

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

**Council of the County of Maui**

## **M I N U T E S**

**Online Only via BlueJeans**

**October 21, 2021**

**CONVENE: 1:31 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Tasha Kama, Chair  
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (arrived at 1:38 p.m.)  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member

**STAFF:**

Wilton Leauanae, Legislative Analyst  
Laksmi Abraham, Legislative Analyst  
Kasie Apo Takayama, Legislative Analyst  
Richard Mitchell, Legislative Attorney  
David Raatz, Deputy Director of Council Services  
Jean Pokipala, Committee Secretary  
Pauline Martins, Committee Secretary  
Clarita Balala, Committee Secretary  
Kristeena Locke, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Angela Lucero, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Paltin  
Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama  
Lois Whitney, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama  
Davideane Sickels, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama  
Ellen McKinley, Executive Assistant to Councilmember King  
Jordan Helle, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sugimura

**ADMIN.:**

Mimi DesJardins, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel  
Karla Peters, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Mary Kielty, Chief of Recreation, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Angus Peters, Assistant Chief of Recreation, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Jason Lopez, Recreation Program Planner, Department of Parks and Recreation  
David Yamashita, Parks Planner, Department of Parks and Recreation

**OTHERS:**

Steven Sutrov  
Mark Tillman  
Lauren Akitake

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

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Kari Luna Nunokawa  
Greg Smith  
Michael Kinoshita  
Laurie Loney  
Ann Pitcaithley  
Kurt Ginoza  
Joseph Blackburn  
Miles Matsui  
Shaun Thayer  
Emily Collins  
Tyler Szabo  
Ramona Akima  
Gary W. Marshall  
Todd Richter  
Ralph Gorgoglione  
Ron Kapaku  
Elizabeth Voigt  
Barbara Wallace  
Brett Reeves  
Jill Kanahele  
Cathy Nicoloff  
Ron Lau  
Mark Erickson  
Miles Matsui  
Brett Lickle  
Ruth Bidwell  
Vili Nalu  
Kurt Ginoza  
Rod Lavek  
Greg Dose

**PRESS:**      *Akaku Maui Community Television, Inc.*

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CHAIR KAMA: . . . *(gavel)*. . . Welcome, everyone, and thank you for coming to today's Human Concerns and Parks Committee Meeting, and I'd like to be able to call this meeting to order. It is 1:31 p.m. in the afternoon. My name is Tasha Kama, and I am the Chair of the HCP Committee. So I'd like to be able to call this meeting to order and welcome each and every one of you. So this online meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Governor's most recent Emergency Proclamation on COVID-19. So please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. In addition, when your name is called, please identify yourself by your name and if anyone is in the room, or the vehicle, or workspace with you today. So Members, any questions before we continue? I'd like to do roll call, thank you very much. Committee Voting Members, aloha 'auinalā to the Committee Vice-Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha 'auinalā, Chair Kama, and nice to see all of you.

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

CHAIR KAMA: Absolutely. Also, aloha ‘auinalā to Councilmember Tamara Paltin, who did such a splendid job this morning of getting to our agenda and giving us time to spare. So thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha ‘auinalā, Chair Kama. I am here at the West Maui District Office in Lāhainā Town with my EA, Angela. We’re more than six feet apart, and namaskar kākou.

CHAIR KAMA: Wonderful, namaskar kākou also to Councilmember Shane Sinenci. Aloha ‘auinalā.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Namaskar, Chair, and aloha ‘auinalā kākou, I’m back under the virtual kauhale by myself.

CHAIR KAMA: Wonderful, wonderful. And I think Council Chair Alice Lee will probably be along since I don’t see her. But if she’s here, she’ll probably let us know. But also, we have Non-Voting Committee Members who are also invited to attend, Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Councilmember Mike Molina, Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, and also our Councilmember Kelly King, who is wanting to be here, but unable to. But she sends a big aloha to her tennis fans out there. We also have with us, from the Department of Corp. Counsel, Mimi DesJardins. Aloha Mimi.

MS. DESJARDINS: Aloha and good afternoon, everyone. Nice to see you.

CHAIR KAMA: You too. We also have, from the Department of Parks and Recreation, Karla Peters. Aloha Karla, Director. I don’t see her yet. But we also have Mary Kielty, the Chief of Recreation. Aloha Mary. Are you there?

MS. KIELTY: Aloha, and mahalo for having us today.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you for being here. We also have Mr. Jason Lopez, the Recreation Program Planner. Aloha Jason.

MR. LOPEZ: Aloha. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. We also have Mr. David Yamashita, the Parks Planner. Aloha David.

MR. YAMASHITA: Aloha, and yes, I’m here. Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Great, thank you. We also have our Committee Staff, Wilton Leauanae, our Legislative Analyst; Laksmi Abraham, another Legislative Analyst; Ms. Jean Pokipala, our Committee Secretary; Pauline Martins, our other Committee Secretary; we have Richard Mitchell, our Legislative Attorney; and Kristeena Locke, the OCS Assistant Clerk. So aloha to all of our Staff, and thank you so much for working so hard with this Committee in getting our legislative issues out and also getting our reports out on time.

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

We also have other representatives. We have Mr. Mike Kinoshita and Kari Luna, who are going to probably be our resource people regarding the tennis players and their issues. We also have Joseph Blackburn and Greg Heid, who are basketball resource people that I would want them to be resources later. Mr. Kurt Ginoza from the Hawai'i Youth Soccer Association, who also is going to talk a little bit about futsal. Brent Nunes of the Albion Soccer Club, but also is with street soccer and futsal also. We have Mark Tillman, who's going to talk to us about pickleball, and Mike Adrian of the Urban Baller Futsal, Pickleball, and Basketball. So we're going to have a lot of balls floating in the air today, Members. So I hope that we can all pay attention to all the balls that will be floating in the air. So thank you, Members, for attending to this meeting and we only have one item on the agenda, it's HCP-40, and it's the Demand for Recreational Activities Involving Play Courts such as Pickleball, Tennis, and Basketball. So at this time, Staff, do we have anyone signed up to testify, and if we do, how many do we have?

MR. LEAUANAE: Yes, Chair. And we currently have around 28.

CHAIR KAMA: How many?

MR. LEAUANAE: 28.

CHAIR KAMA: 28. See, we knew it was going to be exciting. So we have 25 [sic] testifiers. So Members, I'd like to be able to reduce our...with your consent, to be able to reduce our amount of testimonies from three minutes to two minutes, and according to Rule 17(B), I will need a motion for us to be able to do that, to take testifiers at two minutes per.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: I support your recommendation. So moved.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Do I have a second?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Sinenci.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Mr. Sinenci. So it's been moved and seconded that we limit today's testifiers until two minutes per testifier. Any comments about that, or any questions regarding that, Members? Hearing and seeing none, I'd like to call for the question. All those in favor of the motion to limit our testifiers to two minutes each, please say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED AYE.

CHAIR KAMA: All those opposed? Oh, good afternoon, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Sorry I'm late.

CHAIR KAMA: You're just in time for the vote.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

CHAIR KAMA: I figured you were busy. So the motion by Member Yuki Lei Sugimura, seconded

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

by Shane Sinenci, was to be able to limit our testifiers to two minutes each because we have 28 testimonies.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So all those in favor, please say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED AYE.

CHAIR KAMA: All those opposed, please say “nay.” The motion is carried unanimously of all five of us.

**VOTE:        AYES:    Chair Kama, Vice-Chair Sugimura, Councilmembers  
   Lee, Paltin, and Sinenci.**

**NOES:    None.**

**ABSTAIN:    None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXC.:    None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:    LIMIT OUR TESTIFIERS TO TWO MINUTES EACH.**

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you very, very much, Members. So I'd like to be able to read the instructions for public testimony. So testifiers wanting to provide video testimony should join the online meeting via the BlueJeans meeting link, [bluejeans.com/221418021](https://bluejeans.com/221418021) as noted on today's agenda. Testifiers wanting to provide audio testimony should dial 408-915-6290 and enter meeting code 221 418 021, also noted on today's agenda. Written testimony is highly, highly encouraged. Instructions on how to submit testimony can also be found at [mauicounty.us/testify](https://mauicounty.us/testify). Moving on to oral testimony. Oral testimony is limited to two minutes, two minutes per testifier, and a minute to follow up if needed. If you are still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. When testifying, please state your name. If you are testifying on behalf of an organization or are a paid lobbyist, please inform the Committee. Please be mindful of the use of chat during the meeting. Chat should not be used to provide testimony or chat with other testifiers. If you are here to provide testimony, please be courteous to others by turning off your video and muting your microphone while waiting for your turn to testify. Once you are done testifying, you will be asked to disconnect from the call; however, you are welcome to continue to view the remainder of the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or on [mauicounty.us](https://mauicounty.us). Participants who wish to view the meeting only without providing testimony, please also

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

disconnect at this time and instead view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or visit [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas). Only Councilmembers, and their Staff are going to...and designated resource personnel will be connected to the video conference meeting once testimony concludes. I remind Committee Members, Administration, and the public to please be patient if we run into any technological issues. So Members, without objection, I would like to proceed with oral testimony.

### **COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS**

CHAIR KAMA: Staff has been monitoring people joining today's meeting by phone and by video, and we'll do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. So Staff, can you please call our first testifier?

### **. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .**

MR. LEAUANAE: Thank you, Chair. Our first testifier is a person whose phone number ends in 8428, 8428, followed by Lauren Akitake.

CHAIR KAMA: 8428, are you there?

MS. KANAHELE: Yes.

CHAIR KAMA: Yes. This is Jill Kanahele.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. KANAHELE: And I'm representing tennis. I captain multiple teams, and I've... I help with the Wailuku Junior Program as well. And I have played some pickleball too, and I think of it as a growing sport. So my observations are tennis and pickleball have to be kept separate for safety and because of the difficulty of setting them up separately. Pickleball needs to have dedicated courts with permanent lines and smaller, lower nets. The courts are . . . *(inaudible)* . . . smaller, and the lines are extremely confusing if on a shared court. Pickleball without dedicated courts is a problem since you can't line a court because it takes time to lay the tape down, play for 45 minutes to an hour, and then be expected to give the court up to tennis players who may be waiting for a court; whereas tennis, you know, when we're sharing tennis courts, we just rotate in and out. Pickleball does deserve to have courts because we can't ignore that it's a great sport. It's growing, it's less demanding so it's good for older people, but it's...you know, can also be extremely athletic so...it's a great sport. You can have 32 people playing on two tennis courts, you know, if you set it up four courts per tennis court versus eight people on two tennis courts. But tennis is not a dying elitist sport, it's just different. It's, you know, something that...like me, I love to run, so it's a...it's having that bigger court and no limit to the kitchen and all of that is a real plus for me, but not to say I don't... I will play pickleball as well. My recommendation is to leave Wells Park alone because of the Junior Program and the fact that it's used heavily for leagues, non . . . *(inaudible)* . . . you know, after COVID we'll be using it even for weeknights. But currently it's just weekends

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

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for leagues, but it's busy seven days a week, morning until evening, with drop-in tennis. So...and the Junior Program . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . there goes from that, you know, it needs to remain a tennis facility. I recommend building a multi-court pickleball complex in Maui Lani or somewhere like that where it could be set up for future league play because that's definitely around the corner. So we can't ignore that we need courts for leagues for pickleball. But it just can't be --

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

MS. KANAHELE: -- done by taking tennis courts.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you for your testimony. Members, do you have any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much for your testimony. We certainly do appreciate you being here today.

MS. KANAHELE: You're welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, I have a question.

CHAIR KAMA: Oh, somebody had a question? I didn't see somebody.

MS. KANAHELE: Okay.

CHAIR KAMA: Is that you, Ms. Paltin? Sorry, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Sorry, I didn't catch your name.

MS. KANAHELE: Jill Kanahele.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Jill Kanahele. Okay. And I just wanted to clarify, you said you're the captain...you're the captain of what?

MS. KANAHELE: I captain teams throughout the year. We have tennis leagues like...you know, I probably captain ten leagues, ten different leagues and have multiple teams throughout the year, so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So you captain --

MS. KANAHELE: I just captain for the *(audio interference)*

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- tennis leagues. Okay. And then I didn't understand how kitchens relate to tennis.

MS. KANAHELE: Oh, for pickleball? Yeah, it's just the way that...the pickleball, in order to make it not unfair, they back everybody up about seven feet from the net. You can't step within that when you're playing pickleball to put away a ball in the air. You can let it bounce in the kitchen and then step in to get it, but you have to stay back seven

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

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feet from the net. So it's just in fairness because it's a small court. Tennis, you don't have that limitation.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So you call an area of the court kitchen?

MS. KANAHELE: In pickleball, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. KANAHELE: That's just a nickname.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MS. KANAHELE: It's a no volley zone is what it is.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It doesn't have anything to do with cooking.

MS. KANAHELE: No.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Just clarifying, clarifying. I never (*audio interference*) either before. Okay. Thank you.

MS. KANAHELE: You're welcome. Okay. Bye.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Member Paltin. Thank you, Jill. Could we have our next testifier? I think her name is Lauren.

MS. AKITAKE: Good afternoon, Committee Chair Kama and Members. My name is Lauren Akitake, and I'm testifying as an individual on agenda item HCP-40. I submitted written testimony this morning, so please review that as I was able to say much more in writing than here in...I'm a Maui born and raised tennis player. I joined the Wailuku Junior Tennis Club at age seven. I essentially spent my childhood playing tennis at the Wells Tennis Courts. I played tennis at Pomona College and for the University of Edenborough in Scotland when I studied abroad. Currently, I help to coach the Wailuku Junior Tennis Club, I play at Wells, KCC, and War Memorial tennis courts. So I'm here to say that my life is a testament to the lessons and opportunities that junior tennis on Maui has afforded me. And as my two children are now playing Wailuku Junior Tennis, I would really like the same for them and their generation. So there will be others who speak about different angles in support of the tennis community, but I'm testifying to advocate for children and youth of Maui County, specifically that it's essential for our children that there be available tournament quality tennis courts, and a safe and social environment for them to hone their skills. In my written testimony I explained four concerns. They are first that tennis and pickleball are discordant. There are safety concerns and risks between the communities. Altering...second, altering tennis courts will disadvantage our local youth, and tennis should not be an elitist sport. Third, overscheduling court usage that will risk the loss of opportunities to build a tennis community. And fourth, decisions on court time based on COVID time usage would be



# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

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short sighted. So just in closing, you know, there are a lot of long-time tennis community members who have dedicated their lives to playing, organizing, maintaining, protecting the tennis courts, and I want to share that these members are not the most politically or publicly vocal . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . So please don't let that lack of volume distract you in number or decibel because the heart and the dedication is there, and will be there for the test of time. Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Lauren. Members, do we have any questions for our testifier? Yes, Ms. Paltin, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, just wondering like, you know, since you mentioned youth tennis, and I'm assuming it is a high school sport, do they have high school pickleball, if you're aware?

