

Agriculture, Diversification, Environment, and Public Transportation Committee on 2024-09-26 1:30 PM

Meeting Time: 09-26-24 13:30

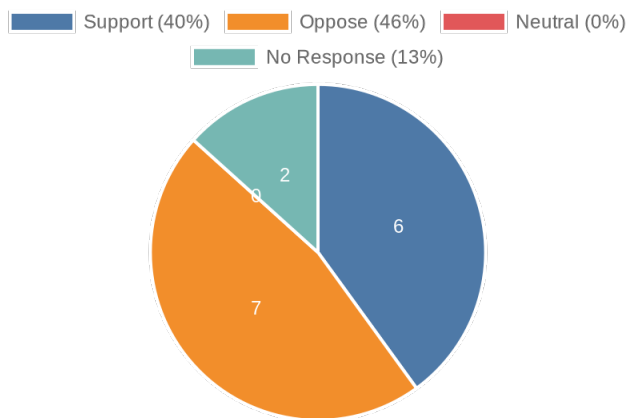
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Agriculture, Diversification, Environment, and Public Transportation Committee on 2024-09-26 1:30 PM	09-26-24 13:30	3	15	6	7	0

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agriculture, Diversification, Environment, and Public Transportation Committee on 2024-09-26

1:30 PM

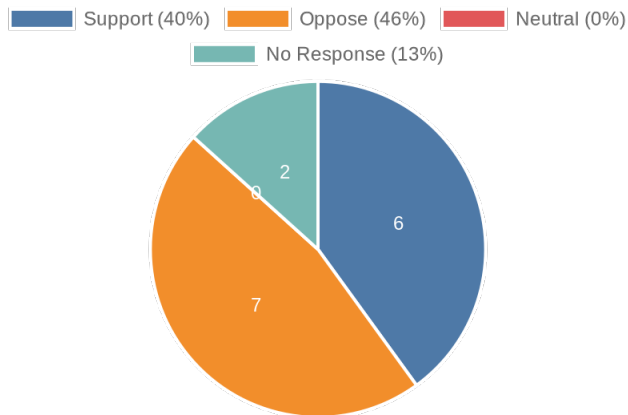
09-26-24 13:30

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	4	3	1	0
ADEPT-1(25) SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT (ADEPT-1(25))	4	3	0	0
ADEPT-16 Bill 131 (2024) BILL 131 (2024), RELATING TO PESTICIDE AND FERTILIZER USE ON COUNTY PROPERTY (ADEPT-16)	7	0	6	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

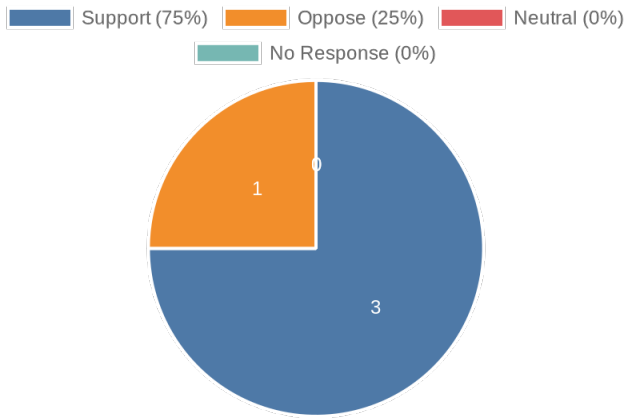
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Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 2:05pm 09-26-24

See previous comments submitted.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 7:49am 09-25-24

Waiehu GC is in stellar playing condition since the use of pesticides and herbicides were replaced by Regenerative Ag principals. The use of a salt tolerant grass - Paspalum - has characteristics that create a good putting surface. Paspalum grows densely making weed colonization limited and when weeds do get started, an application of salt makes a hostile environment for the weed while the Paspalum thrives.

Now that we have several years of no toxic chemicals killing the microbial life in the soil, we have a carpet of healthy grass with a great root structure. If pesticides and herbicides are used, the microbes die and the soil becomes lifeless requiring the use of more and more chemicals which gets more and more expensive.

The Golf Course is now a healthy place. Sandra Steingraber in her book Living Downstream goes into the effect on women and girls of pesticides and herbicides that are created on an OrganoPhosphate platform which is the basis for most herbicides and pesticides. OrganoPhosphates are an estrogen mimicker and can be used to keep breast cancer cells alive in petri dishes indefinitely. Chemicals sprayed on the ground are volatile and off gas straight up into the golfers face as the sun heats the ground. The danger to the reef area from poisons being sprayed next to the Ocean is constant.

