

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

# BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

March 23, 2005

**Committee**  
**Report No.**

05-38

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 March 1, 2005, makes reference to the following:

1. 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 (E/P) count by 5.0 (from 69 to 74) in response to requirements by the State Department of Health (DOH), Safe Drinking Water Branch, for the "uni-directional distribution system flushing program" for the surface water systems that service the Makawao, Lower Kula and Upper Kula areas (Upcountry flushing program).

2. Committee Report No. 05-3, from your Budget and Finance Committee, recommending that 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" be passed on first reading and ordered to print.

The purpose of the proposed bill is to increase the Field Operations Program personnel count by 3.0 Limited Term Appointment (LTA) personnel for the Upcountry flushing program. (A LTA is an appointment for a specific period of time).

Your Committee notes that Committee Report No. 05-3 was recommitted to your Committee at the Council meeting of February 18, 2005.

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Your Committee further notes that unidirectional flushing (UDF) is a method of cleaning the water mainlines through a network of flushing sequences to create water movement in one direction. After the flushing sequence is complete, water is discharged from a fire hydrant. It is estimated that a fire hydrant can be flushed in 20 to 30 minutes. Maintaining the flushing sequence is important so that the water used in the flushing sequence remains clean. The UDF technique will dislodge and remove mineral deposits, sediments and biological deposits that accumulate in water mainlines.

By correspondence dated February 17, 2005, the Director of Water Supply provided your Committee with additional information to support the requested increase in E/P count.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Director of Water Supply, a Water Microbiologist from the Department of Water Supply, and the First Deputy Corporation Counsel.

There was no public testimony.

The Director of Water Supply corrected the estimated number of flushing points or fire hydrants in the Makawao, Lower Kula and Upper Kula areas as reported in his February 17, 2005 correspondence. He clarified that the correct number of fire hydrants per area is as follows: Makawao, 724; Lower Kula, 152; and Upper Kula, 288; for a total of 1,164 fire hydrants. He noted that the Department estimates that five E/Ps will need 26 days to complete one cycle of the flushing process.

The Director of Water Supply stated that the Department plans to complete the flushing cycle at least once per month. Failure to comply with the DOH requirement could result in a \$25,000 daily fine.

The Water Microbiologist stated that the UDF process would clean stagnant water and bring fresh water into the dead ends of the system. The DOH recommends that the Upcountry flushing program should be an ongoing part of the water distribution system's maintenance program.

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Your Committee further notes that the UDF process will reduce bacterial growth, restore disinfectant residual, improve color, reduce turbidity, control corrosion, and help restore flow and pressures in the water distribution system.

The Director of Water Supply informed your Committee that vacant positions within the Department have been reallocated to laborer positions for the Upcountry flushing program to expedite the program. However, this is only a temporary solution until Council approval is obtained to increase the Field Operations Program E/P count by 5.0. He further noted that this temporary solution is not ideal because the Department is unable to hire personnel in divisions that need help.

Your Committee voted to recommend that the proposed bill recommending increasing the E/P count by 5.0 be passed on first reading and the communication be filed.

Your Committee is in receipt of a revised proposed bill, approved as to form and legality by the Department of the Corporation Counsel, changing the year of the bill from "2004" to "2005".

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;
2. That Committee Report No. 05-3 be FILED; and
3. That County Communication No. 04-279 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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**DAIN P. KANE** **Chair**

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**DANNY A. MATEO** **Member**

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**G. RIKI HOKAMA** **Vice-Chair**

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**MICHAEL J. MOLINA** **Member**

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**MICHELLE ANDERSON** **Member**

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**JO ANNE JOHNSON** **Member**