MS. AKITAKE: I don't know that. I believe that other people will speak to that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MS. AKITAKE: But there's definitely high school tennis.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: There is high school tennis.

MS. AKITAKE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Just double checking that's still going on. Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Lauren, for coming and sharing your testimony with us. Staff, can we have the next testifier please?

MR. LEAUANAE: The next testifier is...has the last four numbers of their phone number 0752, 0752, followed by Mark Tillman.

CHAIR KAMA: 0752, are you there?

MS. NICOLOFF: Can you hear me?

CHAIR KAMA: I can hear you. We can hear you.

MS. NICOLOFF: Okay. Can you hear me? This is...hello?

CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

CHAIR KAMA: Yes, we can hear you.

MS. NICOLOFF: Okay. Hi, my name is Cathy Nicoloff. I'm representing the Maui Community

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

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Tennis Organization, I'm the Vice-President; and I'm also representing the USPTA, United States Professional Tennis Association, I am the President. I want to just point out that during the pandemic, our sport of tennis...and I'm definitely a tennis person, but I'm not an anti-pickleball person because I teach pickleball, I'm going to be a tester for pickleball, we know it's on the rise, we appreciate all you guys. I'm out there playing. So we totally understand each other. The problem with pickleball is they want to go on our tennis courts, and that leaves marks on the court. They want to push their nets down to make it a regulation for themselves...I mean, there's several things, the noise of pickleball. I know that private courts are using...like Kapalua, where I am right now, we have pickleball courts, but they're away from the tennis courts so that no...there's no interference of hearing it, and yet we can still have tennis and pickleball mutually going on. I just want to say that the Maui Community Tennis Organization has been a strong organization in our community, we've had over 25 years, held eight permitted leagues during the calendar year, have sponsored professional events like Challenger. We've fed cup the Brian brothers, we've hosted Tennis Block Party for tennis or...and their tennis adults and ten and under play, hosted several state champions, MIL, and sectional events with other...with like 200 to 400 participants. We've always represented tennis needs to our County representatives, which has resulted in the courts we have today. However, that relationship is now under stress due to others with interests to want to take away tennis courts versus working on building plans to what they need. Please stop allowing people from taking away our tennis courts and, you know, circumventing processes to get from point A . . . (timer sounds). . . to point B without going through the proper channels is what we're basically saying.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Cathy, for your testimony.

MS. NICOLOFF: Sure.

CHAIR KAMA: Members, questions for our testifier? I saw Chair Lee, and then followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hello. I would like to ask you a question about pickleball. I've never played it. But you said it's very noisy?

MS. NICOLOFF: Yeah, it'd be like...in tennis, you really want to be able to concentrate, and it's hard when you're hearing that sound. I know that I've taught tennis next to pickleball before...I work at two different facilities right now, we're at Lāhainā and Kapalua. And I can't...and I know I'm known for my volume on a tennis court, but I can't even hear what I'm trying to say, and they...and my students can't hear me. So it's not conducive for being next to each other. It's kind of like you don't want to be playing golf and have basketball next to golf, you know, it's just...you need to be able to concentrate on your sport. And like I said, again, we're not anti-pickleball. We love pickleball. It's just that, you know, it started up about four years ago, and we always shared our...you know, in the beginning we were sharing our courts that I fought for to keep--because we keep losing courts and I'm on committees to save them--and it's really hard when that...you know, you have different sports that are trying to be combined on to the same...you know, on the...you know, close to each other in proximity.

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

---

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

MS. NICOLOFF: Yeah, it's pretty noisy. Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Member Paltin, you had a question for our testifier?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Same question, that was the same question. I...I'm not familiar with pickleball noise and how it differs from tennis. So Member Lee asked my question.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. I think maybe we can ask the pickleball questions to the pickleball people when they come. That'd be a good idea, I think. I think the next testifier is Mark Tillman. Aloha Mark, *(audio interference)*

MR. TILLMAN: Aloha everyone.

CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. TILLMAN: Aloha everyone.

CHAIR KAMA: Aloha.

MR. TILLMAN: I'm here representing the USA Pickleball as the West Maui Ambassador. I'm here to advocate for pickleball for the entire island, but probably more so for the West Side. Having not visited many of the other places around the island, I hear from my fellow pickleballers in that there are certainly concerns that were expressed today for availability of space. On the west side, it's a little bit different. We've got nine courts up at the Lāhainā Civic Center. One has been turned into a permanent pickleball court, the other one has been turned into a permanent basketball court courtesy of Kemper Sports and the Maui Invitational. We have seven courts that remaining, and on any given day, there's only one, two, or maybe three courts that are in use. The thing about the West Side is that there are tennis courts up and down the highway, all the way from Lāhainā to Kapalua, every resort has multiple courts. Quite often people are gravitating more towards the Royal Lāhainā just simply because there are often the drop-in capability for what people are looking for in their busy schedule without having to schedule all kinds of matches. So what we're advocating for specifically, because I only got a minute left, is for more court use at Lāhainā Civic Center. As we...as I mentioned, we'll play with 16 people on the court at one time, that's four courts occupy one tennis court, and pretty much you could figure if someone mentioned that, you'll get 32 people playing throughout the course of the...oops, can you still hear me?

CHAIR KAMA: We can still hear you. Continue, Mark. I think you look --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: He's frozen.

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

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CHAIR KAMA: -- frozen. Yes, he's frozen. Staff, I think we might need to come back to Mr. Tillman, and if you would just clock his time, that would be cool.

MR. LEAUANAE: Will do, Chair.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Shall we go on to the next testifier?

MR. LEAUANAE: The next testifier is Greg Smith, followed by Laurie Loney.

CHAIR KAMA: Greg, would you like to begin your testimony?

MR. SMITH: Can you hear me?

CHAIR KAMA: Yes, we can hear you, Greg.

MR. SMITH: Okay. Well, first of all, thank you for the opportunity to address you. I have been one of the Pickleball Ambassadors here on Maui for the last four years, and we've seen this sport grow here on the island from about six of us four years ago to well over 150 to 200 players now. And the point is that if you'll remember the problem that the windsurfers had with the surfers many years ago, the surfers didn't want to share the ocean. And so we have a situation now where the tennis players want us to refrain from playing pickleball when there's no tennis players there at all. And we've documented this in 2019 prior to COVID. In the first 18 days of October, there were 758 pickleball players and 38 tennis players at the Waipuiani Course between 8:00 and noon. So the point is, is that we're wanting to share and willing to share. And we appreciate the tennis community wanting to keep the courts to themselves, but they're, in fact, public courts and they're paid for by all of our taxes --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They're fucking tennis courts, not pickleball courts.

MR. SMITH: Exactly, tennis courts. We want...because we play pickleball on the tennis courts, you see. We tape down the lines...so if you can imagine the pickleball court or a tennis court, you can place two or four pickleball courts in the exact same space that one tennis court takes up. And so it's just a matter of sharing, not forbidding other people to play. So we would just ask you, you know, when you strike gold and you can create a marvelous source of new pickleball courts for us . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . that would be great. But in the meantime, we can find an easy way to share the current facilities because those tennis courts are sitting vacant many, many hours in the day. And many of the pickleball players are seniors, and we can play in the mornings where the people are out working. So basically, that's it. We are not trying to fight with the tennis players, but we do want to be able to share them because they are public courts. And thank you --

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

MR. SMITH: -- for listening.

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Greg, for your testimony. So we have questions from the Members. Yes, Member Sugimura?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So you're an ambassador for pickleball. And I'm just wondering, as an ambassador, have you met with the tennis people?

MR. SMITH: We have.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Have you had meetings?

MR. SMITH: Yes, we have, several times, and we've had varying results. The initial meeting that Laurie Loney and I had with the tennis folks up in Kula was not very productive because they did not want to share under any circumstances. They were not willing to allow us to play as though those courts belonged to them.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. SMITH: And so we were able to hammer out a working relationship over the years.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. SMITH: You bet.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Greg. Member Paltin has a question also for you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Smith. I just wanted to clarify, you know, because the tennis folks so far that testified said about the issue of noise and incompatibility, is it only when the courts are not at all being used that you want to have the right to modify it for pickleball? Or like if there was a line for tennis, would tennis, because it's a tennis court, get precedent? Or was your position as a pickleball ambassador only if the courts are not being used, let's retape it and do pickleball? I'm not clear on that.

MR. SMITH: That's a very good question. The Maui Parks and Recreation Department has clarified for us in several meetings that these are public courts, and they can be used by the public, providing that we follow all of the public court rules; no dogs, no dark soled shoes, no bicycles, or skateboards, et cetera. And it really is not a day-to-day problem that we have with the tennis community, it just doesn't happen. I mean, I played this morning up in Kula, no problem. So it's...I believe it's just kind of overblown.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You're not advocating that...you're not advocating that tennis take precedence on tennis courts, it's more of a first come, first serve kind of deal?

MR. SMITH: Well, according to the Park and Recreation rules, it is first come, first served. And if there are people waiting, if they're playing singles, no matter what sport it is, you can play for 45 minutes and then you give up the court. If you're playing doubles, you play for one hour. And those are in the Maui Park and Recreation rules.

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

MR. SMITH: You bet.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Chair Lee, you have a question for our testifier?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, how do you become an ambassador?

MR. SMITH: Well, besides being very good looking, it was someone who had a lot of interest in this game. We discovered it down in Mexico four years ago, and it was like, what is this crazy game, and it was so much fun to play. And so we brought it back here, and it was a matter of planting a very fertile seed that very quickly grew because it's so easy to play. And I'd just like to invite all of you to come, at your convenience, anytime there's a pickleball game going on and see for yourself.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, I just wondered...just wondered how one became an ambassador and what kind of responsibility do you have to have besides being good looking.

MR. SMITH: Well, that's a big part of it, of course, but mainly it's a matter of growing the sport, keeping things fair and even. And Laurie Loney, the other early ambassador and myself have met, as I mentioned, several times with the tennis people. And the fact that on this island we can't find a way to live together in the aloha spirit is absolutely mind boggling to me.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

MR. SMITH: Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you very much, Mr. Smith, for your testimony. Staff, our next testifier, I think, is Laurie?

MR. LEAUANAE: Yes, Laurie --

CHAIR KAMA: Laurie, are you there?

MS. LONEY: Can you hear me now? Hello?

CHAIR KAMA: Yes, I can. Please proceed.

MS. LONEY: Okay. Hi.

CHAIR KAMA: Go ahead, Laurie.

MS. LONEY: Hi, my name is Laurie Loney and Greg had just mentioned that I'm also an ambassador for pickleball, but I feel like I've been an ambassador for pickleball on Maui for 50 years, more than 50 years because I have been playing it that long, and I've also

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

---

been playing tennis for 50 years. I've played them both almost all my life. I love both of them, and I respect the tennis players' rights to their courts and how protective they are for it. So therefore, I am lobbying to please get you to start funding, budgeting, for our own facilities so we don't have to play on the tennis courts. It would be a win-win for everybody. But in the meantime, we have nowhere else to play, I'm afraid. We do not need as much room as a tennis court, so we are using some tennis courts right now. We have nowhere else to play. There are private courts. We loved playing at Eddie Tam Gym before COVID because it was no wind, no sun, it was the best. You know, we cannot play pickleball...I mean, you can, but it's not fun in a hurricane wind...trade winds, I mean. I know we have some of that going on, on Maui. So when we ask you to build new facilities on the island, please keep in mind that you're going to have to please build some kind of windbreak for us. It would be really awesome. Kula is the ultimate spot because it's not as windy, but we know that the tennis players don't want us up there. So we are very careful how we deal with using those courts. We try to, you know, tape it every time, remove the tape every time, and it's wasteful. And we put up our own portable nets which we purchased ourselves. We do the same thing at Waipuilani Park, put up our own nets, take them down because Waipuilani is way overloaded with players. Central Maui desperately needs their own courts, they have nothing. They share War Memorial courts. We'd much rather have their own courts. It's a big population. They need their own courts. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . And I wanted to tell you that this game is a wonderful game for seniors as well as kids. It's such great activity. It gets the seniors out and social. You have to understand how important it is to us seniors as well as kids playing alongside them. Anyway, thank you for your time.

CHAIR KAMA: Than you, Laurie. I think we have some questions from Member Paltin.

MS. LONEY: Hi.

CHAIR KAMA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hi. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Loney. I forgot to ask this question from the other pickleball ambassador, but is pickleball a high school sport as well, like an MIL or anything?

MS. LONEY: No, it is not, but we hope someday it will be. I know my daughters played in high school...I mean not high school, but intermediate school at Kalama School for PE. It's much easier to learn than tennis for kids and anybody...smaller area, easier to learn. I hope to see it in the Olympics, and I hope to see it in high school sports.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And is there any steps being taken to add it to the MIL or the State roster? Like surfing didn't used to be a high school sport when I was in high school, and now those kids are lucky. And like even paddling --

MS. LONEY: We haven't gotten that far yet. But I'm sure it would be a really great intramural sport, you know, because it's a little easier to play than tennis. Tennis is very much the same, you're using a ball and a paddle, but it's a slower ball, it has pukas in it, it's...we call it puka ball. It's a light plastic ball and it's easier to hit. It's easier for young

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

children to play. And I think we could definitely have it as an MIL, but we haven't gotten that far.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So you would start it off as intramural before going to like...is there any college pickleball? Could people get scholarship to go to college for it, or...

MS. LONEY: Not that I'm aware of. But we do have huge tournaments all over this country with...I mean, tournaments like 800,000 people playing in them. We have one coming up in Maui in January. It's...we're starting, it's just gotten so huge so fast that it's hard to keep up. It's huge on all, country, four million people playing it now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So just a matter of time then until you can get a pickleball scholarship?

MS. LONEY: These things take time, I guess.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. I had another idea, but I don't think that anybody wants to hear it.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Staff, would you please call the next testifier please?

MR. LEAUANAE: The next testifier is the person whose phone number ends in 8673, 8673, followed by 9378, 9378.

CHAIR KAMA: 8673, last four digits of your phone. Are you there?

MR. ERICKSON: Hello?

CHAIR KAMA: Hello.

MR. ERICKSON: Can you hear me?

CHAIR KAMA: We can hear you, yes.