I've been a Golf Professional for over 50 years. Great playing conditions on a Public Course are rare. Maui will loose what it's worked to gain if the grounds are treated with poison. To make matters worse, the cost of chemicals is a budget buster. Waiehu is an example of a Golf Course that is thriving without Chemical Inputs. That's to be celebrated not destroyed.

I've visited the course twice this week. I asked questions of players and found each person thrilled with the condition and thrilled to know that no poisons are being applied. I heard one rumor that manure was being used as fertilizer causing an odor. First of all, no manure is needed as grass clippings fertilize the ground effectively and secondly, if manure is needed for a special reason, the manure should be composted first which removes odor and avoids the heat of fresh manure burning the plants.

Returning to the use of chemistry on the golf course will result in the course turning back into what it was before the addition of Paspalum Grass and Regenerative Ag Practices...it wasn't fit for play with giant colonies of weeds in the fairways and on the greens...

What is a solution? Print cards to give to visitors at the starters booth proudly describing the Regenerative Ag Principals used to make the course beautiful and safe. We need good PR not POISON.

Genesis S young

Location:

Submitted At: 10:41pm 09-24-24

Aloha, reef friendly landscaping including 0 emission low noise electric landscaping equipment is a critical part of protecting our reefs and protecting our environment from excess Pollution. A healthy Reef and low noise landscaping helps the tourist industry and helps us all. Reef friendly landscaping is being used by Four Seasons hotel and other hotels successfully without disturbing their Patrons or their staff. it needs to be done correctly and MNMRC provides Great classes to allow you to be successful doing this for hotels and condos and homes and the county as well All parks etcetera. Electric landscaping equipment has come a long way and now is as good as if not better than gas lawn mowers and blowers and weeders and more. it is much less noisy and cost less to run and to maintain with no gas and no oil changes and very little maintenance. it emits no pollutants which cause global warming and can cause health problems for the landscapers and the community. There are no gas bills or spills and no oil changes and very little maintenance cost and no gas fires And no loss of hearing or disturbance from the noise. They are a little more expensive to buy but will pay for themselves within a couple of years and so we need to incentivize the purchases of these and stop the continued use and purchase of the very polluting Lawn and garden engines.

Barbara Barry

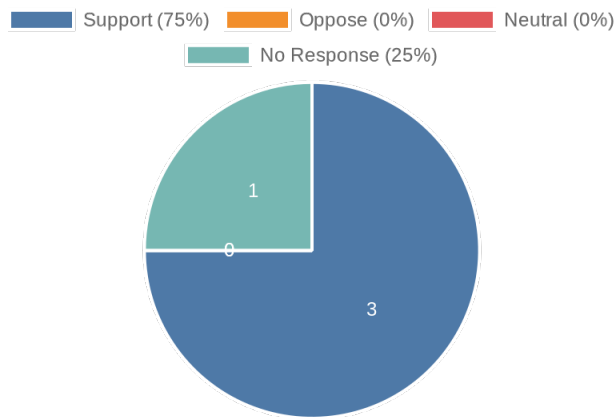
Location:

Submitted At: 7:30pm 09-24-24

Aloha

Chair Johnson and Vice Chair Sinenci and Committee Members,
Please forgive my spellcheck feature that I thought I had corrected
Mahalo,
Barbara Barry

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 2:02pm 09-26-24

I am a resident of Maui in Kihei Hawaii. I am writing to testifying my opposition to Bill 131 be rejected for the following reasons:

1. The requirement to use environmentally and safe products on public lands including parks and sporting fields was passed specifically to protect the land and people of Maui. It was requested, actually demanded, by the residents of the County of Maui.
2. The concept that pesticides and synthetic fertilizers should be used in lieu of environmentally and humanly safe products is unreasonable and potentially will lead to further deterioration of our island lands, wildlife, and our oceans and ocean life. Synthetics fertilizers and pesticides are wrought with health risks for our children and other community members.
3. The County of Maui has put out for bid and approved the bids for products that are environmentally safe and safe for all people and animals. Local vendors have procured and are storing these products and yet the County of Maui has not completed acquisition of these products from the vendors nor begun to utilize them and we are going into the second quarter of the fiscal year for which these were purchased.
4. Organic and environmentally safe pest management is effective and in keeping with indigenous ethics and actions.
5. Though battery operated equipment is not entirely free of the use of fossil fuels in production, it does significantly reduce the direct impacts of fossil fuels in our environment. As well, it reduces the noise pollution, they are safer with reduced vibration which can cause injury to operators, and eliminates the need for residents and businesses to store oil and gas, which are hazardous for inhalation and increase fire risk.
6. The County of Maui Council has a responsibility to follow the determinations of the constituents.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:51am 09-26-24

