

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

October 3, 2003

Committee

Report No. 03-114

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

Chair and Members:

Your Government Relations Committee, having met on September 17, 2003, makes reference to County Communication No. 03-23, from the Council Chair, relating to matters of the Hawaii State Association of Counties (HSAC).

By correspondence dated September 8, 2003, your Committee Chair transmitted correspondence dated August 29, 2003, from the HSAC President, requesting consideration of proposals for inclusion in the 2004 HSAC Legislative Package and approval of an HSAC Bylaw amendment. The purpose of the amendment is to incorporate the HSAC Legislative Program Policy Statement into Section 10 of the HSAC Bylaws.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Corporation Counsel.

Your Committee Chair provided a brief overview of the HSAC Bylaw amendment. He noted that in previous years, the HSAC Legislative Program Policy Statement was adopted each year as an interim policy in preparation for the annual State of Hawaii Legislative Session. In order to save the various Councils from having to adopt the statement each year, the HSAC President is proposing that the program statement be incorporated into the Bylaws. If an amendment is needed at a later time, it could be proposed and acted upon, in the same manner as any other Bylaw amendment.

Your Committee Chair also provided an overview of the proposals currently being considered by the HSAC Executive Committee for inclusion in the 2004 HSAC Legislative Package. They are:

1. A proposal granting the counties authority to implement a retail sales tax or a general excise tax, pursuant to ongoing research and deliberation by the HSAC Executive Committee.

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2. A proposal increasing the time limitations on Council consideration of new applications for affordable housing fast-tracking applications under Section 201G, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and removing the time restrictions on Council consideration of previously approved applications for affordable housing fast-tracking applications.
3. A proposal increasing the highway beautification fee from \$5 to \$10 for litter and junk car eradication programs.
4. A proposal granting the counties authority to implement a driver's license renewal fee for DUI-convicted drivers, with all fees collected being sent to the counties.
5. A proposal requiring insurance companies to alert the counties when clients cancel no-fault insurance coverage.

After a brief discussion, your Committee stated that it would also like to add the following proposals to the 2004 HSAC Legislative Package: 1) a proposal to implement an "instant impound" law, which would authorize officers to impound a vehicle if its driver was unlicensed or if the vehicle was uninsured; 2) a proposal to request State funding for the school crossing guard program, which is currently funded by the respective counties; and 3) a proposal to dedicate unadjudicated traffic fines to the respective counties.

Your Committee voted to recommend that the HSAC Bylaw amendment and the above-listed proposals for the 2004 HSAC Legislative Package be approved.

Your Government Relations Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That the following proposals be APPROVED for inclusion in the 2004 HSAC Legislative Package:
 - a. A proposal granting the counties authority to implement a retail sales tax or a general excise tax, pursuant to ongoing research and deliberation by the HSAC Executive Committee;

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- b. A proposal increasing the time limitations on Council consideration of new applications for affordable housing fast-tracking applications under Section 201G, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and removing the time restrictions on Council consideration of previously approved applications for affordable housing fast-tracking applications;
 - c. A proposal increasing the highway beautification fee from \$5 to \$10 for litter and junk car eradication programs;
 - d. A proposal granting the counties authority to implement a driver's license renewal fee for DUI-convicted drivers, with all fees collected being sent to the counties;
 - e. A proposal requiring insurance companies to alert the counties when clients cancel no-fault insurance coverage;
 - f. A proposal implementing an "instant impound" law, which would authorize officers to impound a vehicle if its driver was unlicensed or if the vehicle was uninsured;
 - g. A proposal requesting State funding of the school crossing guard program, which is currently funded by the respective counties; and
 - h. A proposal dedicating unadjudicated traffic fines to the respective counties;
- 2. That the HSAC Bylaw amendment to incorporate the HSAC Legislative Program Policy Statement into Section 10 of the Bylaws be APPROVED; and
 - 3. That a copy of this committee report be TRANSMITTED to the Hawaii State Association of Counties Executive Committee.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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DAIN P. KANE Chair

MICHAEL J. MOLINA Member

G. RIKI HOKAMA Vice-Chair

CHARMAINE TAVARES Member

DANNY A. MATEO Member