MR. ERICKSON: Okay. Good afternoon. I'm Dr. Mark Erickson, a full-time resident and --

MR. LEAUANAE: Excuse me, Chair?

MR. LAU: Hello.

MR. ERICKSON: -- homeowner.

MR. LAU: Yeah.

CHAIR KAMA: We have a couple people on the call.

MR. LAU: Hello?



# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

---

CHAIR KAMA: We're looking for...hello. I'm looking for the testifier last digits 8673.

MR. LAU: Yes, that's my number. My name is Ron Lau.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. LAU: Can you hear me?

CHAIR KAMA: Yes, Ron, go ahead.

MR. LAU: My name is Ron Lau, my wife is Becky Lau, she's 76 years old, I'm 77 years old. We live in the country in Ha'ikū. We started playing pickleball about two and a half years ago, and we...our home court here is in the country in the fields of Ha'ikū. And I've been really trying to get some country pickleball here, and the County Parks Department...we volunteered to paint lines in the field house next to the school, the County refused us. They said that it was built for basketball. I told, what you call, Karma Peters that when the field house was built, pickleball wasn't around. And I agree with all the other testifiers in the short two and a half years we've been playing it, I've seen the number of pickleball literally triple or quadruple. And one reason I really love pickleball is because I'm 77, my youngest of 5 grandkids is 15, out of our ohana of 12 of us, 8,9 of us love pickleball. It's for everyone. And as far as tennis goes, I love tennis too, but I don't play it. I took tennis lessons, okay. But I couldn't get a tennis social life that pickleball forms it. I cannot tell you how many nice people I have met in pickleball and how much exercise we've gotten, how fast the sport is growing. And for people who are negative against pickleball, I don't understand it. I've played volleyball, I've done martial arts, I took up surfing. You can do all those things. You can play tennis. You can play pickleball. You don't have to be exclusive. The part of the tennis community that really upsets me is their exclusive attitude. You have to be quiet on a tennis court . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . give me a break, I've played doubles beach volleyball and --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Time is up.

MR. LAU: -- I'm sorry. But you know what? Let's all get together, let's all play together, let's open the gyms for pickleball. On Saturdays you go to Hāli'imaile Gym, you go to Pā'ia Gym, they're all closed. And as far as the lines go, if you go to Wailuku Gym, there's lines for badminton, there's lines for volleyball, there's lines for basketball...and sorry if you can't figure out what lines is for what sport, I'm sorry. Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Ron. Members, I think Member Sinenci has a question for you, Mr. Lau. Go ahead, Mr. Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo Chair, and yeah, just clarification. So Mr. Lau, it does require a hard surface to play the game, the ball actually bounces?

MR. LAU: Of pickleball? Yes, I totally agree.

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

MR. LAU: It does require a hard surface.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Mr. Sinenci. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So I just wanted to clarify as well that if you have multiple lines on some court, it doesn't confuse you as a pickleball player?

MR. LAU: No, no. I am a health and PE major.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You're a what?

MR. LAU: Hello? I'm a health and physical education major. I've taught sports in the gym overseas and here in Hawai'i, and the gym lines...you will get used to very fast what is the badminton line, or if there's a volleyball line. And I'm sorry, but go into War Memorial Gym and look at all the lines they have. Go into Eddie Tam Gym and look at all the lines they have. And tennis players, if you can't figure out what is the tennis line, maybe you shouldn't be playing tennis. I'm sorry.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Lau, for your service. You know, PE was my favorite subject.

MR. LAU: Yeah, did I have you at Lihikai Elementary School back in 1974?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, I wasn't born yet. Thanks though.

MR. LAU: Oh, I'm sorry. Us old guys, we forget how old we are.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Member Paltin --

MR. LAU: But you know what?

CHAIR KAMA: -- thank you, Mr. Lau.

MR. LAU: Come and join us. Come and join us, please do. Okay. Mahalo.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Staff, our next testifier please?

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

---

MR. LEAUANAE: The next testifier is the person with the last four digits of their phone number 9378, 9378.

MR. ERICKSON: Hello, I'm 9378.

CHAIR KAMA: Go ahead, 9378, yes.

MR. ERICKSON: Yeah, I'm Dr. Mark Erickson. I'm a full-time resident and homeowner in Makawao. I'd like to say pickleball started in 1965 in Bainbridge Island, Washington by Congressman Joel Pritchard, and it started on Maui shortly after in the 1960s. It's an easy game to learn. Newcomers can come and quickly start and join the game without a long learning curve. The USA Pickleball Association has grown 325 percent in the last 36 months; 75 percent of the regular court players are 55 and older. I have maintained my weight and feel in good shape thanks to pickleball. A 160-pound adult can burn 250 calories playing pickleball for 30 minutes in casual play. A 200-pound adult will burn 350 calories during 30 minutes of casual play. During more competitive play, you can burn an extra 100 to 150 calories. In a society that is becoming more and more obese, it is a very good way to have fun, be social, and stay healthy. The Department of Parks and Recreation should strive to promote the health and welfare of all of its Maui residents. Pickleball players can be as young as six years old. Many older players play with artificial knees, hips, and shoulders. Many schools have pickleball as part of their physical education. You can fit three courts in a gym, and have 12 students play a game that averages 10 to 15 minutes. Pickleball court is 44 feet long and 20 feet wide, the same as a badminton court. If it's properly built, you can fit four pickleball courts in the same area as one tennis court. This is a cost-effective way to offer good recreation opportunities with many health benefits for those who choose to play pickleball. The sport is addicting, and tourist travel with their tulip pickleball rackets looking for new opportunities to continue playing a sport that they love. Pickleball players do not want to take anything away from those who enjoy and are dedicated to tennis. There should not be friction between the two sports. But pickleball players also pay taxes, and we vote here in Maui. Their needs should be taken seriously. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Tennis courts are very expensive and should be multi-purpose facilities. We can both share the courts. If existing courts cannot be multipurposed, then upcountry Maui would need eight dedicated pickleball courts, the same space as two corner tennis courts, to meet the future demands of this rapid growing sport. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Dr. Erickson. Members, do we have any questions for Dr. Erickson? Seeing none and hearing none, thank you very much for your testimony. Staff, our next two testifiers please?

MR. LEAUANAE: The next testifier is Stephen Sutrov, followed by Leilani.

CHAIR KAMA: Mr. Sutrov, would you like to begin your testimony?

MR. SUTROV: Okay. I'm here, how do I get my video on? Okay.

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

---

CHAIR KAMA: Working on your video?

MR. SUTROV: Okay. Unmute video...here I am. Okay.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. SUTROV: Aloha everyone.

CHAIR KAMA: Welcome.

MR. SUTROV: Yuki Lei, hi, it's good to see you again. And Alice, thank you. And Chairman Kama, thank you for the meeting. Hopefully you had time to read my testimony. It was long winded --

CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. SUTROV: -- and I'm not going to try to get through three paragraphs in two minutes or two paragraphs in two minutes. But yes, I'm in Kula up here, and I've been part of the process of getting our park, the tennis courts, the two, three, and four. Court one and two was done back with Linda Lingle and Charmaine Tavares, they were in creating that. But we've been working on the park up in Kula, Kula tennis courts, for a number of years, for...going on 22 years. I've been up there with Janet, and we've been instigating, you know, master plan \$80,000 the County put towards that in 2002, which we still want to see fulfilled in someday of a total of six tennis courts, a real restroom . . . *(inaudible)*. . . a porta potty for 22 years up there, additional parking, and reconfigure things, and pass the park area. We submitted plans for it four years ago with a presentation to our past Mayor, who was a bit tired and unreceptive, and a Parks Planner that was ready to retire, and a Parks Director at that time that was a novice and wasn't interested in listening to us. But yes, we still are active trying to get additional two tennis courts up there, six total, so we can have junior play and programs like Wells Park has so people Upcountry don't have to go all the way to town or join a club for their kids to play. So leagues can have full league play . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . up there, which we can't do now when we only get two courts out of four per the County rules for league play. And so yes, we need more tennis courts, we don't need less. The two tennis courts that...getting to pickleball, pickleball is a great sport, it's growing, and Laurie and I talk. I've never met Greg Smith. He says he's talked to people in Kula. I've never met him, and I would like to talk with him one on one on this because if he's instigating working with the community, he should be talking to me. I'm the guy the community calls when there's problems at the court with tennis and pickleball. And --

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Mr. Sutrov.

MR. SUTROV: -- pickleball has two days a week right now, Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Laurie and I talked, Laurie Loney, the other pickleball ambassador, she's the --

CHAIR KAMA: Mr. Sutrov, we have a question from Members. So if you would allow them to ask you a question.

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

MR. SUTROV: Okay.

CHAIR KAMA: Go ahead, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to clarify. You're saying that in order to get a league going in Kula, you need two more tennis courts. Is that what you said?

MR. SUTROV: I've been a captain for tennis, and most leagues are...there's, you need at least two courts...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then what is --

MR. SUTROV: Two-court minimum --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- what is a league?

MR. SUTROV: -- will mean that you have to spend playing, hours playing. You need...if you have four...six courts like Wells Park you have four courts you can play on for a league play. Most leagues are...it's a two...it's three matches, half a league or more are five matches. This is something maybe Mike Kinoshita might want to ring in on too. And right now, I've had leagues up there, but it takes all day to play in matches with just two courts. If I had...if there's six courts, I'd be able to use three courts for league play. Seabury Hall, when they have matches up there, they spend all day. They have six hours to get their matches done because they don't...they use all four courts, but still they need all four courts for six hours to get their matches done.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So is a league and a club two different things, or is that...in tennis there's not clubs?

MR. SUTROV: I'm sorry, the league and club?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I'm not clear what constitutes a league. I'm a non-tennis, non-tennis...

MR. SUTROV: Councilmember, a league is a USTA sanctioned leagues that you join, you pay to join, that's...USTA rents the courts from the County, and we get said days and times to play those matches. And we're only allowed to get two courts out of four to play those league matches in Kula. So that has stifled me from wanting to get up teams in Kula recently because they only get two courts, and it's hard to get the matches done with just two courts.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And can we clarify --

MR. SUTROV: More courts are necessary to play league play up there.

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- like what is the difference between a league and a team?

MR. SUTROV: A league and a team? The teams are on the league, I guess. You know, it's a...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. But team is a smaller...smaller than a league?

MR. SUTROV: The teams, they constitute the league. You have a league full of teams.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the teams play matches against each other?

MR. SUTROV: Yeah, you have teams in a league. A league, it consists of, I mean, five or six teams that play each other and you play...then you go to sectionals, you play other islands and...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I think it's getting more clear for me. Sorry, I wasn't a...no sports with balls for me, sorry. Thanks.

CHAIR KAMA: Chair Lee, you have a question for our testifier? You're muted, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Sorry. Where do you buy all your equipment from, the paddles and the balls and the nets?

MR. SUTROV: I'm sorry, buy your equipment from, paddles and balls and nets, where do I buy them?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, where can anyone buy them?

MR. SUTROV: Can anybody buy them? What are you talking about? I'm sorry, Chairman.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Where do you get them on Maui?

MR. SUTROV: Where do I get what made? I'm sorry?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The paddles, the balls, and the net.

MR. SUTROV: The paddles, the balls, and the nets. I'm a tennis player. I...we buy our tennis rackets and we have them strung --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, no, I'm talking about pickleball.

MR. SUTROV: -- we buy our balls at Costco.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. You can get them locally. Okay. Thank you.

MR. SUTROV: All right.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair Lee.

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

MR. SUTROV: Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: I think our next testifier is Leilani.

MR. SUTROV: Yuki Lei has a question.

CHAIR KAMA: Oh, I'm sorry. Member Sugimura --

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: One quick question.

CHAIR KAMA: -- did you have a question for Mr. Sutrov?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, I did.

CHAIR KAMA: Oh, go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: So as an avid tennis person in my community, and I wonder if you also take just as good care of the courts it seems like. Can you talk about any kind of extra cleaning you may do or...

MR. SUTROV: That needs to be done now?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, no, no, that you have done.

MR. SUTROV: Yeah, I have done. I'm the guy who rehanges all the windscreens when they fall down about maybe four or five times a year, I'm the guy who makes sure the court surfaces are clean every morning Sundays before we start with large groups there to play our Sunday round robins drop in. I work with the County when we need new nets, and we've done...in the past we've done major landscaping clearing of the heavy brush, the tennis community has. Yeah, we maintain the courts up there more than the County does. The County works on the outside. We're responsible...I clean up broken glass from bottles in the parking lot every time I go up there. We're the ones that do all that and --

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. SUTROV: --yes, it's our love and it's our park, and so we take care of it.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Sutrov.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Mr. Sutrov.

MR. SUTROV: My pleasure.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Well, having no more questions from our Members, I think Leilani is our next testifier. Leilani, are you there? Leilani, you're the next testifier. I don't see her.

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

Staff, are you able to call up the next testifier?

MR. LEAUANAE: Thank you, Chair. If it's okay with you, we're going to call back Mark Tillman. He was able to rejoin us.

CHAIR KAMA: Absolutely, yes. Thank you, yes.

MR. LEAUANAE: He's got a minute left.

CHAIR KAMA: Welcome back, Mr. Tillman.

MR. TILLMAN: Sorry about that. We had a little bit of a battery issue.

CHAIR KAMA: Yeah, I'm sure. Can you continue your testimony?

MR. TILLMAN: Well, as I was saying that naturally with the owners of the island just simply giving testimony regarding West Side is that we're not looking to displace anyone, we're just looking to utilize what's existing there. I hear with the testimony, and I would clearly agree that we don't want to get into a dispute with tennis players and pickleball players. The noise issue is an issue. The court availability is an issue. In Lāhainā, that's not the issue. We have plenty of space, we just don't have...we just simply need to develop another court or two in order to be able to accommodate all those that want to play. So with that, I'll open it up to questions.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you very much. Members, do we have questions for Mr. Tillman?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, I have a question.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Yes, Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering, a lot of the testifiers have been general Maui, wondering if you have spoken with West Maui tennis players, if they have issue with sharing the courts? I know Nāpili converted one side to four pickleballs, and then you're saying the Civic Center as well. Are you hearing the same kind of sentiment in West Maui as some of the testifiers have been saying about, they don't want to lose any tennis courts? Like what are you advocating for, like more strictly...you're not advocating for conversion, you're advocating for just building a pickleball area or...I'm not clear. I'm trying to clarify.

