Works and Waste Management identify the potential impacts of renaming an existing street.

By correspondence dated November 14, 2001, the Director of Public Works and Waste Management outlined various procedures required by residents and government agencies to address the renaming of an existing street.

By correspondence dated March 8, 2002, the Committee Chair requested that Curt Morimoto, Operations Manager for American Medical Response, and Gloria Miller, Postmaster, Kihei Post Office, attend the Committee meeting of March 13, 2002, to provide comments relating to the potential impacts of renaming an existing street.

At its meeting of March 13, 2002, the Committee met with the Deputy Director of Public Works and Waste Management; the Assistant Fire Chief, Department of Fire Control; a Lieutenant, Department of Police; and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

The Committee received testimony from eight individuals who felt that renaming a portion of Makena Road is an opportunity to honor the heritage of the Kukahiko family. One of the testifiers submitted a map of Makena Road, and indicated that under current conditions, it is difficult to locate certain residences because the road is segmented. She noted historical information relating to the development of the Makena resort area.

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The Committee also received testimony from two individuals who expressed opposition to recognizing one family, especially since the long history of the Makena area is not confined to a single family.

The Committee received the following items at its meeting:

1. A map of Makena Road, Makena Alanui Road and Makena-Keoneio Road, submitted by Norma Piltz; and
2. A draft bill entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2.38 OF THE MAUI COUNTY CODE RELATING TO RENAMING EXISTING STREETS", submitted by the Committee Chair. The purpose of the draft bill is to authorize the renaming of an existing street to improve the response of authorized emergency personnel.

The Lieutenant reported that he is not aware of complaints relating to difficulties in responding to calls on Makena Road due to the segmentation of the road.

The Assistant Fire Chief concurred with the Lieutenant; however, he stated that the segmentation of the road may contribute to delays in emergency response services if proper address and landmarks are not provided.

The Deputy Director stated that he is unaware of any problems or concerns relating to the assignment of addresses along Makena Road.

The Committee expressed concerns relating to the cultural and historical significance of the name, Old Makena Road. The Committee noted that the road may have been named by the Army Corp of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division, during World War II. The Committee requested that the matter be referred to the Maui County Cultural Resources Commission (CRC) to review the request in relation to the historical and cultural significance of the road.

The Committee requested that the draft bill be revised to grant the Council the authority to rename existing streets.

The Committee deferred the matter pending further discussion.

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By correspondence dated March 21, 2002, the Committee Chair requested the CRC Chair to provide a history of the Old Makena Road and the Makena area.

By correspondence dated April 4, 2002, the Department of the Corporation Counsel transmitted a proposed bill entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2.38, MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO RENAMING EXISTING STREETS". The purpose of the proposed bill is to establish a process for renaming existing streets, and provide a public safety exception to improve the response of authorized emergency personnel.

By correspondence dated May 7, 2002, C. Earl Stoner, Jr., offered support for the renaming of a portion of Makena Road to Kukahiko Place.

By correspondence dated May 10, 2002, the Committee Chair transmitted a copy of the minutes from the Committee's meeting of March 13, 2002, to the CRC Chair.

By correspondence dated July 12, 2002, the CRC Chair transmitted copies of minutes from the CRC's meetings of May 2, 2002 and June 6, 2002.

By correspondence dated August 15, 2002, Paul H. K. Lu`uwai, Anela W. Rosa and Helen M. Lu`uwai provided comments in opposition to the renaming of Makena Road.

At its meeting of September 4, 2002 in Kihei, the Committee met with the Director of Public Works and Waste Management; the Deputy Fire Chief; a Lieutenant, District 6, Kihei, Department of Police; a Staff Planner, Department of Planning; and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

The Committee received testimony from eight individuals; six spoke in favor of renaming Makena Road to Kukahiko Place and two spoke in opposition of the name change.

The Committee received the following items at its meeting:

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1. A videotaped testimony of Sam Chang, submitted by Maile Lu'uwai; and
2. The following documents submitted by Laurie Chang, Edward Chang and Boogie Lu'uwai:
 - a. A photograph of a historical placard displayed at Makena Landing;
 - b. Correspondence dated December 9, 1986, from Ann Joesting, Project Director, Bernice P. Bishop Museum (Bishop Museum), relating to historical research for the Makena-Keoneoio Road, Makena, Maui;
 - c. Maps of the Kihei/Makena area; and
 - d. Family history and genealogy of the Kukahiko Ohana.

