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Nukolii supporters call for

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Advertiser Kauai Bureau

LIHUE — The Kauaians for Nukolii Committee has called for a new election in hopes Kauai voters have changed their minds and will support the resort development at Nukolii.

The newly-formed group has an office in the Lihue Shopping Center and will be managed by Executive Director Barbara Daly, who was public information officer for former Mayor Eduardo Malapit.

Co-chairmen are former County Councilman Robert K. Yotsuda, who was on the council that voted in favor of the resort zoning at Nukolii, and

Hawaiian Telephone Kauai manager Ezra Kanohe. Kanohe, as outgoing president of the Kauai Chamber of Commerce, has supported the completion of the controversial development.

The three yesterday submitted a letter asking the council to set a special election for a new referendum. Kauaians for Nukolii would pay for the election, the letter said.

Under the county charter, there are two ways to get an issue on the ballot for a referendum. The council can put it there, or petitioners can collect the signatures of 20 percent of the voters in the last election in support of a referendum and force a vote.

The new group said it is prepared to

start a petition drive if the council does not call for the election. Daly late yesterday said the petition effort would start immediately.

The group's decision to act is based in part, she said, on an independent survey conducted by the Honolulu firm of Starr Seigle McCombs, which "indicates a favorable attitude toward the development by a majority of Kauai residents."

Kauaians for Nukolii did not say who paid for the survey or how it was performed.

The Kauai Chamber of Commerce is now conducting a survey of its membership on the Nukolii issue.

The Nukolii issue first went before

new vote on resort

the voters in the 1980 general election, and by a 2-1 margin Kauai voters changed the zoning of the 25-acre site from resort to agriculture.

A 150-unit condominium and the foundations of a 350-room hotel were completed based on a circuit court decision that the developers had vested rights to proceed in spite of the election.

But the Hawaii Supreme Court

reversed that ruling and ordered all work stopped. Developers appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, but it let the Hawaii court's decision stand.

Members of the Save Nukolii Committee, which brought the initial referendum, have said for some time that they've expected a counter-referendum move by the developer or supporters of the developer.