MR. TILLMAN: Well, Tamara, you're familiar with the Lāhainā Civic Center and all the tennis courts up there. As I mentioned in my previous time that there was nine courts, one has been converted to pickleball permanently. There's the Dream Court, the basketball court up there, and then seven tennis courts that are greatly underutilized. Before I begin with that, let's just go back to Nāpili. The County built the most beautiful pickleball courts up in Nāpili. But as you know, Tamara, that Nāpili, like Kapalua, has a little bit of adverse weather with wind and rain more often than we do in Lāhainā. Lāhainā, because of its proximity with Hawaiian Homes right next to us and most of our



# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

players coming right from Lāhainā Town itself, becomes the magnet for where everybody wants to join up and play. Because pickleball, kind of unlike tennis, is more of a social event where people drop in without coming with four dedicated players, and they'll drop in and they'll drop back out in a half hour or 45 minutes. We have the Lāhainā Fire Station captain who comes virtually every morning, Captain Kono Davis. We have policemen that are coming and showing up a lot of times in the evening. Lieutenant Garret Tihada, avid pickleball player, loves coming out. We get our fair share of tourists that are visiting and they contact me as the ambassador because my name and number is posted out for places to play and will ask me, before they even schedule a vacation, will there be availability of pickleball, and what level of competition. So it's beginning to have a draw of its own as far as attracting tourists. With the present situation of things like the Maui Invitational Basketball Tournament, whether it ever comes back or not, we're always looking for those other avenues in which to funnel tourists back to Maui, to a certain degree.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just wanted to clarify if you have reached out to the Lāhainā tennis community, and if they're okay with more conversion at Lāhainā Civic Center.

MR. TILLMAN: I think some of their...there's virtually no one around to communicate with. And I'm going to invite you to come up on a few assorted mornings, we start at 7:00, and you can, you know, hang out there until 9:00, and you may see one court occupied. As I've mentioned, I think most of them are going down to the Royal Lāhainā Tennis Ranch because it does provide that avenue for a great drop in experience is where most of us are at any more is we don't have the ability to pull four people together and spend two hours together. We've got a very abbreviated time. And that's the joy of pickleball is that it allows one to just jump in and jump out, whatever suits their time.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

MR. TILLMAN: Come join me.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Ms. Paltin. Thank you, Mr. Tillman. So Members, we have 33 testifiers who signed up. Leilani will be our 11th testifier. I would not like to recess this meeting, so our outcome today is up to all of you. So I just want to leave that with you. So Leilani, if you are there, we'd like to hear your testimony please. Okay, I don't see Leilani. So Staff, can we go to the next testifier please?

MR. LEAUANAE: The next testifier is Ann Pitcaithley, followed by Miles Matsui.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay, Ann, are you here?

MS. PITCAITHLEY: Yes, I am. Can you hear me?

CHAIR KAMA: Oh, yes, we can. Please continue. Thank you.

MS. PITCAITHLEY: Very good. Aloha, Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee meeting...I mean Committee Members. I'm so grateful to have this opportunity to speak on behalf of the

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

---

Maui Pickleball Community. I've lived here for 32 years. I'm a former tennis player. I've been playing pickleball, however, for the last two and a half years, and I was hooked the first time I played it. I'm applying...there isn't a current pickleball ambassador in Central Maui, and I'm applying for that through the USA Pickleball Association. So I'm representing Central Maui, but I also go to Ha'ikū Fieldhouse. I also go to the Waipulani Park in Kihei to play. So you'll hear it, and you've heard it over and over again in the eComment section, Maui...I mean, pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the U.S.

CHAIR KAMA: Yes, yes.

MS. PITCAITHLEY: Well, as stated by the *Sports Business Journal* last September, they stated pickleball is growing at a rate that's almost unprecedented in the history of American sports. It's a phenomenon, nobody saw it coming, right. And within the last two years in Maui, Maui has witnessed an explosive growth in which the demand has far exceeded the availability of public courts. The result is crowds, long waiting lines, situations growing more urgent, and it's becoming a crisis. I helped started an online petition with input from ambassadors entitled, "Maui Needs More Pickleballs Courts Now" and that was sent to all of you, the Mayor and Parks and Rec. I think the last count I had yesterday was 538 signature. *Akakū TV* made a movie for us...aired it on *Akakū* and also, it's now on YouTube it's called Maui Pickleball People on YouTube. So in applying the principal of . . .(timer sounds). . . inclusion, pickleball players could have greater access to recreational . . .(inaudible). . . We're all taxpayers and our numbers certainly justify it. Can I just add something?

CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MS. PITCAITHLEY: That I played tennis while they were playing pickleball in the next court, and it wasn't an issue for me, the sound, and I'm not hard of hearing. So anyway...

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony, Ann. Members, do we have...yeah.

MS. PITCAITHLEY: Can I add one thing? The question...there was a question, is it done in high schools? And yes, Baldwin is playing. Baldwin High School is playing at the War Memorial courts, the park courts, and Maui High School is playing pickleball at the Kahului Community Center Courts, okay. Carden Academy has pickleball. I think...you know, Kalama Intermediate has pickleball. YMCA is building a pickleball court. And who knew that the prisons have pickleball courts now because they know it reduces stress. So it goes beyond with, you know, the public playing, right. So yeah, it's...to add another thing, it's a really low financial investment because it's...one pickleball court is one-fourth the size of a tennis court.

CHAIR KAMA: Right.

MS. PITCAITHLEY: So we bring our own nets, we just need the surface and we need the lines, which we would volunteer putting in. So anyway...

CHAIR KAMA: Well, thank you, Ann. Members, do we have questions for Ann? Okay, seeing

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

---

none. Thank you so much for your testimony, and for your written testimony.

MS. PITCAITHLEY: Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. I think our next testifier is Miles Matsui. Miles, are you there?

MR. MATSUI: Hello. Yes, I'm here.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay, please proceed.

MR. MATSUI: Miles Matsui. I've been playing tennis for over 40 years here on Maui. I participated in USTA adult leagues, assisted with coaching juniors at the Wailuku Junior Tennis Club. I've helped with officiating State level junior tournaments here held on Maui, and I also assisted in coaching on high school level. I've played pickleball, I have nothing against it; in fact, I enjoyed it immensely. And as my tennis days wind down because of my...it's a very demanding sport physically, I imagine I'll be playing...transitioning to pickleball. The problem is...well, there's several problems. Pickleballers use a plastic ball and hard racquets that cause a loud sound on contact . . .*(banging on desk)*. . . You hear that? That's what it sounds like. This is distracting as...for the tennis players, as well as any close neighborhoods. Pickleball courts are smaller and have their own lines, a multi-use would mean additional lines. And tennis courts...when you're playing tennis, the ball is moving at a very high pace. So to pick out that tennis ball landing in or out of a line is very difficult to begin with. When you've had additional lines, it becomes very, very conducive to arguments and disagreements on whether or not the ball was in or out. Pickleball nets are lower than the standard 36-inch height nets for tennis. There's a cable that maintains tension so that the net can stay at the proper height. Loosening and tightening that net is very difficult at best. They were trying to pull the nets down with the straps, which adds more tension on the cable and the post, and it's not good because these are rusting items that are subject to the weather...eventually they're going to give up. Pickleball games take about 15 to 20 minutes for...to finish a game, so pickleball players can rotate in and out frequently, which means . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . people are moving in and out onto the courts. I have a very good solution short term that other tennis players might not agree with, but why don't we take the two courts, upper courts . . .*(inaudible)*. . . and turn those entirely into pickleball courts so you can have eight courts there, and they can have their own facility right there, and it'll satisfy all the Central Maui needs. Thank you very much.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Mr. Matsui. Members, questions...oh, yes, Mr. Sinenci. You have a question for our testifier?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, thank you. Just...I didn't hear that last part, Mr. Matsui. Where would we be converting those tennis courts?

MR. MATSUI: As I said, as other tennis players might not agree, but I think pickleballers do deserve to have some court usage. And rather than having multi-use, which is not good for anyone, perhaps you could dedicate the upper two courts at War Memorial, the courts that are closer to Baldwin High, which are...have wooden fences around them.

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

Take the posts out that support the tennis courts, put new posts in and put...make those dedicated...you could have eight pickleball courts there to service a lot of pickleball players. If you make a little gate on the upper end and put a bleachers on the outside, they can come in and out as they transition every 15 to 20 minutes...a game is over, new players go in, old players go out...it would seem like a simple solution at minimal cost to keep all parties happy.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR KAMA: You're welcome, Mr. Sinenci. Seeing no other Members with questions, Staff, can you please call up our next testifier, please.

MR. LEAUANAE: Next testifier is Shaun, and then followed by the person with phone number ending in 4608...4608.

CHAIR KAMA: Shaun, are you there?

MR. THAYER: Hi. I'm Shaun Thayer.

CHAIR KAMA: Yes. Proceed.

MR. THAYER: And Maui...Maui has a large and dedicated tennis community due to the public courts that are available here, and that's something special because in most places, you have to belong to a racquet club or a private country club to have these facilities. I play in the morning, afternoons and evenings, and there's usually somebody waiting to play tennis after I'm done. I grew up playing at Wells Park, and now I'm teaching my kids to play tennis at, you know, KCC, War Memorial, Wells Park, wherever we can get a court. I haven't witnessed any of the issues with the pickleball players as far as, you know, adverse encounters that some of the pickleball testifiers have mentioned. You know, I hope that's really not the case...I think that's unfortunate. My big concern is that the County solution will be to put pickleball lines on the tennis courts. My first concern is that it's a safety issue with slipping on the lines, which can cause severe lower leg injuries. And also, when you play at a high level and the ball is traveling 90 to 100 miles an hour, you can't differentiate between the lines that are close to each other. And so you kind of make the tennis courts unusable, and then everybody loses. And also, the noise is extremely distracting. I think that pickleball should have its own facilities, as the pickleball testifiers have mentioned. Wind is adverse to pickleball, and it's always windy in town. And the gyms, I think we agree, are underutilized. So what if we put...opened up the gyms that are not utilized to pickleball players. It would give them a perfect condition with no wind. It would keep the noise into those indoor environments; and it would, I think, keep, you know, any harsh reactions or, you know, confrontation within those two communities from occurring. And it's...you know, we can have a win-win situation. I think all activity is good and we shouldn't, you know, cannibalize one for the other. Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Thank you very much, Shaun. Members, questions for our testifier? Yes, Ms. Paltin.

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering if you had any input on that idea from the basketball folks, Mr. Thayer, I believe.

MR. THAYER: No, I haven't spoken with the basketball community on this. It was just an idea because we've had several testifiers mention that the gyms are closed, you know, they used to play at Eddie Tam and I've played, you know, 40 and over and adult basketball at War Memorial. And I live in Wailuku...Kahului/Wailuku, and whenever I drive by, the gym is closed. So I think that it's not being used a good portion of the time, and it could...they could set up an open gym where the pickleball players could go in there and, you know, I think satisfy that community, you know, essentially no cost to the County.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

MR. THAYER: Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

MR. LAVEK: Hello, my name is Rod Lavek.

CHAIR KAMA: I'm sorry I don't think we are calling you just yet. Are you number 4608?

MR. LAVEK: That is correct.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay, okay. Well, thank you, Shaun, for your testimony. And go right ahead, number 4608 and identify yourself please.

MR. LAVEK: My name is Rod Lavek, and I'm a pickleball player...I used to be a tennis ball player, and I play behind the War Memorial on Tuesdays, Thursdays and at Ha'ikū on Saturdays. And what we really need up there is the lines being just like the tennis lines up there and that...and the last gentleman was talking about can't see the ball in tennis; if you're up by the kitchen and the ball is coming, it's a lot quicker game up there when you're playing really good players. It's reaction time, which is a lot quicker. And you need to have lines on the pickleball court instead of being green at the War Memorial where you can see the lines as being the white, just like the tennis courts are. And we need to have real pickleball nets up there because the tension makes a big difference in pickleball with top spin when you're aiming for the tab on the net or aiming for the strip on the white band on the net because the ball will slowly drop over the net or run down that line on the tension of the court. And I'd urge every tennis player to watch a pickleball game because you'll be amazed at what these people can do and when they can do on the court with that ball. They can curve it, going all the way outside the court. They hit around the net because that's another play they do, and just the speed of the game is totally different from tennis. So that's all I have to say, and I would suggest that upper Wailuku they do the court and put real pickleball nets up there because there's a lot of people...kids from this island that will go play in tournaments and become pros in pickleball. I will guarantee it. Thank you.

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Mr. Lavek. Members, any questions for our testifier. Seeing none. Staff, will you please call the next testifiers up please.

MR. LEAUANAE: The next testifier is Emily Collins, followed by a person signed up as Guest 1.

CHAIR KAMA: Emily Collins. Oh, there you are, Emily. Please proceed with your testimony. We can't hear you, Emily. You want to try that again? We still can't hear you.

MS. COLLINS: Can you hear me now?

CHAIR KAMA: Okay, yes, we can hear you now. Thank you.

MS. COLLINS: Okay. Great. So I play tennis and I play pickleball, so I kind of understand the concerns of both sides. I usually play on the weekends, so I am involved in the tennis league, and then I also play on weeknights. And what I've been noticing in the central courts--so Baldwin, Wells and KCC--is that the pickleballers have been coming more often. And I would agree with what Jill said, the first testifier, about Wells Courts being important...for Wells Courts to be for tennis only, but I also agree with Mr. Matsui about possibly converting the top two courts at War Memorial for pickleball purposes. I think having those designated for pickleball only would not only allow for more pickleball opportunity because you could turn two tennis courts into more than two pickleball courts, but it's also got some separation between the top two courts and the bottom two courts there, so the noise would be less problematic for the tennis players. And the top two courts at Baldwin are the ones with those lines that people keep talking about, the pickleball court lines on the tennis courts. So that would be my suggestion. Ideally there would be a separate pickleball place in Central Maui.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Emily, for your testimony. Members, do we have any questions for Emily? If not, thank you very much, Emily, for your testimony.

MS. COLLINS: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Rest assured that we've heard everything you are all saying. Thank you. I think we're looking for Guest 1 as the next testifier. Guest 1? I don't see Guest 1. Staff, can we go on to the next testifier please.

MR. LEAUANAE: Sure. The next testifier is Joseph Blackburn, followed by Tyler.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay, Mr. Blackburn are you here?

MR. BLACKBURN: Yeah, I'm here, but my video...my video...oh, there you go.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. You can see you still. Thank you.

