

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

September 22, 2017

Committee
Report No. _____

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

Chair and Members:

Your Water Resources Committee, having met on September 6, 2017, makes reference to County Communication 17-264, from Councilmember Alikea Atay, relating to a review of Chapter 14.06A, Maui County Code (“MCC”), relating to water conservation and control of water usage during water shortage.

Your Committee notes Section 14.06A.100, MCC, requires the Council to review the provisions of the Chapter beginning January 1, 2017, and every three years thereafter. As a part of that review, the Director of Water Supply is required to provide a report to the Council “on all actions taken by the department under this chapter during the review period.”

The report must include a list of water shortage declarations and, for each water shortage declaration, information concerning areas affected, duration, and restrictions imposed.

By correspondence dated August 3, 2017, the Director of Water Supply transmitted the Department’s report of all actions taken by the Department in accordance with the requirement.

According to the Director, the Department has only issued two water shortage declarations since the ordinance became effective on January 6, 2015. Both declarations were Stage 1 water shortages for the entire Upcountry service area. The first declaration was in effect from April 9, 2017 through May 1, 2017, and the second started on July 18, 2017, and remains in effect.

The Director also reported that leak detection and water conservation education and incentive requirements are part of the Department’s normal operations and are implemented continuously. He

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said the only exception is the requirement under Section 14.06A.040(C), MCC, to implement an incentive program encouraging consumers to replace old toilets and water fixtures with those having increased levels of water efficiency ("low flow" fixtures). The Director said the Department is in the process of developing a toilet replacement rebate program to be implemented this fiscal year. A representative of the Department added that the Department is working with the Department of Parks and Recreation to replace showers at public parks.

The Director said the Department of Water Supply also structures its water rates to promote water conservation.

Your Committee briefly discussed the feasibility of retrofitting plumbing to make use of reclaimed water, and factors the Department considers in prioritizing the replacement of old and leak-prone water mains. The Director also said the Council has an opportunity when considering conditions of zoning to require brackish water be used for landscaping purposes, if development of brackish water is an option.

Your Committee notes it has separately pending a proposed bill transmitted by the Department to amend notification and publication requirements for declarations of water shortage, and to shorten the period within which agricultural consumers are required to implement restrictions or mandates imposed by water shortage declarations from 90 to 30 days following publication. The Director said there were no other amendments to the Chapter the Department was proposing at this time.

Your Committee voted 7-0 to recommend filing of the communication. Committee Chair Atay, Vice-Chair Cochran, and members Carroll, Crivello, King, Sugimura, and White voted "aye."

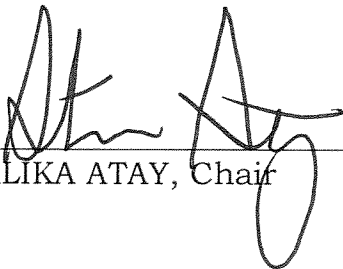
Your Water Resources Committee recommends that County Communication 17-264 be FILED.

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This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



ALIKA ATAY, Chair

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