

**For Immediate Release: March 11, 2020**

Press Release by:  
Councilmember Michael J. Molina



***Molina seeks action on request for equestrian facility in Makawao***

WAILUKU – Councilmember Michael J. Molina transmitted a proposed resolution to the County Council to urge Mayor Victorino to negotiate with Maui Land and Pineapple Company for property in Makawao for use as an equestrian facility.

The proposed resolution is entitled “URGING THE ADMINISTRATION TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF APPROXIMATELY 41.25 ACRES OF LAND NEAR THE MAUI VETERANS CEMETERY AND MAKAWAO CEMETERY FOR AN EQUESTRIAN FACILITY IN MAKAWAO.”

The purpose of the proposed resolution is to urge the Mayor to commence discussions with Maui Land and Pine for property located along Baldwin Avenue in Makawao across from the Veterans and Makawao Cemeteries.

The proposed resolution notes members from the equestrian community have requested the County pursue an equestrian facility open to the public that will provide opportunities for the riding, roping and rodeo events.

I want to make equestrian facilities available to the public, said Molina. With the uncertainty of availability of private facilities, a county facility would guarantee access to the community for children and elderly programs.”

Councilmember Molina transmitted a request to the Mayor asking his consideration for negotiating possible acquisition of the subject property on October 8, 2019, December 11, 2019 and requested assistance of the Mayor’s Chief of Staff on February 20, 2020. To date the Councilmember has not received a response to his requests.

During the Council’s Economic Development and Budget Committee meeting of February 20, 2020, the Mayor’s Chief of Staff noted a Strategic Goal of the Mayor is to “Respond to all texts, phone calls and letters in a timely manner.”

“With all due respect, the lack of response to my requests shows a failure in achieving this goal, said Molina. It’s been over 4 months since my initial request, I hope his response to our constituents is better than his response to me.”

“If the Mayor would have responded to one of my requests, I would not have transmitted the proposed resolution to Council, said Molina. The community is asking for assistance on this matter and I’m just trying to honor their request.”

The recent concerns over the availability of Oskie Rice Arena for the Makawao Rodeo has raised concerns amongst the equestrian community. The request for discussions with Maui Land and Pine is very timely and could put to rest concerns of future equestrian facility availability.

The proposed resolution will be considered at the County Council meeting of March 13, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chamber.

*\* Mike Molina is chair of the council’s Governance, Ethics, and Transparency Committee. He holds the council seat for the Makawao-Haiku-Paia residency area. Go to [mike.molina@mauicounty.us](mailto:mike.molina@mauicounty.us) for more information or call 270-5507.*

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# Resolution

No. \_\_\_\_\_

URGING THE ADMINISTRATION TO  
NEGOTIATE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF  
APPROXIMATELY 41.25 ACRES OF LAND NEAR  
THE MAUI VETERANS CEMETERY AND  
MAKAWAO CEMETERY FOR AN EQUESTRIAN  
FACILITY IN MAKAWAO

WHEREAS, Maui Land & Pineapple Company, Inc. (“Maui Land & Pine”), is the fee owner of the lot identified for real property tax purposes as tax map key number (2) 2-4-001:025:0000, consisting of approximately 41.25 acres (the “Property”); and

WHEREAS, the Property is located near the Maui Veterans Cemetery and Makawao Cemetery along Baldwin Avenue in Makawao, Maui, Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, members of the roping, ranching and equestrian community are requesting a County-owned facility to be used for riding, roping and rodeo events; and

WHEREAS, the Makawao and Upcountry communities desire to have a facility similar to the Honaunau Rodeo Facility in South Kona, which is owned by the County of Hawaii and available to the public; and

WHEREAS, representatives from Maui Land & Pine have expressed a willingness to entertain discussions for possible use of the Property as an equestrian facility; and

WHEREAS, residents desire a facility that can be managed for operation by a community-based organization, but owned by the County, and has the potential to evolve into a facility with improvements such as a pavilion for community functions, and amenities that can be used by riding, roping and rodeo enthusiasts; and

**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

WHEREAS, due to the uncertainty of the availability and use of existing privately-owned rodeo and equestrian facilities, the need for a County-owned facility is essential; now, therefore,

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

1. That it urges the Administration to negotiate with Maui Land & Pine for the acquisition of the subject Property; and
2. That it urges the Administration to provide the Council and the community with reports on the County's efforts to acquire the subject Property; and
3. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Director of Finance, Pat Borge, owner of Makena Stables, and Roland Kehano, President of the Maui Roping Club.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LEGALITY:



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DAVID A. GALAZIN  
Department of the Corporation Counsel  
County of Maui  
2020-0258  
2020-03-03 Resolution