

Hawai'i County Charter Commission Meeting

1:30 PM Friday, February 12, 2010

Hawai'i County Council Chambers, Hilo

comments by

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Please drop the residence address requirement for petition signers in--

CA-7 recall

CA-12 initiation of Charter amendments or revisions

These are the reasons--

1 - Some streets aren't named yet, so the County can't assign addresses, according to Merle Iwasaki at the County planning department.

That happened to me--my street is privately owned, by someone in Utah, and it took years before he named it.

2 - Some places have multiple addresses--this is according to Ms. Iwasaki, and Frankie Stapleton of Puna, who once worked for the census. How does a petition signer know which address to use?

3 - There are twice as many taxable parcels (about 140,000) as addresses (about 70,000.)

For many parcels, this just means nothing's been built yet. But for some, it can mean they weren't assigned an address.

71,129 addresses assigned, per Ms. Iwasaki

139,284 taxable parcels, per Lloyd Tanaka at the County Property Tax Office

4 - Some assigned addresses are incorrect. Once I was told I couldn't vote because elections officials didn't have my new address--though I had notified the Elections Office months earlier. The Elections Office finally changed my address--but to a street a mile away from my real address. The Planning Department finally got my street named and assigned me an address, but Elections kept sending postcards with the one-mile-away address. So when I voted, or signed petitions, I didn't know which address to use.

5 - Homeless people have no address. I don't know if they can still vote and sign petitions, but if anyone needs a voice, they do.

Requiring a residence address is like Southern states giving "literacy tests." It takes away people's voice in government.