

1 October 2001

**To:** Chair Mike Molina and Members

Public Works and Transportation Committee, Maui County Council

**From:** Elliott Krash, President

Kula Community Association

**Subject:** Public Works and Transportation Committee Meeting, October 3, 2001

Agenda Item PWT-32: Draft Maui Outdoor Lighting Standards

### **Position**

The Kula Community Association supports the bill proposed by the Ad Hoc Maui Committee for Outdoor Lighting Standards which would establish standards for outdoor lighting to: maintain safety, security, and production; promote energy conservation; improve environmental conditions for astronomical studies, wildlife, and plants; and minimize unsafe and unsightly light trespass, light pollution, and glare.

### **Explanation**

The Kula Community Association (KCA) Board of Directors has reviewed and discussed the "Draft Maui Outdoor Lighting Standards". In addition, a report by the Ad Hoc Committee to the general membership of the KCA was enthusiastically received. The KCA Board supports the proposed ordinance and asks that there be serious consideration to the full acceptance of its content.

The KCA has been active in the past in recommending remedies for our state and county lighting practices. We responded to detailed questions from the County Public Works Committee on Outdoor Lighting in 1995 and supported lighting standards in the 1996 Upcountry Community Plan Update. Our association and others proposed comprehensive outdoor lighting standards which were not adopted. Such standards are long overdue.

The proposed "Maui Outdoor Lighting Standards" would address many problems caused by our existing inappropriate lighting. A few of these concerns are: light trespass and pollution, energy waste, glare, visual clutter, unsafe travel conditions, and endangered wildlife. As population increases and urban areas grow, these problems will intensify, resulting in diminished safety, economy, and quality of life.

The KCA Board believes outdoor lighting restrictions, established and enforced by a comprehensive ordinance, are the only remedy to poor lighting practices. We urge the Maui County Council to adopt the proposed "Maui Outdoor Lighting Standards".