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Report

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Nukolii: Kauaians group lists its finances

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Advertiser Kauai Bureau

LIHUE — Kauaians for Nukolii spent nearly \$30,000 to get their initiative petition approved, then took in \$216,000 to campaign for passage of the initiative which would allow completion of a hotel there.

The organization yesterday filed a campaign spending report on its income and expenditures during its effort to get its petition certified by the county clerk for a ballot. Kauaians earlier had said it would not file on the pre-certification costs to protect the identities of donors who had been assured privacy.

Meanwhile, the county clerk's office reported that many of Kauai's 21,318 registered voters already have cast their ballots on the issue. The clerk's office said it sent out 3,908 absentee ballots and has already gotten 3,148 back in the mail. Another 318 people cast absentee ballots in the polling booths at the clerk's office.

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That means more than 16 percent of the registered voters already have cast their ballots. The pre-election voting could have a substantial effect on the outcome of a special election in which voter turnout is expected to be below the more than 80 percent Kauai generally tallies for regular elections.

In yesterday's campaign expense report filing, Kauaians reported it had collected \$30,328.84 and spent a total of \$28,978.42 in getting the petition certified for a vote. After the certification, it changed its formal name to Kauaians for Nukolii Campaign Committee. The latter committee last week reported it had taken in \$216,437 in donations and

loan, and had spent \$173,296 in its effort to win at the ballot box.

Like the donors in the election effort, the large contributors to the petition drive mostly had ties to the project itself or to the construction industry.

The largest donor was Graham Beach Partners, the Nukolii developer, with a \$4,461.29 assist. Its Honolulu spokesman, Osamu Kaneko, is listed as a donor of \$2,000. The general partner of Graham Beach Partners is Hasegawa Komuten USA, which donated \$110,000 and lent \$62,000 to the campaign committee.

There were sums of \$250 and \$300 from various contractors, \$500 from 1st Hawaiian Bank and \$1,000 from the Carpenter's union. Several individuals donated \$2,000 each.

Most of the expenses involved advertising, office costs and salary for Bobbie Daly, executive director of Kauaians for Nukolii.

Kauaians, and its rival Committee to Save Nukolii have spent compar-

atively little money in media advertising in the last weeks of the campaign. Instead, much of the efforts seems to be in mailouts and direct telephone contacts.

Some residents received letters from Hasegawa Komuten, giving its views on the issue about its donations to Kauaians for Nukolii. Since Hasegawa is the main beneficiary of the initiative effort, and since Kauai residents without a direct benefit are already donating considerable volunteer time, the firm felt it should play a part by helping out with money, a letter explains.

The Committee to Save Nukolii is sending out leaflets that include the slogan, "Kauai is not for sale," and which charge the developer with arrogance in the initiative issue.

Voters will be asked whether they want agricultural or resort zoning at the Nukolii site. To re-establish resort zoning there would allow the developers to complete the 350-room hotel whose foundation now stands on the land.