MR. BLACKBURN: Awesome. Thank you, Councilmembers. Okay. Basketball coach for 40 years, just love being with the kids. When you look at our situation, there's not enough

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

gyms for even basketball right now, there's only two gyms in Central Maui. And both are used heavily, and they're also used for other things. Wailuku Gym is used by Īao School almost all day long, and War Memorial has special events. So trying to take away gyms for other uses besides basketball becomes very difficult because there's really not enough there. Then because of COVID-19 we were coaching outdoors, and I was amazed how many kids just walk up with slippers and a basketball to our outdoor courts. And I'm sitting there going, okay...because the rule is you got to share the court. And we tell the kids, oh, you know what? Take half the court. But it was a real eye opener. It's the cheapest sport for a kid, all right. All it takes is a basketball from your friend and a pair of slippers, and hopefully if you get good, we'll get you a pair of shoes. I'm a true advocate for our youth, and I truly believe that trying to do functions that take away from the basketball situation is difficult. Our parks is already struggling with so many responsibilities and trying to maintain the outdoor courts and the indoor courts and then maintaining them for different sports becomes very, very difficult. And I just want to thank Parks for their wonderful menehune league. It's so exciting to have the kids back in the gyms. And the parents are excited, they were with them in the gyms the other night. And we're excited as coaches because we get to actually be part of the video that the County was putting out there, and now have inspected as a new sport. Thank you very much.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you for your testimony, Joe. Members, we have questions for our testifier? Yes, Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Blackburn, for your testimony. So I just wanted to clarify, you're not supportive of doing pickleball in the gyms when during off hours from basketball; is that correct?

MR. BLACKBURN: You know, I don't know how many off hours there really are. Because I know War Memorial, they have an open gym during the week and so, you know, I don't know. And then, you know, I think trying to do the switch over would be difficult. You know, we are...again...already with the gyms, it's struggling trying to maintain because of responsibility. So no, I'm not supportive of it at this point. Thank you, Tamara.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Blackburn. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR KAMA: You're very welcome, Ms. Paltin. And I think our next...thank you very much for being here, Joe. Thank you for your testimony.

MR. BLACKBURN: Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: I think our next testifier is Tyler.

MR. SZABO: Yes, hi. Can you hear me?

CHAIR KAMA: Yes, we can, Tyler.

MR. SZABO: Great. Thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. So I'm a tennis

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

player here, and I play weekly at the War Memorial Courts, there's four great courts there for tennis. They're lighted, they recently resurfaced the parking lots, so there's great parking. And even if you put pickleball aside, and if you put COVID aside, which had an impact with hours, even then I believe tennis has struggled to keep up with a demand for the courts. There are waits and people work during the day, it's hot during the day, there are peak hours in the evenings or in the mornings on the weekends, so I do think there is an availability issue even without pickleball. So I think unfortunately, that's just the reality, Maui is a growing population. It's a challenge on the mainland, in cities there. I remember having to run around to different courts to find courts on the mainland when I spent time there. So it's just the reality. And it's unfortunate we're here. We have limited resources...or limited facilities, I should say. And I think the concern is going backwards with tennis in order to support another sport. And I empathize with the pickleball community. I think we need to think creatively. We need to look at indoor gyms, as was discussed. I think we have to look at public private partnerships. There are some facilities that exist that are private. Can the County, rather than spend the money to build new facilities, can we...you know, can the County instead find appointments or huge blocks of time at these private facilities so it's still free for pickleballers that are already maintaining or built these facilities. I know the Kahului YMCA has interest in helping pickleballers find facilities. Again, keeping it free for pickleballers, but looking at all the resources out there. I think we can do it without impacting tennis.

CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. SZABO: I would like to keep the four tennis courts at War Memorial...it's away from the road, it's a great facility for tennis players and not go backwards. Tennis is still a popular and a...sport and, you know, we need more courts even without pickleballers. So I will kind of leave it there and thank you for your support and time.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Tyler. Members, do we have any questions for Tyler? Seeing none. Thank you very much for your testimony, Tyler. Staff, can you please call the next testifiers please?

MR. LEAUANAE: The next testifier has phone number ending in 3381, 3381, followed by Ramona Akima.

CHAIR KAMA: Phone number 3381, are you there?

MR. LICKLE: Yes, this is Brett Lickle calling. Can you hear me?

CHAIR KAMA: Yes, we can hear you. What was that again though, what was your name?

MR. LICKLE: Yes. My name Brett Lickle. I've been on Maui for 37 years.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. LICKLE: I play tennis and I play pickleball.



# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. LICKLE: Basically I look at the tennis courts that are completely just disheveled, and I wonder why we can't take those courts and kind of take them, to put together pickleball in these courts that are definitely being neglected. When I say that, I'm talking about the Pukalani Court, the Eddie Tam Court, and the Haliimaile Courts. So all three of those could be resurfaced and put four pickleball courts in. Mr. Matsui, I think he had a great idea of converting those top courts at War Memorial, but I think that what we want to do is convert them for now and then basically, once we build pickleball specific areas, then we can convert those tennis courts back. The problem is for you guys to build us pickleball courts now is going to take so much time, and we got to take care of, you know, creating the area for the pickleballers to play. Mr. Blackburn, you said with the gym that the gym is completely overloaded. Well, when we play at Eddie Tam, we would get done playing at 12:00, and no one ever showed up. There were no basketball teams, nothing. So obviously the schedule for these places is not as those you believe them to be, and all we're asking for is a small spot inside that gym when it's available. We don't want to take basketball people's time. We don't want to take over tennis courts, but if you can share them with us for the time being until we build our own courts, I think that's the best way to make it all work. And I would just say to the tennis players, come play pickleball with us, and I'd love to come play tennis with you guys. There you go.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Brett. Members, do we have questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much, Brett, for your testimony. And we're going to call on Ramona Akima for her testimony now. Ramona, are you there? I thought I saw you a few moments ago. Ramona Akima. I thought I saw her a few moments...oh, are you here? Ramona.

MS. AKIMA: Can you hear me?

CHAIR KAMA: I can hear you, yes.

MS. AKIMA: Can you see me?

CHAIR KAMA: I can't see you, but go ahead.

MS. AKIMA: Sorry, I have poor connection...

CHAIR KAMA: Yeah, your connection is kind of poor. Ramona, your connection is a little bit poor. I'm having a hard time understanding what you're saying.

MS. AKIMA: Oh, shoot.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: You might turn off your...video.

CHAIR KAMA: You want to try turning off your video and just using your audio?

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

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MS. AKIMA: Yes. Okay, let me try that.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Go ahead, Ramona. I think you're muted. You just muted yourself.

MS. AKIMA: Can you hear me better?

CHAIR KAMA: I can hear you better. Go ahead.

MS. AKIMA: Okay. Aloha County Council, and aloha Cousin Kama.

CHAIR KAMA: Aloha.

MS. AKIMA: I've lived in Maui 21 years. I'm originally from Moloka'i. I'm testifying and petitioning along with others to the County, Maui County community and all the islands for pickleball courts. Pickleball sport has been around a very long time. And for me, it's like playing tennis except shorter racquets and more people to have fun and play with. It's also for children, which means the whole family can participate. Please consider my plea and create pickleball courts. I live in Central Maui, Kahului. I've only so far played in the War Memorial courts. Also we share two courts--one in Kahului and, of course, one in Wailuku--with the tennis courts, and it's challenging to see pickleball borderline within the tennis courts. The Kahului multi-sports complex has no courts. Maybe we can consider--I'm sorry? Oh, okay--putting courts also at the Keopuolani Park. I pray you all will consider pickleball courts and maybe, under these conditions, make some sunshine for hope and allow for peace and...in this season, and better community and families. Also on Moloka'i and Lāna'i...Moloka'i, I believe there's no pickleball there...courts...they're in the tennis courts. About three weeks ago I met with . . . *(inaudible)*. . . a Moloka'i family, Abafo family, and they're looking to start a pickleball . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . challenges being made there up at Maunaloa town. Yes, Tamara.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you for your testimony, Ramona. Your time has run out, and so I'm going to call on Member Paltin for questions. Go ahead, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. You know, I just recalled just now with all your testimony, and so my question is, were you planning to make this request at the Mayor's Budget hearing tonight as well? Because...

MS. AKIMA: Oh, no, I cannot because I get one meeting after this.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay, okay.

MS. AKIMA: But I do have a video that --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, I think...

MS. AKIMA: -- that I think we're allowed two testimony, and my grandson is one of them that

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

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I put under my name. So I had two testimonies in the eComments.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay, okay. Yeah. I think you can also...you can also submit written testimony to the Mayor's Budget. I just recalled that I think Parks and Recreation is on the agenda for the Mayor's Budget. And for anyone still on the line, maybe tonight would be a good forum as well, because we don't...

MS. AKIMA: What time . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 5:30...5:30.

MS. AKIMA: Sorry I couldn't hear you. What time?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 5:30.

MS. AKIMA: I cannot hear you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 5:30.

CHAIR KAMA: It's at 5:30, Ramona.

MS. AKIMA: 5:30.

CHAIR KAMA: 5:30. 5:30.

MS. AKIMA: Yeah, maybe I can come. I'll go to this meeting first at 2:30, then go back home and get out there with the Budget Committee side.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you very much, Ramona, for your testimony.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR KAMA: We appreciate you being here today.

MS. AKIMA: Oh, my God... . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR KAMA: Yes, did somebody call me?

MS. AKIMA: Well, thank you, thank you, and I appreciate...

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Ramona. Staff, do we...can you call up the next testifier please.

MR. LEAUANAE: Yes, next testifier is the person phone number ending in 9651, 9651, followed by Gary Marshall.

MS. BIDWELL: Hello?

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

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CHAIR KAMA: Yes...9651?

MS. BIDWELL: This is 9651.

CHAIR KAMA: Hi there. Can you please identify yourself and continue.

MS. BIDWELL: My name is Ruth Bidwell, and I'm calling as an individual. I'm 68 years old. I live in Kihei. My husband and I play basketball and pickleball, and I would like to speak with...regarding pickleball at this time. We play at Kihei Waipuilani Park five to six days a week. Every day the four designated pickleball courts are in full use by 8:00 in the morning. Private parties start arriving with three to four personal nets about that time, and then those additional courts are rapidly in full use as fast as the nets are set up. After the additional nets are placed, there are still 12 to 20 people waiting for courts...and this is October. We have a lot of guests who come from the mainland...high season is near, and we would like to encourage our kūpuna friends to learn pickleball, but the reality is there isn't enough court space. Pickleball was developed for seniors, and it is rapidly expanding to all age groups across the country, people arriving with paddles eager to play. We would like to see a higher level of maintenance and additions to the existing pickleball courts across Maui. I would like to have the County consider the possibility of a memorial fund that would allow contributions from the private sector to aid in these additions. The Wailea Tennis Club is expanding their one pickleball court to six in the near future, and their club clearly sees the need for additional courts on Maui. Keeping our kūpuna active and interactive helps maintain healthy body and mind. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Having people of all ages active and interacting is the spirit of aloha. Mahalo. Thank you for your attention. I'm afraid I can't hear you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, the Chair has stepped out, and this is Vice-Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura. So anyone have questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you. Good ideas.

MS. BIDWELL: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wilton, can you call the next testifier.

MR. LEAUANAE: Yes, the next testifier is Gary Marshall, followed by Todd Richter.

MR. MARSHALL: Thank you. Can you see me?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. MARSHALL: I think you can. Yes. Aloha, thank you for listening to my comments. Frankly, I had prepared some comments, and all of the folks who have testified before me, both with regard to pickleball and tennis, have pretty much covered a lot of the key things I wanted to say. So I'm going to improvise a bit here. Anyway, I am a tennis player. I am 80 years old, been playing for 70 years, and I play three or four times a week here on Maui. I have never played pickleball. I have, on two or three occasions, seen it being played, and it looks like a lot of fun. The bottom line is it's a great

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

---

new...relatively new sport. Apparently it's been around even longer than I thought, but here on Maui at least, it's a relatively new sport. I believe that the people who play that sport, just like the people who play tennis, who play basketball, who play baseball, who do other things that promote their individual and kind of community health, deserve to have proper facilities to play. So I do regret that there seems to be, perhaps not surprisingly, some adversarial positions that have been taken up over the past few years, but I very much relatively can find a short-term solution, or find some short-term solutions to accommodate pickleball because they deserve that. But I do think in the long run, the only proper solution is to build dedicated pickleball courts. Most of the people who have testified today...one or two exceptions, but I think most who have testified today would agree that the two sports, played on a single court with multiple striping and so forth, really isn't feasible. And I don't say this to be mean about pickleball, but it is...it does make a very sharp distracting noise when that wooden paddle hits that hollow plastic ball, not to say that hitting a tennis ball with a racquet doesn't make any noise, but it's a much sharper noise. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . So I do think that the proper solution in the long run is to find a way to build some new courts. If there truly are tennis courts somewhere that are not being used--some that are poorly maintained and not used at all were mentioned by a testifier a couple of minutes ago--then perhaps they should be converted. But certainly at Wells, at Kula Rec Center, Kahului Rec Center, the three places I primarily play, I think it would be a real shame to convert any of those courts to pickleball in any permanent way, other than again, perhaps in some kind of a short-term accommodation while their solution is arrived at.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. MARSHALL: And the last thing I was going to...I'm sorry, go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry, your time is up. So you want to...one last line.

MR. MARSHALL: Oh, okay. No, that's good because I'm through. Thank you for listening to my comments.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're an avid tennis player. Thank you.

MR. MARSHALL: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions for Mr. Marshall? I see none. And Tasha Kama is back, so please take over. Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Vice-Chair. And thank you very much, Mr. Marshall, for your testimony. At this time, I think we're down to...I think maybe ten more testifiers. So the Chair would like to take a temperature check with the Committee in terms of wanting to take maybe a ten-minute break now or you just want to plow through the testifiers. What is the pleasure of the Committee?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Plow through.

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

---

CHAIR KAMA: One plow through.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Your choice, Chair. We follow your lead.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. I don't want to exhaust you all today. I mean, you've had such a great week this whole week, so I don't want to put a cramp in your style. So thank you very much. So we're going to continue with our testifiers. So Staff, could you please call the next two testifiers please.

MR. LEAUANAE: Next testifier is Ralph Gorgoglione, followed by last four digits of phone number 8581.

CHAIR KAMA: Mr. [Gar-go-le-oney]...is that how you pronounce your name, sir?

MR. GORGONGLIONE: [Gor-gee-oney].

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Gorgoglione. Please proceed.

