

Resolution

No. 24-178

URGING THE ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
PROPOSED WEST MAUI HOSPITAL AND
MEDICAL CENTER THROUGH THE
GUARANTEE OF STATE SPECIAL PURPOSE
REVENUE BOND ISSUANCE

WHEREAS, Maui Memorial Medical Center is the only acute care hospital on the island of Maui which, due to limited infrastructure, impacts from climate change and natural disasters, and traffic, can be a challenge to access from West Maui, especially in times of emergencies; and

WHEREAS, before the August 2023 wildfires, the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism projected a growth rate in residents and visitors, leading to an increased demand for healthcare in an already underserved West Maui population; and

WHEREAS, West Maui Hospital Foundation, Inc., desires to acquire a 14.994-acre parcel for the proposed West Maui Hospital and Medical Center in Kā'anapali, Maui, Hawai'i, tax map key (2) 4-4-002:052; and

WHEREAS, the proposed site has obtained the required off-site infrastructure, water and sewer entitlements, and critical certificate of need for the facility; and

WHEREAS, the proposed site would include an acute care hospital with a 24-hour emergency room, operating rooms, radiology services, and inpatient and outpatient services; and

WHEREAS, investing in the West Maui Hospital and Medical Center will create significant job opportunities for local residents trained in health care; and

WHEREAS, the Maui Island Plan recommends a West Maui acute care hospital in the planned growth area of Kā'anapali Town in West Maui, furthering Policy 6.9.1.d: "Support the immediate development of a critical access hospital in West Maui"; and

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WHEREAS, establishment of the West Maui Hospital and Medical Center would also further the Countywide Policy Plan to “Encourage the expansion and improvement of local hospitals, facilitate the establishment of new healthcare facilities, and facilitate prompt and high-quality emergency- and urgent-care services for all”; and

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2022, the Council adopted Resolution 22-252, CD1, entitled “URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED WEST MAUI HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER”; and

WHEREAS, Act 73, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2023, authorized the issuance of state-special purpose revenue bonds to assist West Maui Hospital Foundation, Inc., in the construction of the West Maui Hospital and Medical Center, including any necessary infrastructure, in a total amount not to exceed \$20 million; and

WHEREAS, following the August 2023 wildfires, the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee held two public meetings in West Maui where several community members testified in support of a West Maui hospital to improve access to healthcare; and

WHEREAS, West Maui Hospital Foundation, Inc., intends to utilize the state-special purpose revenue bond proceeds to fund the purchase of the parcel, complete updates to architectural and engineering study plans previously approved by the County, and complete infrastructure improvements on the site; and

WHEREAS, West Maui Hospital Foundation, Inc., will continue its efforts to secure funding for the construction of and equipment for the West Maui Hospital and Medical Center through federal, state, and private entities; and

WHEREAS, requiring the County to serve as the guarantor for the debt service on the state-issued special purpose revenue bonds will help to build the capital required to realize the construction and operation of this long-overdue medical facility; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it urges the Administration to provide for the establishment of the proposed West Maui Hospital and Medical Center through the guarantee of state special purposes revenue bond issuance; and
2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Jo Anne Johnson Winer, President, West Maui Hospital Foundation, Inc.; the Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Governor, State of Hawai'i; the Honorable Ronald Kouchi, Senate President, State of Hawai'i; the Honorable Scott Saiki, Speaker of the House, State of Hawai'i; the County's delegation to the State Legislature; and the Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor, County of Maui.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Tamara A.M. Paltin

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