

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO  
Mayor

KARLA H. PETERS  
Director

JOHN L. BUCK III  
Deputy Director



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## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

700 Hali'a Nako'a Street, Unit 2, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
Main Line (808) 270-7230 / Facsimile (808) 270-7942

September 18, 2020

Honorable Michael P. Victorino  
Mayor, County of Maui  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

*Michael P Victorino*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Date

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Shane Sinenci  
Council Member  
Maui County Council  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Council Member Sinenci:

**SUBJECT: INTEGRATED PEST AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ON COUNTY PROPERTY (EACP-1)**

Thank you for your letter dated September 10, 2020 with follow up questions to discussions at the EACP meeting on September 8, 2020. Our response to these questions are as follows:

1. *Which parks are currently on the pilot program for non-pesticide use?*  
The four (4) pilot fields are the War Memorial Little League Field #1, Luana Gardens Field, Makana Park and South Maui Community Park Soccer Field.
2. *What have been the results of these pilot programs and will they continue?*  
The Beyond Pesticides donation allowed for the Department to receive technical assistance through the first year of transition at the pilot sites which commenced with the submittal of soil samples in March 2017. The hypothesis being tested was to introduce organic materials to help the soil become naturally balanced. This process would result in the use of less synthetic chemicals used to mitigate weeds and thus create a healthier turf.

The Department's turf maintenance consisted of use of limited fertilizers and herbicides along with an active aeration program. These treatments were being used to mitigate the various weeds and diseases found at each pilot site. The replacement treatment was not effective for preventing or curing diseases, thus, creating an unhealthy turf. Additionally, the products initially recommended by Beyond Pesticides were not available in Hawaii.

3. *For what purpose is the majority of the pesticide use in parks and golf courses?*

The majority of pesticides used on both the sports turf fields and the golf course are for combating the decades of weeds present, removal of weed seeds in the soil and preventing these seeds and newly developed seeds from germination. The Department's inventory consists of approximately 2, 500 developed acres of park land in which we apply pesticides to 11% of these park lands.

Pesticides are used in part with a Best Management Program when cultural, mechanical or physical practices are not able to effectively control the weeds, diseases and pest thresholds needed to maintain healthy turf grass. Biological and/or chemical pesticides are chosen for effective and site specific pest control to target the pest effectively with minimal environmental and economic impact. We also use biological controls that are supportive of healthy soils, natural predators and beneficial organisms to help reduce these pests when possible.

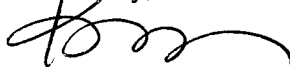
4. Also, it was brought to my attention that volunteer groups such as Little League may be willing to assist with weed control and maintenance in County Parks on a volunteer basis. Is this something the Parks Department would have an interest in? Are there currently volunteer groups assisting with maintenance in County parks?

The Department has implemented partnerships leagues in which maintenance provided by these leagues consist of basic cleaning and field preparation before and after practices and games during their season.

There are currently volunteer groups who assist with maintenance not historically done by our Department staff. Several of these groups are the South Maui Volunteers and the Haiku Community Association.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,



KARLA H. PETERS

Director of Parks and Recreation

c: John L. Buck III, Deputy Director  
Mary Kielty, Chief of Recreation  
Chris Kinzle, Park Maintenance Superintendent

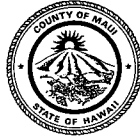
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COUNTY OF MAUI  
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[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

September 18, 2020

Karla Peters, Director  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
County of Maui  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Re: EACP-1 – Integrated Pest and Environmental Management on County Property

Aloha Director Peters,

Mahalo for attending our EACP meeting on September 8, 2020. I have a couple of follow-up questions based on conversation from the meeting.

1. Which parks are currently on the pilot program for non-pesticide use?
2. What have been the results of these pilot programs and will they continue?
3. For what purpose is the majority of the pesticide use in parks and golf courses?

Also, it was brought to my attention that volunteer groups such as Little League may be willing to assist with weed control and maintenance in County Parks on a volunteer basis. Is this something the Parks Department would have an interest in? Are there currently volunteer groups assisting with maintenance in County parks?

We appreciate your response by Friday, 9/18/2020 in preparation for our next EACP meeting.

Please call me should you have questions or need further clarification on any of these items.

Sincerely,

Shane M. Sinenci  
Councilmember  
East Maui Representative

cc: Mayor Michael P. Victorino