

**TESTIMONY FOR THE WAIIEHU MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE OPERATIONS AND
IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL PARKS, RECREATION,
ENERGY, AND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
FOR JUNE 27, 2017**

Prepared and submitted by Lloyd Ginoza

Re: PRL-30 - Conversion of Greens

I want to first thank you for your decision to **NOT** close the Waiehu Golf Course as was proposed by Mayor Arakawa.

The County Council authorized and received audit reports of the Waiehu Golf Course in 2008, 2012, and 2016. The audit reports from as early as 2008 recommended converting the grass for the tee boxes, fairways, and especially the greens to Seashore Paspalum to reduce or eliminate the goosegrass weed population on the course. The audits have cited highly successful turf conversion to Seashore Paspalum in Hawaii, including Wailua Golf Course on Kauai. For whatever reason, Maui County has refused to convert the greens all these years; however, the 2016 audit indicated that the Administration is now considering the conversion of the greens to Seashore Paspalum.

The 2008 audit describes a method of introducing the Seashore Paspalum with sprigs into the greens with no green closures and virtually no disruption to the golf course operations. This method was successfully used for courses on Oahu and Kauai. However, I understand that the Administration may decide to renovate and reseed the greens with Seashore Paspalum for 9 holes, a method that will require the closure of one-half of the course for 4 months.

I fail to understand the Administration's consideration of this conversion method. Closing 9 holes for 4 months will cause frustration with golfers and may discourage golfers from golfing at Waiehu. More importantly, this method will definitely decrease revenue for the golf fund, which undermines the Council's mandate to increase revenue.

After 8 years of refusing to convert the turf on the greens, the Administration now wants an instant fix by closing 9 holes of the course. Could this be a sinister decision to bolster the Mayor's argument to close the golf course due to lack of revenue in an effort to privatize the course?

I trust this committee will review the Administration's action that may close one-half of the course for 4 months and direct the Administration to provide a more reasonable solution.