

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

February 20, 2004

**Committee
Report No.**

04-29

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

Chair and Members:

Your Budget and Finance Committee, having met on November 18, 2003 and January 27, 2004, makes reference to County Communication No. 03-247, from the Planning Director, requesting proposed budget amendments relating to positions in the Department of Planning.

By correspondence dated October 7, 2003, the Budget Director transmitted a proposed bill entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2004 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI AS IT PERTAINS TO DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING".

The purpose of the proposed bill is to amend the Fiscal Year 2004 Budget, pertaining to the Department of Planning, by increasing the authorized equivalent personnel (EP) count, from 36.0 to 39.0 EP.

At its meeting of November 18, 2003, your Committee met with the Deputy Director of Planning and the First Deputy Corporation Counsel.

There was no public testimony.

After a brief discussion, your Committee deferred the matter pending further discussion.

At its meeting of January 27, 2004, your Committee met with the Deputy Director of Planning, two Planning Program Administrators from the Department of Planning, and the First Deputy Corporation Counsel.

There was no public testimony.

The Deputy Director of Planning provided copies of a budget implementation report, identifying the vacant positions in the Department, and an organizational chart for the Department.

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The Deputy Director informed your Committee that the request is for three positions, a Clerk-Typist and a Planner III for the Current Planning Division, and a Clerk-Typist for the Long Range Planning Division. The request is to address changes in the Department's workload caused by increases in Special Management Area (SMA) permit applications, new farm plans, and the update of the General Plan. He stated that no additional funds are requested at this time. Savings were generated as a result of delays in the recruitment process to fill the five positions added by the Council. In addition, he noted that the Planner III position would be funded from the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program.

The Long Range Planning Division Administrator informed your Committee that the Division is requesting a Clerk-Typist to assist with the update of the General Plan. Specific work will involve scheduling of meetings, preparing agendas and other documentation relating to the Division.

The Current Planning Division Administrator provided statistics relating to the increase in workload in Fiscal Year 2004. In the first six months of Fiscal Year 2004, the Department received 160 farm plan applications. More than 200 applications are projected for the remainder of the fiscal year. The Department issued 794 SMA minor permits, a 9 percent increase over last fiscal year, and 30 SMA major permits. He noted that the increases are due to: (1) amendments to the CZM Law; (2) additional reports resulting from a Circuit Court ruling in 2003, which mandates that the planning commissions are the accepting authority for environmental assessments and environmental impact statements, and has increased the amount of correspondence between the Department, the applicant and the public; and (3) the implementation of a Farm Plan Application program.

Your Committee recommended that the proposed bill be revised to incorporate the correct equivalent personnel count in the Department of Planning, from 36.0 to 38.0 and in Appendix A, the Coastal Zone Management Program, from 5.0 to 6.0.

Your Committee expressed concern regarding the recent resignations of five Planners. Your Committee suggested that a performance audit be conducted for the Department of Planning.

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Your Committee voted to recommend that the revised proposed bill be passed on first reading, the Council Chair be authorized to contract for an independent audit or evaluation of the Department of Planning, and the communication be filed.

Your Committee authorized your Committee's Chair to work with the Council Chair to develop parameters for the independent audit of the Department.

Your Committee is in receipt of a revised proposed bill, entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2004 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI AND APPENDIX A AS IT PERTAINS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING", incorporating the changes requested by your Committee.

Your Budget and Finance Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Bill No. _____ (2004), as revised herein and attached hereto, entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2004 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI AND APPENDIX A AS IT PERTAINS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING", be PASSED ON FIRST READING and be ORDERED TO PRINT;
2. That the Council Chair be AUTHORIZED to contract for an independent audit or evaluation of the Department of Planning; and
3. That County Communication No. 03-247 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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G. RIKI HOKAMA **Chair**

DANNY A. MATEO **Member**

WAYNE K. NISHIKI **Vice-Chair**

MICHAEL J. MOLINA **Member**

ROBERT CARROLL **Member**

JOSEPH PONTANILLA **Member**

JO ANNE JOHNSON **Member**

CHARMAINE TAVARES **Member**

DAIN P. KANE **Member**