Hawaiians just say no

Committee turns down potential $291-million profit

BY PETER BLAIS

The Honolulu City Council Human Services Committee has voted against the city’s proposed sale of West Loch Golf Course to a Japanese company, likely killing a deal that would have netted the city $291 million. Mayor Frank Fasi hoped to use the funds to upgrade recreational facilities and three new public courses.

Jurigi Co. bid $111 million this spring for the new municipal course, which cost the city $20 million to build, and offered $200 million in impact fees if the city eventually approved two other golf course construction applications.

The committee voted 4-1 against Jurigi’s offer. Committee Chairman Neal Abercrombie said his committee had two primary objections.

First, Abercrombie explained, the land was originally condemned for a municipal course and should be used for the new municipal course, which cost the city $20 million to build, and offered $200 million in impact fees if the city eventually approved two other golf course construction applications.

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Corps major holdup

BY MARK LESLIE

The Army Corps of Engineers has caused more delays in golf projects than any other organization, according to a survey of golf course architects.

Thirty-nine of 40 member firms answering an American Society of Golf Course Architects survey said they experienced difficulties in obtaining permits for courses because of environmental concerns by local, state or national agencies.

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Dry spell plagues Florida

BY PETER BLAIS

Late spring showers improved the situation somewhat. But Florida remained in the throes of a drought that left wells at record-low levels in some parts of the state and resulted in water restrictions that threatened many courses.

Because of weather patterns that generally move storms diagonally from northwest to southeast Florida, south courses in Ohio and Kentucky. It is not likely the problem will show up at any other courses, Fetter said. "We feel we know exactly what happened, what (production) run the contamination occurred in, and where it went."

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Tainted fungicide damages courses

BY MARK LESLIE

A fungicide contaminated with a foreign chemical killed turf on about 10 golf courses in five states, according to its manufacturer, G.M. Scott & Sons.

Atrazine, the active ingredient in Scott’s Bonus S herbicide, mistakenly got mixed into a batch of FF-II, a fertilizer-based fungicide used primarily to control snow mold, said Jim Fetter, Scott’s vice president of marketing.

The mixing was done last fall but it wasn’t until temperature warmed up this spring that it was discovered at several courses in Michigan, two in Minnesota, and one each in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Kentucky. It is not likely the problem will show up at any other courses, Fetter said. “We feel we know exactly what happened, what (production) run the contamination occurred in, and where it went.”

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