MR. GORGONGLIONE: Thank you. I just want to say thanks to the Councilmembers and to everyone participating. This is really important to everyone involved, which is why I'm here today. I am the President of Maui Tennis and Pickleball Association. We are a new non-profit that is Hawai'i based, and the goals are to promote the sports of tennis and pickleball for the community. And we do have some long term plans to actually build our own facilities. So we've definitely got some overlapping of the goals here. I am a long-time tennis player, I've been playing the game for about 45 years. I am also a USPTA certified instructor, and I started playing pickleball as well. Both great sports. I do have to mention to the Members though, we have...the home of MTPA is here in Kihei. It's at our retail store, which is called Maui-G Sports. We opened in June, and we have a full supply of equipment for both sports. I can go into that later, some other time. But we can be a conduit for both the players and the County. Our retail store has already filed...since June we are filing our GE taxes, and we're providing revenue from the sales of both tennis and pickleball equipment and clothing and stuff like that, and we do gladly. We're happy to be able to do that. We're also planning on obtaining grant money to help with building facilities and help with bringing events to the island for both tennis and pickleball. So...but I do have to say when we first opened this facility here in Kihei, I had just gotten wind of pickleball. So I decided to go out to...the first place I went to was the Waipuilani Courts, and I went out there...to be honest with you, I said, what is this pickleball all about? . . .(timer sounds). . . So...but I went out there with my partner, I looked to the left, I looked to the right, and I saw how much fun these people were all having. And they were from all different walks of life; young and old and every...all the mix of local ohana. And they were having so much fun, and it made me feel so good because getting through this pandemic, both sports of tennis and pickleball were a medium for people to get outside. We were all stressed out. Everybody...all...everybody on our island was stressed out from this pandemic, and we're still kind of stressed out. And I know the County Members, you're dealing with a lot for local safety, and I want to thank you for that. But these two sports do so much for people, you know, and so we're offering ourselves, as Maui Tennis and Pickleball

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

Association, to be a partner and a conduit to help in the solutions, whatever they may be; short term, long term, we're here. And I'd like to be part of these meetings and part of the solutions.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you very much for your testimony. Members, questions? I saw Vice-Chair Sugimura, and we'll call on Mr. Sinenci right after.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So you're a non-profit, and I'm just wondering if you're offering your services to build pickleball, you know, courts or tennis courts then, what is your track record? Have you done it before in other municipalities or here on Maui?

MR. GORGONGLIONE: No, not yet because we're a very new organization. We've...the first step for us was to have a physical home for MTPA, that's why it's at the retail facility here, so it serves two purposes.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, so you've never dealt with...

MR. GORGONGLIONE: We hope to migrate over...I'm sorry go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, thank you. Just because you're offering your services, so that would be a millions of dollar kind of, you know...

CHAIR KAMA: Venture.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Adventure or yeah, project, and I was just wondering what kind of experience you have, that's number one. And so you're saying that you're a brand new non-profit.

MR. GORGONGLIONE: Well, let me take that back. The non-profit has been in existence for over five years.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. GORGONGLIONE: This is our first physical home in the form of the retail place that we have here for this sport.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. GORGONGLIONE: So I...it's not a brand new non-profit but, you know, now that we have a physical home, now we're going to move towards our goals of increasing events for both sports and inevitably building facilities that are large enough to host and...believe it or not, national tournaments. And I do want to say real quickly if I can, there are tens of thousands of people throughout the country right now that are scheduling out pickleball vacations. They do it for tennis as well, but I think it's important that we see people...tens of thousands of people that pick spots--not only in the country, but all over the world--as pickleball destinations. And they bring their revenue with them, and we'd like to be a conduit. We'd like to help with that --

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. GORGONGLIONE: -- to serve not only for our local ohana, but to help bring money to the local community in that sense.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Mr. Sinenci, you had a question for our testifier.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Gorgoglione. Just real quick, for clarification, were you proposing a hybrid of both sports and naming it tickleball?

MR. GORGONGLIONE: I'm sorry, can you repeat?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Were you proposing a hybrid of both tennis and pickleball and naming it tickleball?

MR. GORGONGLIONE: Why not, whatever works.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Mr. Sinenci. Thank you very much for your testimony, Sir. Staff, our next testifier is...

MR. LEAUANAE: Next testifier is last four digits 8581, followed by Ron Kapaku.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. 8581, number 8581, are you here, and could you please identify yourself.

MR. NALU: Hello. My name is Vili...Vili Nalu. I live in Kihei. I think I'm the youngest one here. I'm 21, but...

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Go ahead, Vili.

MR. NALU: So I just started playing pickleball, I don't have a tennis background. I played a lot of sports, rugby, volleyball, all that, but pickleball has been just a fun sport for me. And just hearing everyone, you know, talk about it, talk about, you know, the reasons why we should get courts and stuff...just based on my experience, we've had so many family come down, and when they come down, we usually never have that much courts to play on. I remember we had a tournament, just maybe a month ago when Foster City came down from California, and there was like over 60 of them that came down. But they came down and we couldn't even have our tournament because there wasn't enough courts, and we...there was too much of us with the COVID, and it kind of got reported, so we didn't have our tournament. But, you know, for that much people to come down just for pickleball, it just made me think, you know, I've never seen a group of...you know, it's . . . *(inaudible)*. . . tournament, so all these fellows came down. But I've never seen a group of people travel, you know, for a sport, you know, for us...you know, for pickleball. Because it's unlimited, but it's a fun sport. If you guys ever come



# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

---

to Kihei, you know where...all Wailea, there's like 20 kids, we all...they all go pickleball on Saturdays because they've got something . . . *(inaudible)*. . . school. All my uncles, they all play, they all just started playing. But pickleball for us is...it's a fun sport. And I respect all the tennis players, you know, I don't have a tennis background, but just for me personally, just looking at the new generation, you know, pickleball is a fun sport for us kids to learn. And it's real...it's loud, but it's probably because of us . . . *(inaudible)*. . . We like to play, we like to yell, we like to, you know, let out whatever we can on the court. But, you know, that's it.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you for your testimony. Members, do we have any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Thank you so much for your testimony today. And you probably are the youngest testifier, so don't be a stranger to us. Thank you. The next testifier, I think, is Ron Kapaku. Are you there, Ron?

MR. KAPAKU: I am. Can you hear me?

CHAIR KAMA: Yes, we can. Proceed.

MR. KAPAKU: Okay. Thank you for your guys time. Before I say anything though, is this just about pickleball and tennis, or this is just outdoor courts in general?

CHAIR KAMA: The agenda for today is the demand for more outdoor recreational facilities. That's what the issue is.

MR. KAPAKU: Okay.

CHAIR KAMA: And the people who are playing it is the tennis people, as well as...the pickleball people have to share courts, and so they are here to testify about the pros and the cons and what solutions they may have to offer. So please proceed, Ron.

MR. KAPAKU: Well, I would like to talk about a different sport if I may; and if not, please just cut me off and maybe it's for another time. It's a sport called futsal.

CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. KAPAKU: It's basically like...it's basically like soccer, but played on a smaller, smaller...it's like a court. It's five v. five...I think soccer is four v. four. The demand for that...you know, before COVID it was...you know, there was mainly no way to practice futsal because of the high demand for basketball courts. The basketball people normally would take the basketball courts, which is fine because a futsal is like the pickleball of the tennis pickleball world, right, where the futsal is . . . *(inaudible)*. . . and stuff like that. Mainly...it's mainly for youth, the youth soccer community is the one that plays futsal. And then...but pre-COVID, it was played in the gym. There were leagues that were ran by different associations and we would...and the kids would play futsal in War Memorial and Baldwin Gym. And it was usually on Sundays because it was hard to get court time during the MIL season for volleyball...during volleyball, basketball, judo, and wrestling, so we had to play on Sundays, which is fine to a certain degree because a lot

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

---

of people...it's a family day on Sunday. So you know, with the ability to have outdoor space to play futsal, whether it's on a basketball court or any other type of court, without stepping on the toes of any other sport would be awesome. There is a facility in Kahului right now, the Urban . . . *(inaudible)*. . . facility that we play street soccer. There's a league running there right now. It does cost money, but I don't feel like it's a whole lot. You know, it is a private facility, so they obviously have to keep the lights on for that. They could also have pickleball at that facility as well, just to throw that in since pickleball is a hot topic. . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . But other than that, I just...I'd really like to...if the County to, you know, maybe reserve some space, or possibly in the future build a facility so that the youth could play futsal. That is all. Thank you so much. I appreciate it.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Ron, for your testimony. I think you have a question from Member Paltin.

MR. KAPAKU: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Member Sinenci had his hand up first. I'll yield to him, and then go after.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, thank you, Member Paltin. Yeah, just a real quick for Mr. Kapaku. You know, we have a lot of empty commercial buildings around, is this something that could be converted into some indoor sports arenas? I know that the trampoline park is such a, you know, great place to take the little kids, but is that an option, you think?

MR. KAPAKU: Ideally you want to play indoors because the wind does play a big factor in a futsal...in the futsal realm. But as...you know, when it comes down to it, an indoor facility probably costs more than an outdoor facility. You know, when you're talking about who's going to pay for what, you know, and obviously there's a lot of things that we'd like to be funded, and money is an issue...money doesn't just grow on trees. So everybody, in my opinion, has to...there has to be some kind of common ground would be the one thing I would say. But ideally, being indoors would be great. But again, you know, it cost more money, and it would also cost...I feel like an indoor facility would probably also cost more to maintain in the long run than like an outdoor court. But hey, if you want to offer that, my friend, I would drive to Hāna for that, just so you know.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Mahalo. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR KAMA: You're welcome. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Kapaku, for your testimony. I just was wondering if you could share the spelling of that, and I can probably Google the rest of the information, like does it have a puka ball too, or do you need goal posts or modifications and like that. Like how do you spell it, is it foot...S-O-N-G, or what...

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

MR. KAPAKU: Futsal is spelled F as in Frank, U as in umbrella, T as in Tom, S as in Sam, A as in apple, L as in Larry. Futsal. It's more of a European thing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, kind of like Sal...Futsal, but you say it Futsal.

MR. KAPAKU: Yeah, F-U-T-S-A-L. Correct. Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And not appropriate for parking lot areas or anything, or do you need like equipment to modify like a gym or a field?

MR. KAPAKU: No. I mean, you could...you want to play it on a flat surface. The reason why you want to play it on a flat surface...futsal is kind of invented so that it garners more touches on a ball, whereas in an outdoor field, you know, it's a bigger area, you don't necessarily touch the ball as much as you would on a futsal court. A futsal court is for development for your technical skills for the game of soccer. Can it be done on an asphalt in a parking lot? Sure, if it's, you know, nice and flat. It does consist of goals. Most people that play it have their own portable goals that they can use. The goal part is not really the biggest issue...the actual space and the court itself is the biggest...the biggest one. I know in the past it was frowned upon...it was frowned upon people playing futsal on the courts that they put that rubber...I don't know what it's called, but if you look at a lot of the courts, they have that rubber molding on the top.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Uh-huh.

MR. KAPAKU: So because of that, we were told not to put goals on there because it can damage that rubber molding. So...and most of those...most of these courts like Waikapu, up Puahala Road, those courts have that rubber molding, and we were told by County Parks Rangers to not put goals up. So again, I don't know what the theory behind that is, but that's what they told us.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So you have your own official goal structures...like when I was little and we used to just play around, we used to put like the slippers as where the goal...the ball had to go behind. But you guys have like a portable goal that you put out?

MR. KAPAKU: I personally have my own, yes, I do...and so do others. And it's futsal goals and soccer goals...so it's mainly the same sport...one consists of having a goalie and one consists of not having a goalie. The street soccer goal is smaller, it's played four v. four with no goalie. Futsal is played with a bigger goal, five v. five with a goalie on like the same size court.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, wow. Thank you so much. I'll Google some of that stuff up.

MR. KAPAKU: I appreciate your guys' time. Aloha, take care.

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

---

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Mr. Kapaku. Thank you, Member Paltin. Staff, our next two testifiers please.

MR. LEAUANAE: Next testifier is Kurt Ginoza, followed by phone number ending in 5185.

CHAIR KAMA: Staff, how many more testifiers do we have...after Mr. Ginoza...Ginoza.

MR. LEAUANAE: Approximately four after...

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay.

MR. GINOZA: Okay, good evening Chairperson Kama, Members. Thank you. I just want to clarify, I'm here on behalf of HYSMA Maui. And Ron Kapaku is also on our executive board, and I'm glad he spoke so you guys have some general idea of what futsal is. HYSMA Maui has 850 youths representing every community; and in the last three years, there's been increasing demand for street soccer and/or futsal. Our national organization just created a national cup, so that will trickle down to the states, which will trickle down to the leagues, where now kids would have an opportunity to possibly continue...just like little league, you can go to . . . *(inaudible)*. . . sport, et cetera, et cetera and play in different tournaments...different sports. The fun thing about futsal is it's a very low barrier to enter, you only need five players, and it allows different communities to enter our league. So HYSMA Maui is going to start a futsal league if: one, we can either get into the gyms; or two, you know, somehow somebody donates land for us and we can just go, you know, find a place to play. But the reason why I wanted to talk to this board is I do have one proposal...two proposals. One, I think instead of just building facilities, if the permitting process could explore allowing the upper tennis courts or basketball courts to be permitted by partner leagues on a trial basis to see the impact to the open, you know, first come first serve precedence that currently exists. It would give us some time to get feedback to see if some of these unused facilities that we see in the community could possibly be a win-win. So I'm specifically asking for the boys and girls courts in Kahului, Haliimaile tennis court, and the Pukalani tennis court. Now, it can be a combination of pickleball and futsal, that's great, I don't mind collaborating. The frustrating part for HYSMA Maui is we had reached agreement with the Boys and Girls Club to run a program, a low barrier to entry, low cost, and we were also going to donate equipment to the Boys and Girls Club, and also teach them a little bit about futsal. But as we got closer, we ran into the situation where it would . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . . *(inaudible)*. . . facility so the permitting process didn't allow us to continue that. So had we known that, it kind of led us to the same place. So...and then the last thing I want to put in there is eventually we do want to look for a facility, but we do know that times are hard. But if we do partner with the County, the Pickleball Association, we do have some funds in our HYSMA account--maybe 10,000, I don't know the exact amount because I'm not the treasurer, but it would take a lot more than that--but basically if we get a cement slab that's possibly the same size as the basketball or tennis court, we can modify our needs and make it happen. So rather than create a facility, maybe look at traditional sites that were geared only for one sport and see if there is flexibility to run a pilot program. I do appreciate the County Permits Department and Recreation...I've been working with them 20 years where there was MIL...Lieutenant

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

Governor Tsutsui's Reach Program, we're now through HYSA Maui. So I understand both sides regarding facilities, so we're just trying to get people to think differently and hopefully find a solution. Because every year we've been growing by ten percent, so we expect maybe 900 keiki playing next year. So that's why Ron and I are here because, you know, we want to keep opening up options for them.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Mr. Ginoza. We have a question from Member Paltin.