The Staff Planner provided the Committee with an overview of the decision rendered by the CRC. She stated that the CRC recommended the following:

1. That the name Makena Road be retained; and
2. That the Commission be requested to consider naming a new road in the Makena area in honor of the Kukahiko family.

The Staff Planner stated that the goals and objectives of the CRC is to create an awareness and preserve the history and culture of Maui. It was noted that the name "Makena Road" may be significant to the history of the area. Accordingly, she noted that the presence and relationship of the Kukahiko family to the Makena area justifies the need to name a new road on their behalf.

The Committee expressed a desire to determine the cultural significance of the names Makena Road, Old Makena Road and Makena-Keoneoio Road. The Committee requested that the CRC provide the basis for their decision, and submit information relating to the cultural or historical significance of the name of the road.

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In response to an inquiry by the Committee, the Staff Planner indicated that testimony received at the CRC meeting was the basis for its decision. She further stated that the letter dated December 9, 1986, from the Bishop Museum was not submitted during the Commission's deliberation of the matter.

The Committee also expressed a desire to determine whether additional research was performed by the Bishop Museum after December 9, 1986. The Committee noted that the research concludes the following:

1. The roadway does not constitute a significant cultural resource since its original integrity, if any, is shown to have been destroyed through compound disturbances; and
2. The closing of the roadway segment will not adversely impact any sites of archaeological or historical significance.

The Committee discussed utilizing a double name for the roadway, such as Makena-Kukahiko Road, as a possible alternative. The purpose of utilizing a double-named road is to retain the existing name of the road while honoring the Kukahiko family.

The Committee also noted that prior to further consideration of the matter, the Council must consider granting itself authority to rename existing streets.

The Committee requested the following:

1. That the CRC review the matter further to determine the cultural or historical significance of the names "Makena Road, Old Makena Road or Makena-Keoneoio Road";
2. That the Bishop Museum be contacted to determine if subsequent research was performed on the aforementioned correspondence dated December 9, 1986; and
3. That the Commission consider renaming a portion of Makena Road as Makena-Kukahiko Road.

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The Committee deferred the matter pending further discussion.

By correspondence dated October 2, 2002, the Director of Public Works and Waste Management indicated that, pursuant to an opinion from the Department of the Corporation Counsel, the Commission does not have the authority to consider requests to rename existing streets.

At its meeting of December 4, 2002, the Public Works and Transportation Committee recommended that County Communication No. 01-117 be referred to the Council Chair for the term beginning January 2, 2003, for a recommendation as to referral or other disposition.

At its meeting of January 10, 2003, the Council referred County Communication No. 01-117 to your Public Works and Traffic Committee (County Communication No. 03-12).

By correspondence dated May 27, 2003, the Commission Chair stated the following: 1) that the matter had previously been reviewed; 2) that a recommendation had already been submitted to the Committee; and 3) that Ordinance No. 3106 requires that an application form, approved by the Commission and the CRC, be completed prior to further review.

By correspondence dated September 8, 2003, your Committee requested that a draft bill entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 12.36, MAUI COUNTY CODE, TO RENAME A PORTION OF MAKENA ROAD AS KUKAHIKO PLACE" be reviewed and approved as to form and legality. The purpose of the proposed bill is to rename a portion of Makena Road that intersects with the southern terminus of Honoiki Street extending north to Makena Alanui Road and south to a cul-de-sac as Kukahiko Place.

By correspondence dated September 10, 2003, the Department of the Corporation Counsel transmitted the proposed bill approved as to form and legality.

By correspondence dated September 10, 2003, your Committee Chair requested that Ricky Aquire, Post Master, Kihei Post Office; Curt Morimoto, Operations Manager, American Medical Response; Dawn Duensing, Chair, Maui County Cultural Resource Commission; and Annette Matsuda, Chair,

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Commission on Naming Streets, Parks and Facilities, attend the Committee meeting of September 18, 2003, to assist the Committee as resource persons.

