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Press Release by:

Councilmember Councilmember Michael J. Molina 

Council approves on First Reading Advisory Committees for Paia-Haiku and South Maui.

WAILUKU – Today the Maui County Council approved a proposed bill on first reading entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTERS 2.28 AND 2.40, MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE MAUI PLANNING COMMISSION".

The purpose of the proposed bill is to establish advisory committees to the Maui Planning Commission (Commission) for the Kihei-Makena and Paia-Haiku community plan areas.

The Bill was tailored after the Hana Advisory Committee to the Maui Planning Commission that has been in operation since 1989. The Hana Advisory Committee advises the Commission on matters within its jurisdiction of the East Maui Community Plan area.

The proposed bill authorizes the advisory committees to:

- i. Provide recommendations to the Commission,
- ii. Hold public hearing on behalf of the Commission,
- iii. Carry out such duties as assigned by the Commission.

"Some have raised concerns that advisory committees may extend the review process of planning permits, said Molina. If implemented properly the functions of the advisory committees could replace certain duties of the Commission and remove any duplication in the processing of permits."

The bill will also revise the appointment process to the advisory committees, with the council nominating and approving 5 members and the Mayor appointing 2 members.

"I believe the revised appointment procedure will make the process more transparent and more representative of the communities", said Molina.

"I envision the advisory committees will increase government transparency, build a healthier understanding of the entitlement process, heighten public awareness and help residents manage growth within their neighborhoods," said Molina.

** 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 for more information or call 270-5507.*

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