MR. GINOZA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Ginoza, for your testimony. I just was wondering if you could clarify HYSA.

MR. GINOZA: Yes. So HYSA stands for the Hawai'i Youth Soccer Association. That's our State Association, so we are the Maui Chapter, and we belong to the United States USYSA. So you can figure there is Little League, then there's District Little League West Coast, and then we are little League Maui as a correlation.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so you currently get permits for the...or permission for the soccer fields right now.

MR. GINOZA: Yeah, we are a partnership league, so we work with permits to traditionally permit the outdoor fields, which has been the norm. The one area that is part of the permitting process is if there is a facility, that we totally respect the historical parts, you know, there is programs that are already here before us that are continuing, just like we're continuing on our soccer fields. So we're hoping maybe the new Kihei gym will be an opportunity because there hopefully isn't a backlog of historical preference for priorities out there. And we are committed to buying goals and then donating them to the County so that they could run their own programs. And I think three years ago our board...or two years ago our board...our HYSA goals, we donated it to the County so that they had the flexibility to move it around the different fields and...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And you operate on the trimester system. Do you have objection to letting clubs just go for the permits rather than leagues?

MR. GINOZA: I think we'd be open to that too, because I think we follow the partnership leagues and vice because it's easier for us to manage and making sure that there...you know, there's some kind of follow up other than just turning down a permit. You know, if there's infractions, we as a league can come...you know, we can work the coaches to make sure that proper procedures are being followed, and especially the COVID protocols. So when we do the return to play, everybody that's on our permitted list are registered in our database, and that...it takes us less than 24 hours to pull that up and send it in case we get close contact. Whereas if an independent club, which would be very hard unless maybe they are one of the bigger ones to do, unless their goals and objectives are different than what our season offerings are, then yeah...it kind of depends on a case-by-case basis.

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And on the trimester schedule, you utilize the full four months to play soccer at the permits that you've pulled?

MR. GINOZA: Yeah, because we have practices and games. So we usually run our games Saturdays, and sometimes we have to do weekdays and weeknights. It just depends on the availability of referees. And then we try by all means to avoid Sundays because that's church time and also family time and kids got to go do their schoolwork, so we avoid Sundays for games...even though it would help us as a schedule, I'm glad we're not like other Counties where they run sports seven days a week...I mean not County, sports programs. Kids got to...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so it's...is it...do you need permits to practice, or just for the games?

MR. GINOZA: For futsal, we would probably try and ask for practice and games, but at a minimum we would take games for now because you can still do your outdoor soccer work. And just having the opportunity to play the game on a futsal surface would still help either way...it helps both sides of the games.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For the soccer side, do you need the permit to practice and play the games or just play the games?

MR. GINOZA: Soccer...the outdoor soccer season, we're okay with that. No, this is just specifically for futsal, trying to get into the door regarding futsal.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, I don't know the answer to the question. Is the soccer...you need the permit for the practice, or no need permit for practice?

MR. GINOZA: We do not need the permit review for practices for futsal.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. GINOZA: We need it for the opportunity to possibly run games.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But soccer, you don't need a permit to practice, or you do need a permit to practice?

MR. GINOZA: We have no issue with that because we have fields blocked for that. For soccer we're okay, this is just strictly more for futsal.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, got it. Thank you.

MR. GINOZA: Yeah. Thanks for clarifying.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Member Paltin. Thank you, Mr. Ginoza. I'd like to continue on with the rest of our testifiers because I'd like to be able to have the Department of Parks and Recreation do a presentation to the Committee so that we can have some kind of

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

discussion, if anything at all. So Staff, could you please call the next testifier. Thank you.

MR. LEAUANAE: Next testifier is phone number ending in 7119, followed by Elizabeth Voigt.

CHAIR KAMA: Number 7119.

MR. DOSE: Hi, my name is Greg Dose. Can you hear me okay?

CHAIR KAMA: Yes, Greg.

MR. DOSE: My wife and I come to Hawai'i every couple years and stay for about ten days, and it's an honor to be here. We love to play pickleball, and we play over here at the one in Kihei over here. And this is a perspective, there's so much more demand for pickleball than there is for tennis, and I'm not bashing our tennis players at all. I used to play tennis myself. But yesterday...there's two tennis courts that have been converted over, and every court there was eight pickleball nets set up, and there was two people playing tennis. And again, I'm not picking on the tennis players, they have...it's a beautiful park, it's great and all that, but with eight courts going and there was probably 25 to 30 people still waiting to play, signing up on the board, so there's just so much of a demand...more of a demand to play pickleball than there is to play tennis. And it's a lovely place...it's a great park, and I wish we could build courts and tennis courts to accommodate everybody. But right now, at this time period, there's just so much of a demand more to play pickleball than there is to play tennis.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you for your testimony, Mr. Dose.

MR. DOSE: And my wife...I'm sorry.

CHAIR KAMA: Is your wife...is your wife Elizabeth?

MR. DOSE: No my wife's name is Tani. But we always...we love...we came to stay here, and part of our vacation is always to play pickleball. We love to go where we can play pickleball and add it to our vacation, and we just love to play pickleball.

CHAIR KAMA: So I'm going to have to refuse your request because this meeting is scheduled to get over at 4:30 and we still have many more presentations to do from the Department of Parks and Recreation. And so I just want to continue to finish up with the last couple of testifiers that we have, and we need to get this done by 4:30 this afternoon. So I apologize for not being able to honor your request, sir. So the next testifier...

MR. DOSE: That's fine. Thank you so much.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Is Elizabeth Voigt. Is that right?

MS. VOIGT: Okay, yes, that is right. Elizabeth Voigt.

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

---

CHAIR KAMA: Oh, Voigt. I'm sorry. Please proceed.

MS. VOIGT: And I think I turned on my video...oh, there we go. Yeah, okay. I'm not sure I'm able to do this, but I was hoping I could share my screen and show some information. I don't know, can you see my screen?

CHAIR KAMA: Elizabeth, you've only got two minutes...you've only got two minutes, so I think sharing the screen would probably not give you enough time. So if you can share your testimony.

MS. VOIGT: I just wanted to make a couple points. There were questions about how long the sport has been around, if it's Olympics and so forth. Yeah, the sport has been around since 1965. It is the fastest growing sport in North America. This article here talks about the meteoric rise of pickleball, and how there's so many new world class tournaments that are being held in it. It is likely to become an Olympic sport in 2028. And it's not yet a college sport, but last year South Utah...Southern Utah University hosted the first intercollegiate pickleball tournament. So it's only a matter of time before it does become a college sport. Many of the tennis players who...professional tennis players, as it talks in this article, are switching to pickleball or are doing both. So it's just a matter of time before it does become a collegiate sport, and before it becomes an Olympic sport as well. I play in Kihei, and I wanted to show...and this is why I wanted to share my screen, and the prior gentleman was talking about this too. As you can tell here in Waipuilani, we have three sets of two tennis courts. This one is separated, and then there's these two sets right here. This last set is dedicated to pickleball...there's...it's hard to see from here, but there is one...the right court here has been converted into four courts, and this one, we tape it off and we bring our own private nets. . . .(timer sounds). . . As the gentleman...as the previous gentleman said, there's hardly ever any tennis players on any of these courts and...

CHAIR KAMA: Ms. Voigt, could you please wrap up your testimony please.

MS. VOIGT: I am, I am...yes, yes.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

MS. VOIGT: I support what Mr. Matsui said earlier that we should take, you know, there's numbers, Cody at Parks and Rec has done studies of how utilized these courts are. And what I suggest is that we do what Mr. Matsui suggested, is we take those farer courts...tennis courts and convert them only to pickleball use. And finally, I have one request, this...there's lots of mention about people bringing their own nets to set up, and this...we used to have a storage container that was secured where we would store those nets, and we're not allowed to do that anymore, even though apparently some other courts are. And it's incredibly laborious for individuals to have to bring in these nets every day, set them up, take them down, and take them away to a private residence, it's very laborious. So a storage box that we can leave there to store them would be incredibly helpful. Thank you.



# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

---

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you for your testimony, Ms. Voigt. Staff, could you please call the next testifier please, since I have no questions from our Members.

MR. LEAUANAE: Next testifier is the number ending in 3992, followed by Kari Nunokoa...Nunokawa.

CHAIR KAMA: Number 3992, are you there? Number 3992. Okay, if not, can we go on to Kari Nunokawa...Kari, are you there?

MS. NUNOKAWA: Yeah, I'm here. I just turned on my video, but I don't know, it's a little bit...I don't think it's working. But thanks, everyone. Thank you, Chair Kama, for allowing me to testify today. I'm also a resource for the Parks Department for this issue and, you know, I have to just excuse myself...I do get a little bit emotional just because...I just wanted to share some history. Wailuku Junior Tennis Club was really started as Wailuku Adult Club back in the '70s, and then in 1981 it became Wailuku Junior Tennis Club. And you know, looking through our history, we see names like Kenji Kawajuki, Brian Kageyama, all these amazing, amazing historic Maui people that have left such an indelible mark. And the goal of Wailuku Junior Tennis Club was to bring tennis to the community, and to be a partner with the County, and for that I am so grateful. I grew up in Wailuku Junior Tennis Club. I was fortunate enough to study under Mr. Nagamatsu and Mr. Kinoshita and Mr. Wakita at Malu Ulu O Lele. I grew up there too. And I just would not be...and they've shaped so many people in this community, and to give back to this community. Like you saw with Lauren Akitake, and now all our children that are playing as well. And, you know, throughout the years, people have fought to be able to utilize these courts. Wailuku Junior Tennis Club has a great relationship with the County from 1981, and we take care of the courts. We clean up not just Wailuku Junior Tennis Club at Wells Park, but we clean up War Memorial, and we clean up KCC as well, especially when we have junior tournaments. And a lot of times we have over 300 juniors coming from various places around the State to play in our tournaments prior to COVID. And currently we have about 80 juniors at Wailuku Junior Tennis Club, and it provides...all our coaches are volunteers, board members...everybody is a volunteer, nobody gets paid, everything we do is out of love for the sport. And it's really not about let's not take away courts, let's figure out a way how we can work together to add. You know, pickleball is a growing sport, there are...I heard people say that they like playing indoors because sometimes it's too windy. Wailuku, Kahului, always windy. That was our advantage as juniors when we were growing up is to be able to know this wind, and this makani, and know how to navigate the courts at Malu Ulu O Lele with the slip and slide because we all know what...we were playing on sacred ground there. . . .(timer sounds). . . So just wanted to bring a little bit perspective from someone that really saw the birth, and tennis is still a huge part of everyone's lives. So please don't take away courts, let's figure out a way how we can allow for pickleball to find their facilities.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Kari, for your testimony. I don't see any Members with their hands up, so I'm going to assume there's no questions for you today. Staff, do we have any other testimonies?

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

---

MR. LEAUANAE: Chair, there are no others signed up right now.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you very much, Mr. Leauanae. So Members, if there are no other testifiers out there or members in the public, I would like to close public oral testimony if there are no objections.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'd like to testify.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay, I'm hearing...I'm hearing...okay, thank you. Thank you, Staff. So Members, if there are no more objections, I would like to close public testimony. Thank you very much, Members. If there is no objections to receiving written testimony into the record.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

MR. REEVES: I would like to testify. Does anybody see me? Hello.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair, there's one more person.

CHAIR KAMA: Have you signed up yet, sir? Have you signed up? What is your name, sir, please?

MR. REEVES: My name is Brett Reeves.

CHAIR KAMA: Brett.

MR. REEVES: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIR KAMA: Go ahead and proceed.

MR. REEVES: Okay. Thank you, Councilmembers, for giving me this opportunity to speak. I want to talk everybody...yeah, I'm here for the sport with the silly name, but the serious side of it, pickleball. I think every sport deserves to have a court, or a place to play...you know, everybody needs to stay healthy, so I don't want to take away from the tennis players, but pickleball players need a place to play. When I look at the schedule for where pickleball players can play, the Central district has the least amount of playtime. We only have two nights that are scheduled for us to play, and there's no place to play except for the two converted . . .*(inaudible)*. . . courts there in Wailuku or War Memorial. . .*(inaudible)*. . . the court down and I measured the War Memorial at the upper two courts, and you could actually fit six pickleball courts into two of those tennis ball courts. Of course, that requires funding, and it requires taking courts away from tennis players, which we're trying not to do. I did go back to the Mayor's office and I asked for funding, so maybe...War Memorial is a big complex, we could use another piece of land there to build something for the pickleball players so that they would have a place to play and there wouldn't be any arguments between tennis players and pickleball

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

---

players. And when I go there and play, I see the high school Baldwin kids playing on tennis nets playing pickleball. So it would give them a place to play also. The other problem that we have there is when people show up, they can't find the courts. So if we could get a sign put up there saying that the pickleball courts are behind the tennis courts, we would appreciate that. Also, if we could add on Saturday and Sunday mornings on that reserve list that the Parks and County Recs do...if we could add those three mornings as open play, we would appreciate that. Then the other places that there aren't really set up for pickleball players . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . maybe over at Wells Parks or at War Memorial gym...I know that people have testified that the gym may not be available. I think if we work together, we could use that gym where everybody could get some playtime there and every sport could get equal playtime.

CHAIR KAMA: Brett, can you please conclude your testimony, your time is up. I appreciate it.

MR. REEVES: Okay. That's all I'm saying, you know, pickleball is growing a lot here on Maui, and we all need some place to play. And I think every sport should have an area to do that in, and we would appreciate any help that the Council can give us. Thank you very much for letting me speak today.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. So I don't see any Members' hands raised to ask questions, so I want to say thank you very much, Brett, for your testimony. Thank you. So Staff, do we have any other testifiers?

MR. LEAUANAE: No, Chair, there are no other testifiers.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. So Members, seeing that there are no more individuals wishing to testify, without objection, I will now close public oral testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. And so without objections, I'd like to be able to receive written testimony into the record.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

**. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .**

CHAIR KAMA: Okay. At this time, the Staff is going to ensure that only required personnel, such as Councilmembers and their Staff, Administration, and nominees invited to participate will remain on the call. Everyone else will be disconnected at this time.

