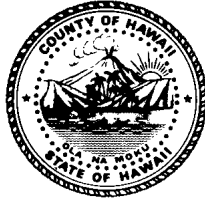


William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Randall M. Kurohara
Director

County of Hawaii

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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December 31, 2009

The Honorable Edmund Haitzuka and Members of the
County of Hawai`i Charter Commission
c/o Hawai`i County Council - Clerk
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai`i 96720

RE: Proposed County of Hawai`i's Charter Amendments affecting
Boards and Commissions

Dear Chair Haitzuka and Commission Members:

The Department of Research and Development maintains the Mayor's Energy Advisory Commission which consists of ten (10) volunteer Commissioners. The level of expertise among the Commissioners is quite extensive and their knowledge and information provided are voluminous. Soon, this department will be required to maintain a second commission relating to agriculture. Both commissions are crucial and much time and effort are required to support such endeavors.

The Charter amendments that you propose involving the Boards and Commissions puts a huge financial burden on this department. To be mandated to create and maintain a website would require this department to contract a professional service with no funds to do so. The staff within this department does not have the expertise nor the additional time to take on such a daunting task.

Currently, the Energy Advisory Commission agenda and minutes are posted on the County of Hawai`i website as required by law. Those interested in attending meetings or desire to peruse the minutes can easily do so through the County of Hawai`i website. A separate commission website is unnecessary and a considerable, continual waste of funds.

Further, due to the current budget restraints, we are no longer able to provide the Commissioners with a monthly lunch at their meetings, therefore to expend significant funds to create and maintain a website would be unrealistic and unfair to all involved. The public already has immediate access to necessary information about the commissions through the existing County of Hawai`i website.

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The Honorable Edmund Haisuka and Members of the
County of Hawai'i Charter Commission
December 31, 2009
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Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

RANDALL KUOHARA
Director