Aloha County Council Chairs and Members,

I am writing in support of Reef Friendly Landscaping (RFL) and Zero Emission Low Noise Landscaping. In addition to being the right direction for landscaping from a general view of protecting the environment, RFLs use of nature-based solutions protects our residents - from keiki to kupuna - from exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals. An added benefit to both of these programs is that their adoption will also reduce costs for landscapers and landowners. Finally, the growing infrastructure developing to support RFL - from certification training to on-island production of soil amendments - encourage the dollars spent on landscaping on Maui to stay on Maui.

Please vote in support of these important initiatives.

Mahalo,
John Starmer,
Kula Kai, Maui.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 6:35am 09-25-24

I support Reef Friendly Landscaping and Zero Emission Low Noise Landscaping.

This n noise and air pollution needs to stop!

Mahalo, Sulara James (Maui)

Barbara Barry

Location:

Submitted At: 7:20pm 09-24-24

Aloha Chair Johnson and. VoiceOver Chair

Sinenci,

I support reef-friendly landscaping for many reasons. Minimizing toxic run off from chemical based fertilizers that have extremely soluble nitrogen into our oceans, coral reefs and maintaining pure water in our streams support many layers of life that is essential.

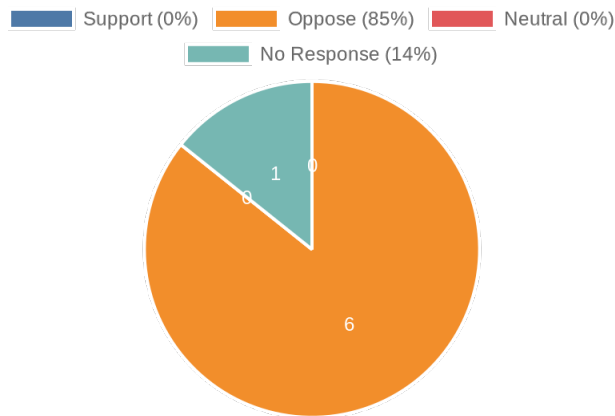
I have used electric mowers on my farm for many years and I love it! My Ego 52" deck with 6 batteries mows for hours and is fast and quiet and fun. I support the transition to electric power tools for the County and homeowners alike. Zero exhaust fumes, no gas to breathe or oil to check and hopefully these machine would be charged with solar panels for a green and clean Maui County landscape maintenance program.

Mahalo for your support,

Ms. Barbara Barry

Ha_ik_

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 2:21pm 09-26-24

See comments submitted separately

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 2:02pm 09-26-24

I am a resident of Maui in Kihei Hawaii. I am writing to testifying my opposition to Bill 131 be rejected for the following reasons:

1. The requirement to use environmentally and safe products on public lands including parks and sporting fields was passed specifically to protect the land and people of Maui. It was requested, actually demanded, by the residents of the County of Maui.
2. The concept that pesticides and synthetic fertilizers should be used in lieu of environmentally and humanly safe products is unreasonable and potentially will lead to further deterioration of our island lands, wildlife, and our oceans and ocean life. Synthetics fertilizers and pesticides are wrought with health risks for our children and other community members.
3. The County of Maui has put out for bid and approved the bids for products that are environmentally safe and safe for all people and animals. Local vendors have procured and are storing these products and yet the County of Maui has not completed acquisition of these products from the vendors nor begun to utilize them and we are going into the second quarter of the fiscal year for which these were purchased.
4. Organic and environmentally safe pest management is effective and in keeping with indigenous ethics and actions.
5. Though battery operated equipment is not entirely free of the use of fossil fuels in production, it does significantly reduce the direct impacts of fossil fuels in our environment. As well, it reduces the noise pollution, they are safer with reduced vibration which can cause injury to operators, and eliminates the need for residents and businesses to store oil and gas, which are hazardous for inhalation and increase fire risk.

6. The County of Maui Council has a responsibility to follow the determinations of the constituents.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:20am 09-26-24

Aloha County Council Chairs and Members,

I am writing in opposition of the expansion of exclusions in Section 2.50.050 of the Maui County Code through Bill 131. The current text of the code allows for Parks & Recreation to request an exemption to the ordinance with justification. None of the supporting documentation provided with the current bill explain why an exemption is desired. The current ordinance motivates Parks and Rec to use environmentally responsible methods to manage county landscaping.