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

**Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

## **HCP-40 DEMAND FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES INVOLVING PLAY COURTS, SUCH AS PICKLEBALL, TENNIS, AND BASKETBALL (CC 21-365)**

CHAIR KAMA: So I'd like to continue because we've got less than half an hour to continue with HCP-40, the Demand for Recreational Activities Involving Play Courts such as Pickleball, Tennis and Basketball. So Councilmembers, today we'll be discussing the need for an increase in play courts to accommodate growth in the various outdoor recreational activities, as HCP-40 re-enforces demand for recreational activities involving play courts, such as pickleball, tennis and basketball. So we're going to be hearing from the Department of Parks and Recreation and, if time permits, we might be able to hear from some of the users, but we've heard so much testimony today, so my sense is that we're going to do our presentation...have a presentation from the Department of Parks and Recreation, and should you all have questions, we might be able to have time for maybe one round. So the Department of Parks and Recreation, Karla Peters is with us today. Joining Director Peters are Ms. Mary Kielty, Chief of Recreation; Mr. Jason Lopez, Recreation Program Planner; and David Yamashita, Parks Planner. And so I would like to be able to ask and invite the Department to please make their presentation. Karla, are you there?

MS. PETERS: Hi, Chair.

CHAIR KAMA: Hi.

MS. PETERS: Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Sorry for the wait.

MS. PETERS: Good afternoon, Chair. Good afternoon, Committee. We're here with our Recreation Team, like you mentioned. I'm going to...to save some time I'm going to just turn it right over to Mary Kielty, and we can start our presentation.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Karla.

MS. KIELTY: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Councilmembers.

CHAIR KAMA: Aloha, Mary.

MS. KIELTY: With us today, as you mentioned, we have our Assistant Chief of Recreation, Angus Peters, III, our Program Planner Jason Lopez, and our Department Planner David Yamashita. And we know you are pressed for time, so we would just like to say mahalo for the opportunity to provide all of you with an overview of our outdoor recreational play courts. And Jason will take the presentation from here. Mahalo. If you could start the PowerPoint for us on your end, we would appreciate it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You or the . . . (inaudible) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Pauline Martins unmuted.

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

MS. KIELTY: You folks have the PowerPoint loaded there, I believe. If we could start it, we're ready to go.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, God.

MS. KIELTY: Mahalo.

MR. LOPEZ: Aloha, Committee Chair Kama, Committee Vice-Chair Sugimura, Committee Members and everyone else joining us today. My name is Jason Lopez, and I'll be sharing a presentation on DPR's indoor and outdoor court facilities and the types of use at these facilities. Our Department asks that all questions please be held until after the presentation has been completed. Once the presentation has been completed, our Department will be happy to answer any questions anyone might have. If we could move to the next slide please. As we get started, this first slide shows us how important our outdoor park facilities are for all members of our community. When many indoor facilities were closed or unavailable for use during the pandemic, our outdoor park facilities provided our community an opportunity to exercise, socialize, and enjoy some fresh air. Next slide, please. This next slide provides a snapshot of the current amount of DPR tennis courts, number of permanent pickleball courts...included in this count is the number of permanent pickleball courts that were previously used tennis courts, and tennis courts with pickleball lines that are currently shared used courts between tennis and pickleball. We also have a listing of our outdoor basketball courts. From this chart, you will see that only the Central and Hāna districts do not have pickleball courts available. However, the Wailuku district and the Central districts were previously one district, and are both centrally located so pickleball players from the Central area have access to pickleball courts in a Central location. Next slide, please. Since 2019, our Department has taken some of our existing outdoor courts and turned them into 17 pickleball courts for our pickleball playing community to enjoy. Here's a few pictures of some of the outdoor courts in our South district. Here is some of the pickleball courts in our West district. The picture on the top right shows the four newly built pickleball courts at our Nāpili Park. This slide shows a few pictures of the outdoor courts in our East district. Just to share, our Department previously had funds allocated for pickleball courts to be installed at our Eddie Tam Park, but upon discussing this location with some members of the pickleball community, it was shared with us that due to the elements, wind and rain, Eddie Tam would not be an ideal location for pickleball courts, and the funds therefore lapsed. These are some outdoor courts in our Hāna and Lāna'i districts. We recently installed four new pickleball courts on Lāna'i. This slide shows our two shared tennis and pickleball courts on Moloka'i at our Mitchell Pauole Center. These are some of the tennis courts in our Wailuku and Central districts. The Wailuku courts at War Memorial are shared use for tennis and pickleball. Unfortunately, this next slide shows some vandalism at our Lower Pā'ia Park. An individual, or multiple individuals, entered the park one night after closing and spray painted pickleball lines on the basketball court. A police report was made, and the lines that were spray painted on were removed as there was no Department approval given to anyone to paint lines on the outdoor courts at our Lower Pā'ia Park. The next five slides provide the average daily number of users at the respective facilities for our eight park

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

---

districts. You can see, as we run through these slides, that we do have daily use at all of our outdoor courts. The next slide that's up provides some information regarding the restrictions on certain levels of play for tennis tournaments if there are non-tennis lines on the tennis court. The data on this slide shows an increase of use by sport. Based on this data, you'll see that tennis and pickleball have both increased their participation numbers. Tennis increased by 22.4 percent, and pickleball increased by 21.3 percent from 2019 to 2020. For this next slide, I'd like to ask Mr. David Yamashita to come on to explain.

MR. YAMASHITA: Thank you, Jason, and aloha Councilmembers. This is the only data...quantitative data that we have on how people on Maui use our facilities and parks. The graph at the left--and this is from 2015, so this is data that's six or seven years old--but you can see that tennis ranks, I think, about twelfth from the top. The most popular activity is walking. Men's basketball falls a few steps below that, and women's basketball also is lower down. So that gives you a kind of a relative idea of how participation, at least at that time, was expressed. And in terms of facility use, tennis shows out...this is...we had about 20 or 30 different facilities, and tennis ranked about twelfth...tennis courts ranked about twelfth at that time. So this is, again, just the only quantitative data that we have.

MR. LOPEZ: This slide is of a thank you letter our Department received from the pickleball community for our continued support of pickleball. The pickleball community asked the Department to place a portable luau next to the pickleball courts at Waipuilani Park, and we were able to accommodate their request. The next slide up shows some prices the Department has received to build or provide maintenance for pickleball courts. To build four new pickleball courts would cost the Department approximately \$150,000. This price does not include installing ADA access to and from pickleball courts, and any necessary permits to build the courts. To measure and paint lines on eight pickleball courts would cost approximately \$6,900. And you can see some of the costs for the other individual pickleball equipment. This ends our presentation. We thank you for allowing us the opportunity to share this information with you, and we look forward to answering any questions you may have.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you very much for your presentation. It was wonderful. It almost made me think that the Department is probably ready to start building some pickleball courts with the information given, but we'll see. Members, let's do...let's try one round of questions, two minutes each, and see how far that takes us. Okay, questions from our Members.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair. You probably cannot see me.

CHAIR KAMA: Yes, I hear Vice-Chair...yes.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, so I just have a very general question for the Department, which is...I mean, those numbers on the last page are...sounds like temporary or in the meantime, but what are their big plans and have they talked to all the different...the pickleball people, the tennis people, and...I mean, we're hearing them...you know, we

# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

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hearing their concerns and how to, you know, get this to work together. Maybe it is building, you know, a new site. I like the idea of accommodations for visitors. That one visitor that came and said he and his wife came here, I took down his phone number, I'm going to call him. I want to know how much they pay to play pickleball at other jurisdictions, or is it all free. So I just want...I want bigger plans from the Department. I think today was interesting to hear what everybody is saying, but I want to know, you know, where are they in this whole thing, and are they going to be proposing any budget amendments. And we've been hearing about pickleball and tennis and this battle, I've been hearing it for quite a few years. So thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Good.

MS. PETERS: Chair, thank you. Thank you, Member Sugimura.

CHAIR KAMA: Yes, Director Peters.

MS. PETERS: Thank you, Member Sugimura. So right now, what we're trying to do is...we will need to do more community outreach for sure. The testimony did provide that there is a lot of interest for outdoor parks, not only pickleball and tennis, but also basketball, futsal, and those other types of activities that are growing. As David mentioned, the survey was done in 2015. We would definitely want to do another survey and see...and get some data, more accurate data, as well as thanking Chair Lee for putting in that funding, and allowing us to do assessments. That'll be our pilot program, to be able to look at all of these widely used courts and outdoor play spaces, and see how we can best accommodate the need in all communities.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Any other questions for the Department? Yes, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Two main questions, the first one would be, how did they get their estimates of, you know, tennis players, pickleball players, basketball players and like that. And then the second question would be, you know, I don't...with the demand for either tennis or pickleball...I don't really support building for the tourists, are there any plans to do the public private partnership with resorts so that they build the pickleball facilities, like how the tennis...the resorts build tennis facilities so that when the visitors come, you know, they have resort pickleball facilities and they're not infringing on our overloaded County structure that's paid for by property tax at the moment. But hopefully, maybe parking or something in the future, QR codes.

CHAIR KAMA: Director?

MS. PETERS: Thank you, Chair. I'll turn it over to Mary to give some information on how we got the numbers of participants.

MS. KIELTY: Yeah, mahalo. The numbers were obtained by the districts monitoring their own respective courts throughout the weeks.

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

## Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

---

CHAIR KAMA: Okay, so they checked their own. Okay.

MS. PETERS: Thank you, Chair. I can answer the other question from Member Paltin. Thank you. Yes, we are...we know that there is a need, and there are private courts that are out there already. I know one of the . . . *(inaudible)*. . . mentioned and even the testifiers mentioned Urban Baller, there is an opportunity for private and public partnerships. We're also...there is also resources on the schools, within the DOE schools, that we may want to look at doing some sort of shared lease as we talked about before with playgrounds and such. So there are opportunities that we need to explore. And with the assessments that we're going to be doing and being able to identify where the need is, then we can best say how much additional courts there would be. The Department will...you know, we support all of the athletic and recreational opportunities, and would really want to see site...sport specific sites. That's what the majority of our testimony is, and we would want to see that everyone can have their sport specific sites instead of taking it away at the expense of the others. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So no outreach to the resorts about them building pickleball facilities or anything along those lines in a partnership, or for...specifically for tourist-oriented pickleball needs?

MS. PETERS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Paltin. Not at this time. We have not done outreach, but we do know that there are courts in the resort areas.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, thanks.

MS. PETERS: Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Mr. Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And mahalo, Director Peters, for your...and your team for your presentation. You mentioned doing an assessment, and I remember a couple of years ago you guys sent out an assessment of all the parks to look at their . . . *(inaudible)*. . . So it sounds like you're going to be doing that again. I was just wondering if there is more room for expansion of these additional courts at either Maui Lani or Keopuolani Park, where it seems that there's a lot of parking and a lot of open space.

CHAIR KAMA: Director?

MS. PETERS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Sinenci. So that's part of the outreach...community outreach and planning that we'll need to do. And I can turn it over to David Yamashita to give you a glimpse of what that studies would look like.

MR. YAMASHITA: Yeah. Thank you, Karla and Councilmembers. Right now, what we're scheduled to do with the money that we have, I think it's around 50,000, is to look at facilities and...which would include structures, as well as sports facilities, and look at



# **HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

## **Council of the County of Maui**

**October 21, 2021**

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condition, and then also look at gathered data on usage and see how facilities, I think, the quantity and the condition can meet both existing and projected demand, to the degree that we have information, that's always the tricky part. But at this point that's all we can say because we haven't quite prepared the full scope of work yet, but that's the general idea. And I think it'll provide a good snapshot of what's going on in at least one district.

CHAIR KAMA: So David, I have a question. So as you're doing all of this information gathering and assessment, is...do you think the Department will be ready by the next budget session to bring forth something?

MR. YAMASHITA: I think it's going to take most of...or quite a bit of 2022, I think, to do this project, so I think by 2023 we should have information. And if we can do a survey as well, as Karla had mentioned, that would give us even more information because otherwise we're limited to what we can collect for one district. And if we did...if we did a countywide survey to kind of update our 2015 survey, that'll give us real...real data because it's...you know, we do a scientific survey, we use that kind of methodology.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Thank you for that, David. Members, any other questions? Yes, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering if you thought it would be worthwhile for all these folks to sign up for the Mayor's Budget tonight, or you guys pretty much got the gist already.

CHAIR KAMA: Are you asking me, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Director Peters.

CHAIR KAMA: Oh, okay.

MS. PETERS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Paltin. So yeah, we welcome everyone to sign up, and then like you enter into the chapters, also you can provide written testimony for the budget session. We'll be providing just a brief overview of our Department and welcoming everyone to provide their input, and we'd love to hear from everyone. I just wanted, Chair, just to mention that right now we're in our tri-annual permitting, and the need for hard surface courts are for basketball, tennis, volleyball, wrestling, football, air riflery, and pickleball. So we see a lot of more sports than are identified in today's meeting, and I just wanted to make the body aware that we are...we have a wall here in front of us with hundreds of Post-its showing all of the needs at Wells tennis courts, over 30 to 40 requests. We took in hundreds of applications for all of our courts, facilities, and sports fields, so it is challenging to be able to give everyone what they need, and we're trying our best to be fair and equitable across the board. Thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Member Sugimura, you had your hand up?

# HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

October 21, 2021

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VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, thank you.

CHAIR KAMA: Okay, okay. Okay. So I think if you all think about any other questions, you might want to give that to the Committee and the Committee could send it out to the Department. I know we didn't have a whole of time to bring forth the...some of the people that were here from the various recreational activities, and some came to testify and some didn't, but hopefully my intent is to defer this item so that we can bring it back for future Committee discussions, especially since now we know that the Department may not be able to come back to talk to us about this until probably mid-2022.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**ACTION: DEFER.**

CHAIR KAMA: So with that being said, I want to thank everyone for attending today's meeting. I want to thank all of those who came to testify. Thank you, Committee, for all your questions and your inquisitiveness. And thank you, Member Paltin, for now learning how to play pickleball, as well as futsal. So now that we all know how to play these games, we've been invited by the community to come out and experience what they're experiencing, so I think it would be a good idea if we did. But in the meantime, the time is now 4:22 p.m., and today's Human Concerns and Parks Committee meeting is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**ADJOURN: 4:22 p.m.**

APPROVED BY:



TASHA KAMA, Chair  
Human Concerns and Parks Committee

hcp:min:211021

Transcribed by: Marie Tesoro &  
Terianne Arreola

**HUMAN CONCERNS AND PARKS COMMITTEE**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

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CERTIFICATIONS

I, Marie Tesoro, hereby certify that pages 1 through 25 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 29th day of November 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marie Tesoro", written over a horizontal line.

Marie Tesoro

I, Terianne Arreola, hereby certify that pages 25 through 59 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 29th day of November 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terianne Arreola", written over a horizontal line.

Terianne Arreola