

HFC Committee

From: Yukilei Sugimura
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 6:23 PM
To: HFC Committee
Cc: Miki Yokouchi; Karla Peters
Subject: HFC committee, HFC 58, Tennis court hours during COVID
Attachments: scan0188.pdf; Letter about Tennis Court Night Hours (2).pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi

HFC 58

Attached is communication from the Kula Tennis community requesting the hours of nighttime tennis play return to pre-covid hours or instead of ending at 7 pm, ending at 10:30 pm.

Please ask chair Hokama to schedule in his committee if he sees appropriate.

Yuki Lei Sugimura

HFC Committee, Vice Chair

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Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

September 16, 2020

To: Chair Riki Hokama
Healthy Families and Communities Committee

RE: COVID-19, Impacts on Tennis community requesting hours, lights
and access of facility be extended to end nightly at 10:30 pm vs 7:00
pm (emergency hours during pandemic). (HFC 58)

May I request the matter relating to impact of COVID19 pandemic on Parks
Department tennis court hours be placed be on your committee agenda for
discussion.

For more information on this subject I have attached a copy of a letter
received from the Upcountry tennis community, Steve Sutrov on their request to
have the hours of the tennis courts return to pre-COVID-19 nighttime hours
from 7 am to 10:30pm instead of the current 7 am to 7 pm during the pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yuki Lei K. Sugimura". The signature is fluid and cursive.

YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA
Councilmember

enclosure

cc: Karla Peters, Director, Parks Department

September 15, 2020

Aloha,

On behalf of tennis players who use Maui's public courts, we believe tennis is a relatively safe and healthy way to promote fitness and well-being during this ongoing pandemic. Unlike contact or large team sports, tennis is for as little as 2 people separated at length on a court, usually 45-80 feet. Based on this reality, most municipalities are not posing restrictions on tennis as they may for other recreational opportunities.¹

Many of the public tennis courts are located at County Parks, which are currently under modified hours with a 7 pm closure. The impact of this policy is that many tennis players are now finding no courts available and congestion while waiting for a court, which is counter to any COVID-19 mitigation goal. Many also work during the day and would previously be able to play after 7 pm on courts equipped with lights. In addition, some high school teams will start to use the courts for practice this fall, putting a strain on court availability even further. Finally, forced to play during the daytime heat is uncomfortable if not dangerous, and also as sunset is getting earlier, the hours are becoming even shorter than 7 pm with the lights disabled.

While we generally respect the objectives of sensible COVID-19 restrictions to keep our community safe and can accept some level of personal sacrifice, we do not think that returning the tennis courts to normal hours would in any way make the community less safe and in fact would be safer for all by spacing out better the number of people using or waiting for courts. **We therefore request that courts on County property that are equipped with lights return to normal nighttime hours (until 10:30 pm), with lights functioning as before, and be exempt from any restricted hours at Parks.**

Many of us have individually contacted Parks & Recreation and the Mayor's office but have been either bounced around or received conflicting or inaccurate explanations for this policy.

We would appreciate your assistance and would also welcome the opportunity to discuss in person or by phone.

Mahalo,

Maui tennis players

(see p. 2-4 for a sample list of names in support of this letter)

¹ As an example, the State of New Jersey differentiates between low-risk sports like tennis and medium/high-risk sports like basketball and soccer.

<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/reopening-guidance-and-restrictions/can-organized-sports-practices-resume-can-professional-sports-resume> [Aug 31, 2020]

Another example is the County of San Francisco which encourages tennis, including with those not in one's household, even though soccer and basketball with those not in one's household are prohibited.

<https://sf.gov/stay-active-during-coronavirus-outbreak> [Sep 9, 2020]

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