

CA/IGR 2008-14 Communication (7/23/2008) from Committee Chair Shaylene Iseri-Carvalho, requesting that the Administration be present to discuss the County's legislative proposals to be submitted for the 2009 State Legislative Session and to provide an update on the status of bills that passed the Legislature during the 2008 session.

[This item was deferred.]

SHAYLENE ISERI-CARVALHO, COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE/INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR: The next item on the agenda is CA/IGR 2008-14, which is a communication from myself requesting that the Administration be present to discuss the County's legislative proposals to be submitted for the 2009 State Legislative Session and to provide an update on the status of bills that passed the Legislature during the 2008 session. I'll suspend the rules. Anyone wishes to comment?

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: If not, I'll call the meeting back to order.

There being no one wishing to testify, the meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows.

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: I have received a letter from the Mayor. Does everybody have a copy of the letter? And it is my intention to defer this item. I will say that I spoke with the Administrative Assistant, Gary Heu, last night and informed him that we were expecting to proceed with this item. He informed me that Lani Nakazawa, who is the person that the County hired as an Executive Assistant to the Mayor to track all legislative bills and...which would include providing an update of course to the County Council, is not on the island and is on vacation. There was not a single correspondence that indicated that to us despite the strong sentiments that I raised at the last meeting. I think these Administrative officials forget that their salaries are paid by taxpayers. It is not paid by the Council that they can provide whatever report they want to the Council, but I believe it's their responsibility to provide the information to the public. And so I think it, again, provides a disservice to this community when we have people that are paid at salaries that almost total \$100,000 and from July haven't been able to provide a report on legislative bills when that was a special position that was created by the Mayor especially for Lani Nakazawa. And so I'm deeply disappointed by the letter that I received asking to receive this item. I will not be receiving this item and because in all fairness it would be purely irresponsible for this Council to do so without having a report to the public. Again, we had mentioned there were many bills that impact the County, both fiscally as well as in the kinds of laws that would affect us in our daily life and yet the public has yet to hear those bills and not only the bills, but the bills that actually got passed, that went up to the Governor that either got vetoed or was approved or went into law without the Governor's signature. It's again quite disappointing that the Administration feels that they do not need to answer to the public. So, I hope at the next meeting there will be someone here. In all due deference to the Administrative Assistant, Gary Heu, he had indicated that he would be present, that he was told to be present; however, he was not knowledgeable enough about the issues because it was not his job to lobby at the legislature. We have paid many, many trips of Lani Nakazawa to Honolulu to supposedly lobby on our behalf for certain legislation and yet till today from July we have yet to get a report. For me, that is totally unacceptable. I hope that this sends a stronger message to the Administration that

they need to be held accountable to the public and that at the next meeting have somebody, both of them here if need be in order to do the report. Is there is any other comments from any other councilmembers? Vice Chair Rapozo?

Mr. Rapozo: Just that I would concur that, you know, the receipt is not an option. I'm assuming that the intent was to get the report out and it's not really...I think we talked about this at the last meeting. It's not really for the seven of us, but for the members of the public and obviously the request of the Mayor was to receive the report and submit any question in writing, but I would agree that in this case, and really the purpose of that position when...although I didn't support that position in the budget, I didn't think it was necessary, it did pass and it was funded, and a big part of that position was to be the legislative bod...person for the Administration and provide the lobbying. And I would agree that much has been spent on that position, flying back and forth to O'ahu for testimonies, and in fact in the job description it's clear that 25% of the time was to testify regarding budgets and operating programs to clarify reports and supportive administrative proposals, and that's clearly in the job description. It also talks about coordinating and collaborating with Administration, Council and other departments in establishing and carrying out responsibilities. I think it's clear that the intent of that position was to provide that reports to this body as we move forward, especially as we get close to a legislative session once again. So, I will support the deferral and I would support a deferral until we can get the report here provided to this body and again not just for the seven of us but for the members of the public. Thank you.

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: Any further comments? Go ahead.

Mr. Kouchi: And I think the information for the public serves two purposes. The first and most obvious is just information is information and, you know, you know what's going on and you can determine if further action is required or if you'd like to comment, you can make that choice. I know when I was in charge of the lobbying during my prior tenure on the Council, I liked to have the report because a lot of times when the County officials go up to testify, you know, we're another elected official and we're not perceived as a voter and a constituent by the State legislators and there is a heightened sensitivity when they get contacted by their constituents in the community. And the public report being presented here at the Council gives an opportunity for the Kaua'i people to know what the Council's talking about, especially in the package for the upcoming session. You know, if it affects tourism, we want the KVB members to get involved and say, hey, by the way, the County's pushing for this, we think it's a good idea. If there's something in the business community that they like, you know, we want them out there saying that. When we were trying to push for the pool at Puhi, you know, for the community...the people in the community who wanted to see an Olympic size swimming pool brought here to Kaua'i, you know, they would be able in the supermarket to say, you know, I know the Council's trying to push this, I know you're in charge of it, we'd like to hopefully get your support in voting for it. So, you know, there is great value to having these projects discussed with the community-at-large through the Council meetings being on television and I always would say during those meetings for those of you who are watching, if you think this is an important issue to you, if you can call or write your representative or senator, the governor, please do so. You know, when you see them at the supermarket or at a KIF event or wherever you happen to see them, please talk to them, but I always wanted to enlist as many lobbyists as we could on our behalf. And you know,

there's much greater strength in the numbers, but the only way we can get that kind of support is by letting them know what's going on so they know what to get behind.

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: Thank you.

Mr. Kouchi: I think that was the long way of saying I'll vote for the deferral.

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: Thank you. And I know, Gary, that you're here and you did volunteer to do the report; however, it is in the Chair's opinion that it would do a disservice to have a report and not be able to ask you any of the questions because the person who actually is responsible for that is not present. So, I would ask for your indulgence in having me defer this item so both of you can be present, if need be, at the next meeting, so that any questions that arise from the report can be immediately addressed as opposed to taking all those questions back and then coming back in two weeks anyway. So, thank you, I appreciate you coming over and thank you for trying to get a hold of me and we finally did make contact, and I know you were gracious enough to do the report and I appreciate you stepping in because I know that this is not your job to do, but thank you for trying to cooperate with the Council's request, but I think it would be preferable to just have it deferred in totality. If there's no further comments, a motion to defer?

Upon motion duly made by Councilmember Kouchi, seconded by Councilmember Yukimura, and unanimously carried, CA/IGR 2008-14 was deferred.


CR-CA/IGR 2008-19: on CA/IGR 2008-15 Communication (9/22/2008) from Committee Chair Shaylene Iseri-Carvalho, requesting approval of the two (2) proposed projects by the Administration for the 2009 Kaua'i County Legislative Package:
(1) Wailua Emergency Bypass Road Repairs and Resurfacing - \$950,000
(2) Waimea Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades - \$6,000,000
[Approved.]

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wilma Akiona
Wilma Akiona, Secretary

APPROVED at the Committee Meeting held on October 29, 2008:


SHAYLENE ISERI-CARVALHO
Chair, Community Assistance/Intergovernmental Relations Committee