

GOLF COURSE NEWS

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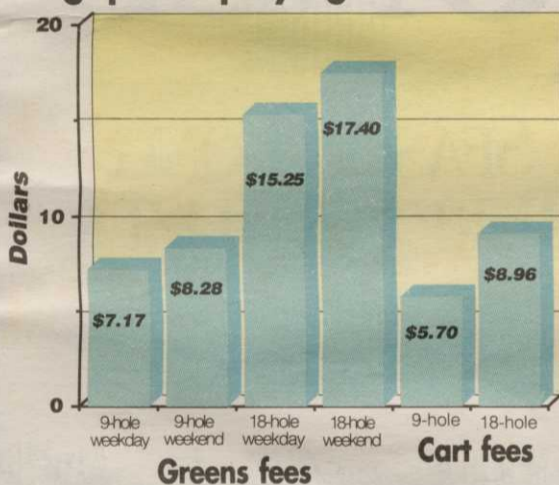
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Hawaii council nixes impact fees

By Peter Blais

The Honolulu City Council has unanimously overridden Mayor Frank Fasi's veto and adopted a golf course development policy that rejects the mayor's suggested \$100-million impact fees.

Instead the policy encourages developers to integrate the golf course project into the local community while setting strict social, economic and environmental requirements.

Bill 129 establishes guidelines for judging among the numerous propos-

als submitted for review annually on the island of Oahu, where at least 40 courses are in preliminary planning stages.

But critics complain the ordinance still fails to address how many more courses should be allowed on the island or where they can be located. One of the primary areas of concern is near already crowded Kaneohe Bay on the northeast side of Oahu, where another 14 courses have been proposed and residents are concerned about the bay's water quality.

"The ordinance is rational and scien-

tifically based," said Stuart Cohen of Environmental & Turf Services, a Wheaton, Md.-based firm that has done environmental risk assessments in Hawaii. "It takes the proposals, provides a rational basis for making decisions, and requires that good people are available to manage the turf."

Cohen, who testified at an August workshop concerning Bill 129, agreed that the number of courses and where they should be located are important issues that still need to be addressed on

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One of the most talked-about holes at architect Tom Fazio's Ocean Course at Pelican Hill Golf Club in Newport Beach, Calif., is the 13th. It features two small greens fronted by a large area of coastal scrub and sand. The Ocean Course opened in November. A second 18-hole venue at Pelican Hill — the Canyon Course — is slated for completion some time later. The project was developed by The Irvine Co. For more on Pelican Hill and other new golf courses, see pages 27-43.

Photo by John Connell

The Best of 1991

The annual *Golf Course News* survey votes are in. The winners are:

Architect:
Tom Fazio
story, page 27

Builder:
Wadsworth
story, page 27

Resort Developer:
Landmark Land Co.
story, page 45

Conditioned Resort Course on Tour:
TPC at Sawgrass
story, page 17

Sherman Hollow dealt a blow by Vt. board

By Peter Blais

The Vermont Environmental Board has denied the latest attempt to obtain a building permit for the Sherman Hollow Golf Course in Huntington.

But course developers, who have spent seven years and hundreds of thousands of dollars seeking approval for the multimillion-dollar resort under the state's strict Act 250 development

See related story on Squaw Creek, page 17.

law, are not giving up.

They feel the board made "substantial mistakes" and are asking it to reverse its ruling, according to Sherman Hollow President Paul Truax.

"It's a step we had to take within 30 days of the board's decision," said Truax,

who submitted the appeal on the final day of the one-month deadline.

The board denied the latest reconsideration for a land-use permit — which included the developers' promise not to use chemical pesticides or fertilizers — because of problems regarding waste disposal, streams, water supplies and soil erosion.

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USGA puts rebuffed TRACS on hold

By Peter Blais

The U.S. Golf Association Green Section has temporarily shelved plans for its new construction consulting service after receiving complaints from golf course architects and builders that it

represents competition and unnecessary oversight.

Green Section Director Jim Snow still hopes to establish the program, but will delay its launch until some "unfortunate misunderstandings" are clarified.

Snow announced the introduction of Turf Renovation and Construction Services in mid-November.

Headed by Mid-Continent Section Director Jim Moore, TRACS is designed as a

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