

William Spence, Planning Director
Maui Planning Department
250 South High Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
(808) 270-7735

Planning Director, January 2011 to Present

As Planning Director, I am the chief planning officer for Maui County and am the technical advisor to the mayor, council, and planning commissions on all planning related matters.

The Planning Director has the authority to prepare, administer, and propose amendments to zoning ordinances and maps, and to enforce the same. The Director also proposes revisions to the general and community plans.

I am the administrative head of the Planning Department, which is comprised of 65 employees in four divisions: Long Range, Current, Plan Implementation, and Zoning and Enforcement. I am responsible to staff the Maui, Molokai, and Lanai planning commissions, the Cultural Resources Commission, Urban Design Review Board, Maui Redevelopment Agency, and the Hana Advisory Committee. My office also regularly attends and advises two council committees, Land Use and Planning. Other committees are staffed on request.

The William Spence Company, 2002 to December 2010.

As an independent consultant, I primarily worked with private landowners to obtain discretionary approvals or legislative actions. The applications that I wrote and processed varied widely in complexity, from basic Special Management Area assessments, to compound approvals for multi-million dollar facilities or housing projects. I worked closely with other professionals such as attorneys, engineers, or architects, as well as multiple government agencies.

Maui Planning Department, Senior Staff Planner, 1992 to 2002.

As a staff planner, I was responsible for a number of multi-year, regional projects that resulted in legislation being passed. These include community plan updates, mass rezoning to implement the plans. All of the projects required independent research and analysis using socio-economic or other data, mapping, and other sources of information. All of them involved multiple presentations and hearings before public-interest groups, citizen committees, planning commissions, and the Maui County Council.

I was also responsible for virtually every type of discretionary permit or legislative action within the Maui Planning Department, including SMA permits, Land Use Commission and County special permits, Conditional Permits, and Changes in Zoning. Two applications involved extensive contested case hearings.

Myra Frank and Associates, Associate Planner, 1990 to 1992, Los Angeles, CA.

As an associate planner, I performed technical environmental analysis for various public works or public facilities as well as regional planning projects. Most of my work involved cumulative and project specific air quality analysis.

Formal Education – Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning, School of Environmental Design, California State Polytechnic at Pomona, graduated 1990.

Affiliations - American Planning Association (APA) since 1987, former board member of Art Maui, and the Hui Noeau Visual Art Center.