

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

February 18, 2005

Committee
Report No.

05-3

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 February 1, 2005, makes reference to County Communication No. 04-279, from the Budget Director, transmitting a proposed bill entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2005 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI AS IT PERTAINS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY".

The purpose of the proposed bill is to increase the Field Operations Program equivalent personnel count by 5.0 (from 69 to 74) in conjunction with requirements by the State Department of Health (DOH) Safe Drinking Water Branch.

Your Committee notes that County Communication No. 04-279 was referred to the prior Council's Budget and Finance Committee at the Council meeting of November 19, 2004.

At its meeting of November 30, 2004, the Budget and Finance Committee recommended that County Communication No. 04-279 be referred to the Council Chair for the term beginning January 2, 2005, for a recommendation as to referral or other disposition.

At its meeting of January 21, 2005, the Council referred County Communication No. 04-279 to your Budget and Finance Committee (County Communication No. 05-12).

By correspondence dated January 28, 2005, your Committee's Chair requested that the Director of Water Supply provide: (1) a brief nontechnical description of the "uni-directional distribution system flushing program for Makawao, Lower Kula and Upper Kula" (Upcountry flushing program) as required by the State DOH; and (2) written justification for requesting the five additional equivalent personnel without the associated funding.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

February 18, 2005
Page 2

Committee
Report No. 05-3

By correspondence dated January 31, 2005, the Director of Water Supply provided a brief description and schematic of the Upcountry flushing program, and an explanation for the five additional equivalent personnel.

At its meeting of February 1, 2005, your Committee met with the Deputy Director of Water Supply, the Budget Director, and the First Deputy Corporation Counsel.

There was no public testimony.

The Deputy Director of Water Supply provided a brief history of water issues in Upcountry and stated that the proposed bill is a request to hire five laborers in the Field Operations Program. He explained that the laborers will support the ongoing Upcountry flushing program, which is a requirement of the DOH. The DOH is allowing the Department to switch from using phosphoric acid (as the corrosion control inhibitor) to soda ash (a high ph with low carbonate) treatment. This change in procedure will help to address the concerns that residents have raised regarding various additives in the Upcountry water system.

The Deputy Director of Water Supply further explained that the Department was using existing maintenance staff to do the flushing, but was unable to maintain the flushing on a regular basis as a result of other work requirements. He stated that the Upcountry water distribution system is complex, involving many narrow, winding, and dead-end roads.

Your Committee expressed concern that the Department was unable to provide a plan detailing the number of hydrants that require flushing, and the number of hours and days that are required to complete one cycle of the flushing process in order to warrant the five additional employees. As a result, your Committee discussed the options of a using a service contract or Limited Term Appointments rather than increasing the Field Operations staffing with regular employees.

Your Committee recognized the need to comply with the DOH requirements and the concerns of residents in the Upcountry area. In addition, your Committee encouraged the Department to maintain an ongoing flushing system in order for the County to remain in compliance with the DOH directive.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

February 18, 2005
Page 3

Committee
Report No. 05-3

Your Committee voted to recommend that the proposed bill be revised to: (1) increase the equivalent personnel count by 3.0 Limited Term Appointments instead of 5.0 regular employees; (2) add a provision that the positions shall be for the Upcountry flushing program; and (3) change the year of the bill from "2004" to "2005".

Your Committee voted to recommend passage of the revised proposed bill on first reading and filing of the communication.

Your Committee is in receipt of a revised proposed bill, approved as to form and legality by the Department of the Corporation Counsel, incorporating your Committee's recommendations.

Your Budget and Finance Committee **RECOMMENDS** the following:

1. That Bill No. _____ (2005), as revised herein and attached hereto, entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2005 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI AS IT PERTAINS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY", be PASSED ON FIRST READING and be ORDERED TO PRINT; and
2. That County Communication No. 04-279 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

February 18, 2005
Page 4

Committee
Report No. 05-3

DAIN P. KANE **Chair**

DANNY A. MATEO **Member**

G. RIKI HOKAMA **Vice-Chair**

MICHAEL J. MOLINA **Member**

MICHELLE ANDERSON **Member**

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