By moving to alternative landscaping methods that are currently available and locally produced on Maui, Parks & Rec has the opportunity to not just support Maui's economy, but also see the benefits as cost savings through the use of less water and industrial chemicals. As an added bonus, the County reduce their liability of exposing their employees and the public to toxins known to cause a range of short and long term illnesses.

Parks & Rec has a path to request a temporary exemption, with justification, under the current law. I hope you agree that changing the law is not necessary and would go counter to the County's mandate to protect both County residents and the environment from harm.

Mahalo,

John Starmer,

Kula Kai, Maui.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 6:32am 09-25-24

I oppose Bill 131 because we need more protection against pesticides, not less.

Reef Friendly Landscape works!

Sulara James, Maui

Genesis S young

Location:

Submitted At: 10:57pm 09-24-24

I oppose Bill 131 as it is a backwards step in protecting our reefs and our children and our own health and our overall environment From the harmful effects of pesticides and Chemical fertilizers when there are better reef friendly And safer options That are being used successfully. The county & the golf course have been complaining apparently about the attempts to Not use pesticides and chemical fertilizers and are Giving reports of irritation or unpleasant odors and so on And that means they're not doing it properly. that does not mean that we allow the use of chemicals that can cause harm to our environment, cause health conditions in our children and families and go backwards to a place that is unhealthy for the sake of ease and due to a lack of proper understanding and application of reef friendly and Environmental friendly techniques and knowledge. Bill 131 should Never have been suggested But further education Persistence with doing the right thing needs to happen. MNMRC has classes on using these techniques properly And the hotels are successfully using these with no disturbance to their customers or their staff- so if the hotels can do it without disturbing their guests which is really important for their bottom line then I think the county and the golf courses can as well. We need increased regulation on pesticides to come in line with more standard Practices, what we have is already too limited. Do not pass this bill and pass even better legislation and better monitoring and better enforcement Of the current laws. If we are to be the Maui that we all want to live in and the tourists want to visit Then we must do more to protect our environment and our reefs and our natural resources and our health for our economics as well as our Survival. We need to pay more attention to how we care for our earth and Practice the precautionary principle and only do things we know are safe -let's not experiment on the humans and the life on Earth without being sure it's not harmful because these chemicals have been proven to be harmful. And their ease of use is no excuse for using these poisons when there are good alternatives -Even if the alternatives take a little bit more education and effort and persistence and knowledge and work. Mahalo Genesis Young MD

Genesis S young

Location:

Submitted At: 10:57pm 09-24-24

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Barbara Barry

Location:

Submitted At: 8:22pm 09-24-24

Aloha Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Sinenci and Committee Members,

I oppose any attempt to undo Maui County's wise decision a few years ago to choose non toxic turf amendments and integrated pest control techniques.

This was a carefully thought out decision that protects our keiki, our kupuna, our pets, our reefs and our precious fresh water.

I inquired with an expert golfer about the Waihee course course, and he has visited it this past week and noted that it's in really great shape although it had some recent lapses in care.

I've heard there was a petition of 1000 people who have been complaining about the poor condition of the golf course and that the War Memorial stadium had to cancel events?

Can that petition be publicly shared?

I can't understand why Mayor Bissen and our Parks Department would support this amendment to change a County Code that protects our environment, keiki, all ages of citizens including our kupuna and pets to destroying all the hard work that has gone into this important decision to make this transition to non toxic fertilizers and pest control for our County Parks, playfields, golf courses, and walkways that keiki walk along to and from school.

We must not allow Maui County to go backwards into the toxic old days. Our county workers are safer now, our soil is being restored cause it's not being poisoned. Our Ocean is cleaner.

Maybe there is room for improvement but let's improve with the same goal in mind. Protecting our environment, keiki, and the health of all citizens and visitors who frequent our wonderful public parks, sports fields and golf course. Let's be the leader, not a follower in sustainable, non-toxic turf management.

We worked too hard to get here. Restoring balance with soil takes time.

Please don't give up now.

Mahalo for saying No toxic chemicals in our County Parks and Recreation landscape maintenance program.

We have enough RUP use in Maui County by the private sector without our taxpayer's money feeding the Chemical Corporations by using them in public places. Remember there are unforeseen consequences to being exposed to toxic chemicals. The workers who apply these chemicals are at high risk as well.

Ms. Barbara Barry

Tutu and Organic Farmer

Haik_