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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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April 12, 2018

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OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The Honorable Mike White
Council Chair
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair White:

SUBJECT: **DISCONTINUING WORK ON THE KULANIHAKOI
CULVERT/BYPASS PROJECT AND PRESENTING AN
ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR A PREFABRICATED
BRIDGE** (PAF 18-118)

May I request the attached proposed resolution, entitled "URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO DISCONTINUE WORK ON THE KULANIHAKOI CULVERT/BYPASS PROJECT AS CURRENTLY CONFIGURED AND PRESENT TO THE SOUTH MAUI COMMUNITY AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR A PREFABRICATED BRIDGE," be placed on the next Council meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Elle Cochran in cursive.

ELLE COCHRAN
Councilmember

paf:cmn:18-118b

Enclosure

cc: Director of Public Works

COUNTY COMMUNICATION NO. 18-151

Resolution

No. _____

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
TO DISCONTINUE WORK ON THE KULANIHAKOI
CULVERT/BYPASS PROJECT AS CURRENTLY
CONFIGURED AND PRESENT TO THE SOUTH
MAUI COMMUNITY AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR
A PREFABRICATED BRIDGE

WHEREAS, in the Fiscal Year (“FY”) 2018 Budget, the Council appropriated \$1.25 million for the Kulanihakoi Bridge Replacement project; and

WHEREAS, as described in Appendix C of the FY 2018 Budget, the capital improvement project is to: “Design and construct a replacement concrete box culvert system on South Kihei Road with concrete bridge structure. Pavement structure at both transitions will be reconstructed and signage and striping will be installed.”; and

WHEREAS, \$3.4 million of Federal funds have been awarded for the project; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works met with the Kihei Community Association Board of Directors (“KCA”) in June 2013 to present plans for the project engineered by Wilson Okamoto Corporation; and

WHEREAS, KCA noted various design flaws with the plans, including their failure to address the flooding that routinely occurs where the existing culverts are located, continuing down Kaonoulu Street, through Kihei Bay Vista Condominiums, and over South Kihei Road, and requiring road closures and County maintenance before roads can be re-opened; and

WHEREAS, KCA stated at the meeting with the Department and in a letter dated June 18, 2013, that it would prefer an actual bridge to a culvert to handle greater streamflow during storms and to reduce the buildup of debris in the waterway; and

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WHEREAS, in February 2017, Aha Moku O Kula Makai requested to review the project with the Department, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, to ensure that historic preservation needs are balanced with project requirements; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2017, the Department met with Aha Moku O Kula Makai and KCA regarding the request for a raised bridge instead of a culvert; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Kalanikau of the Aha Moku O Kula Makai has informed the Department that the current Kulanihakoi culvert project will adversely affect ongoing native Hawaiian cultural practices; the proposed bypass will reroute South Kihei Road traffic directly over the freshwater spring in the area; this freshwater source, runs mauka to makai and is crucial for the survival of fish, limu, and reef life; and the practice of offerings to the spring by his father, Moki Kalanikau, was a practice of gratitude and forgiveness, honoring their `ohana `aumakua, the mo`o; and

WHEREAS, the alternative plan proposed by KCA, to build a prefabricated bridge instead of a culvert, with support piers outside the traffic lanes, would preserve the sacred spring; and

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2017, the Department sent a response to KCA stating that, because flooding issues in the Kulanihakoi Gulch are complex, multiregional, and beyond the scope of this project, the Department would not be implementing KCA's suggestions; and

WHEREAS, in November 2017, KCA sent the Department preliminary plans for a prefabricated bridge designed to handle the current routine flooding, including price quotes from local distributors, with a total cost for purchasing and shipping parts and installing the prefabricated bridge of less than \$2 million; and

WHEREAS, KCA's alternative plan would require only a few weeks of road closures, preserve the sacred spring, prevent further cultural degradation of the wetlands, and cost about half of the cost of the Department's current plans for the culvert/bypass; and

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2018, the Department stated it plans to proceed with the original culvert/bypass plan, and that a future plan to handle a 100-year flood would be a \$57 million project; and

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WHEREAS, the community has made it clear that in the case of a 100-year flood event, South Kihei Road will be inundated with ocean water, so there is no need for a bridge to accommodate a 100-year flood, but there is an immediate need for a bridge to prevent routine flooding; now, therefore,

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

1. That it hereby urges the Department of Public Works to discontinue work on the Kulanihakoi culvert/bypass project as currently configured; and
2. That it further urges the Department to present to the South Maui community an alternative plan for a prefabricated bridge that addresses routine flooding, but would not require a bypass that would affect the freshwater spring or degrade the wetlands; and
3. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor; the Director of Public Works; Michael Moran, President, Kihei Community Association; and Vernon Kalanikau, Representative, Aha Moku O Kula Makai.