

## MINUTES

### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE October 15, 2008**

A meeting of the Public Works Committee of the Council of the County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i, was called to order by Councilmember Mel Rapozo, Chair, at the Historic County Building, Room 201, Līhu'e, Kaua'i, on Wednesday, October 15, 2008, at 9:10 a.m., after which the following members answered the call of the roll:

Honorable Tim Bynum (excused at 12:30 p.m.)  
Honorable Shaylene Iseri-Carvalho (present at 3:17 p.m.)  
Honorable Ron Kouchi  
Honorable Mel Rapozo  
Honorable JoAnn A. Yukimura  
Honorable Jay Furfaro, Ex-Officio Member  
Honorable Daryl W. Kaneshiro, Ex-Officio Member (present at 11:16 a.m.)

There being no objections, the meeting was recessed at 9:10 a.m. The meeting was reconvened at 12:22 p.m., and the Committee proceeded on its agenda items out of order as follows and as shown in the following Committee reports which are incorporated here in by reference:

Minutes of the September 17, 2008 Public Works Committee Meetings.

Upon motion duly made by Councilmember Kouchi, seconded by Councilmember Yukimura, and unanimously carried, the Minutes of the September 17, 2008 Public Works Committee Meeting was approved.

PW 2008-9 Communication (10/7/2008) from Committee Chair Mel Rapozo, requesting that the County Engineer and the Chief of Wastewater be present to provide a briefing on the State Department of Health (DOH) "Operation & Maintenance Inspection Report" regarding the Līhu'e Wastewater Treatment Plant.  
[This item was deferred.]

MEL RAPOZO, PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE CHAIR: I would like to take up the item PW 2008-9, which is a communication from myself requesting that the Engineer and the Chief of Wastewater be here to present a briefing on the Department of Health "Operation & Maintenance Inspection Report" regarding the Līhu'e Wastewater Treatment Plant. We have a request for deferral for two weeks and I will support that deferral simply because it is quite an intense report and I would want them to have the accurate information before they present. So, I will not be opposing the deferral, but before I entertain that motion, I would ask for any public testimony from the audience on the Līhu'e Wastewater Report. If not? Oh, Bruce? I'll suspend the rules.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

Mr. Rapozo:

Mr. Pleas.

BRUCE PLEAS: Bruce Pleas for the record. This wastewater treatment plant appears to have been not operating efficiently for quite a while. You have had Cheryl Lovell-Obatake in here for many years talking about the condition of the watershed in this area, which is where the wastewater treatment

plant is located. There may be a connection between this. And you can also access the Surfrider. They are doing testing now of Kalapaki Stream and they've found that that's very high in bacteria. So, we many need to if wastewater...

Mr. Furfaro: Excuse me, Bruce. You're referring to the Surfrider Foundation?

Mr. Pleas: Yes.

Mr. Furfaro: Okay, (inaudible).

Mr. Pleas: Oh, okay, Surfrider.org on there. They have just started in there. They're a blue water task force. So, these may be connected. I hope that Wastewater, when it comes in, starts to connect these dots and see what's going on. I also have very, very grave concerns of Wastewater using injection wells for effluent discharge. These should be addressed too because all you're doing is injecting wastewater directly into the ground. If it is not sufficiently deep enough, it will filter into the groundwater and could also be another source of pollution for our watershed. These are all other aspects beside just the main facts and the report of non-working facilities. So, I think we have to look at a larger concept of what's going on if we're going to address what's happening to our watershed and besides what else they have. I kind of researched as much as I could on their deficiencies and there's really nothing that I've been able to find that is background information on this. So, I'm kind of at a lost to present any information that I found. The only thing I've found so far is a report to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Legislature, State of Hawai'i 2004 on Department of Health which has some moneys put out for Lihu'e wastewater and also the Assessment and Protection Plan for the Nāwiliwili Watershed which is what Cheryl worked on that's dated 2002 which has some reference to the Lihu'e Wastewater Plant. Thank you.

Mr. Rapozo: Thank you, Bruce. Any questions for Bruce?

Mr. Furfaro: I would just like to say, Mr. Rapozo, I do believe that this request for the response was in compliance with an item dealing with the Department of Health. Certainly we can talk in terms, when it comes back to Mr. Rapozo's Committee, in dealing with R-2 water quality, the depths of the injection well as well as the items pointed out in the report on their digester tank. So, that'll be covered. Thank you, Mr. Rapozo.

Mr. Rapozo: Thank you. Thank you, Bruce. Anyone else in the public wishing to testify? If not, I'll call the meeting back to order.

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

Mr. Rapozo: And just to let the public know that the request for deferral is to give them enough time to submit their Affirmative Action Plan with the State. And I'm hopeful that we will have a copy of that plan at the next Committee meeting. So with that, if...any discussion before we entertain the motion to defer? If not, could I have a motion to defer?

Upon motion duly made by Councilmember Yukimura, seconded by Councilmember Bynum, and unanimously carried, PW 2008-9 was deferred.

There being no objections, the meeting was recessed at 12:27 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 4:38 p.m., at which time Councilmember Bynum was noted to be excused and Councilmember Kouchi announced that he would recuse himself from agenda item PW 2008-7.

**CR-PW 2008-17:** on PW 2008-2

Communication (4/7/2008) from Committee Chair Rapozo, requesting that the County Engineer provide for discussion purposes an action plan, timeline, and cost proposal for the repair, removal, and/or maintenance of the seawall fronting the Pono Kai Resort in Kapa'a.

**[Received for the record.]**

There being no objections, the meeting was recessed at 5:22 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 5:35 p.m., and proceeded as follows:

**CR-PW 2008-18:** on PW 2008-7

Communication (9/25/2008) from Councilmember Shaylene Iseri-Carvalho, requesting that the County Engineer and the Environmental Services Management Engineer be present to provide an update on the safety policies and procedures for Solid Waste Collections, including the use of alternative equipment when the regular equipment is not available, and other issues relating to the Solid Waste collection process.

**[Received for the record.]**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Wilma Akiona*

Wilma Akiona  
Secretary

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



MEL RAPOZO  
Chair, Public Works Committee

