

October 8, 2009

ALOHA COMMISSION CHAIRMAN Edmund Haitsuka and COMMISSION MEMBERS David Fuertes, Daphne Honma, Casey Jarman, Guy Kaulukukui, Jamae Kawauchi, Joseph Kealoha, Alapaki Nahale, Susie Osborne, Todd Shumway and Scott Unger

Thank you for serving on this very important commission to update our Hawaii County Charter. Please consider the following amendments when making your decisions on how to update our county charter:

I SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS:

- 4-Year COUNCIL TERMS
- 2% FOR THE LAND FUND- other counties have this funding set aside as part of their charter so citizens can count on funds being available to acquire access to beaches and mountains, preserve culturally important land areas and sites, beaches, coastal area, agricultural lands, protect natural resources, significant habitat or eco-systems, water quality and water systems, including buffer zones. This would remove this funding from yearly budget wrangling and have the funds available to attract matching funds.
- APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS- I support this amendment because it gives the council members the right to nominate people for boards and commissions, the Mayor can give comments and the public has a time to weigh in. Council members know who is qualified and involved in their districts. All board member applications should be available to the public at least 30 days prior to submission to the Mayor for approval
- I support open and transparent government as proscribed by the Sunshine Law #92F-2 Uniform Information Practices Act.

I further support suggestions as follows:

- Require that all Board meetings be listed on the County's Calendar that is made available on the internet and provide a link to the Board's agenda.
- Require that proposed board members swear an allegiance to serve the interests of the community without regard to personal self interests, business self interests, or special interests related to either of their personal or business self interests.
- Require disclosure of potential conflicts of interest at board meetings in advance of the item on the Board agenda.
- Require that meetings of the County Council, the Planning Commission, and the Charter Commission be live broadcast, or at least made available by internet "on-demand" link within 24 hours of the meeting
- Require that all development approvals be reviewed by the CDP action committees – which is what is supposed to be happening now.
- Require that the make up of the Planning Commission and the CDP action committees be broadly representative of community interests including environmental and socio-cultural interests.
- Require that a separate attorney be appointed to represent the County Council (legislative branch) and be independent from Corporation Counsel who is part of the Mayor's cabinet.

Mahalo!

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COMM. 71