By correspondence dated September 16, 2003, your Committee Chair transmitted staff research performed on the historical and cultural significance of the names Makena Road, Old Makena Road and Makena-Keoneoio Road.

By correspondence dated September 16, 2003, Helen Lu`uwai reiterated her opposition to renaming Makena Road to Kukahiko Place, and offered support to name a new road in honor of the Kukahiko family.

By correspondence dated September 16, 2003, the Planning Director provided the following:

1. Excerpts of minutes from the October 3, 2002, November 7, 2002 and May 1, 2003, CRC meetings;
2. A summary of the recommendation from the CRC, relating to renaming Makena Road; and
3. An outline of research performed on the cultural and historical significance of the names Makena Road, Old Makena Road and Makena-Keoneoio Road.

At its meeting of September 18, 2003, your Committee met with the Director of Public Works and Environmental Management; a Captain and Community Police Officer, Department of Police; a Staff Planner, Department of Planning; a Deputy Corporation Counsel; and the CRC Chair.

Your Committee received testimony from nine individuals. Six testifiers spoke in favor of renaming Makena Road to Kukahiko Place and three spoke against the renaming of the road.

Your Committee received the following items at its meeting:

1. Maps of the Makena area delineating various roads and identifying the portion of Makena Road proposed to be renamed, submitted by Michelle Anderson;

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2. Written testimony dated September 17, 2003, from Sumner P. Erdman, President, Ulupalakua Ranch, Inc., offering support for renaming the road, submitted by Tony Durso; and
3. A copy of Chapter 12.36, Maui County Code, submitted by Dana Hall.

The Director provided your Committee with an overview of the matter. He stated that the Commission has not revised its position and is recommending denial of the request to rename Makena Road. He also noted that the Department does not possess the records that identify the original name of the subject road.

A Staff Planner stated that the CRC acted on this matter twice. The first recommendation consisted of retaining the name Makena Road, and requesting the Commission to name a new road on behalf of the Kukahiko family. She noted that the CRC reviewed that matter again at its meeting of May 1, 2003 and re-affirmed their previous recommendation. The Staff Planner also reviewed correspondence dated September 16, 2003, from the Planning Director, which outlined research performed on determining the cultural significance and history of the road. She also noted that the goal of the CRC is to protect and preserve the history throughout the County. Accordingly, she indicated that the CRC views renaming Makena Road as a significant alteration to the historical link of the area.

The CRC Chair advised your Committee that names of places and roads are very sacred to the Hawaiian people. She noted that to rename Makena Road would set an unfortunate precedence because it may impact other areas similar to Makena that are rich in history and culture.

In response to an inquiry by your Committee, the CRC Chair stated that Makena Road is historical because of its connection to the Hoapili Trail. She also indicated that the name is historic in that it links the road to the Makena area. She noted that locations around the island are becoming known by "nicknames" or assigned different names as a result of new development and subdivisions. She felt that renaming Makena Road may encourage this trend to continue.

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Your Committee noted concerns about public health and safety in the Makena area. Your Committee expressed a concern in regards to the impact the fragmented road would have on emergency services to respond in a timely manner.

The Community Police officer advised your Committee that the Department is familiar with the roads and address numbers along Makena Road. He also noted that new police officers are trained to know the numbering system. Therefore, he stated that the fragmented roadway does not impact emergency service response.

Your Committee also expressed concerns relating to the inconsistency in address numbers and road signage along Makena Road. Your Committee requested that the Department of Public Works and Environmental Management review the address numbering system and install proper road identification signage along Makena Road.

Your Committee recognized that the Kukahiko family has a historical connection to the Makena area, and therefore, deserves recognition. However, your Committee felt that Makena Road is both culturally and historically significant to the Makena area. Your Committee concurred with the CRC that changing the name of the road would change a historical link to the area.

Furthermore, your Committee felt that the Kukahiko family should be honored by naming a new road in the area on behalf of the family. Your Committee encouraged the Commission to consider naming a new road in Makena as Kukahiko Place.

Your Committee voted to file the communication.

Your Public Works and Traffic Committee **RECOMMENDS** that County Communication No. 01-117 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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