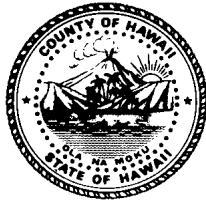


William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Randall M. Kurohara
Director

County of Hawaii

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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January 11, 2010

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: Amendment to Art. VI, Section 6-8.1 through 6-8.3

Dear Chair Haitzuka and Charter Commission Members:

Thank you for allowing the Department of Research and Development the opportunity to address the Commission in regards to the request for Amendment to Art. VI, Section 6-8.1 through 6-8.3.

Amendment to Art. VI, Section 6-8.1 through 6-8.2 - Revision to the name of the Department of Research and Development to the *Department of Economic Development*.

Under our current economic environment, it is becoming abundantly clearer that economic sustainability, stability and viability for our island community is imperative in order to ensure that the County is able to continue providing core County services and functions to our citizens.

The driving force behind this proposal is for the County to provide leadership, direction and resources to both the public and private sector through a County Department specifically tasked with the power, duties and functions to assist, promote and solidify the economic development and viability of our island.

Accordingly, this proposed amendment would ensure the resources currently utilized in and by the Department of Research and Development to remain intact, and continue to support the newly re-named *Department of Economic Development*, whose primary and core functions would be to ensure economic vitality within the Island of Hawai'i.

In replacing the name of the Department of Research and Development to the ***Department of Economic Development***, it is desired and is in the best interest of the County of Hawai'i to amend County of Hawai'i Charter Section 6-8.1 – Section 6-8.3 to reflect the following:

CHAPTER 8
DEPARTMENT OF ~~[RESEARCH AND]~~ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Section 6-8.1. Organization.

There shall be a department of ~~[research and]~~ economic development consisting of a director and the necessary staff.
(2000, Prop. 2, sec. 1.)

Section 6-8.2. Director.

The director of ~~[research and]~~ economic development shall be appointed by the mayor, confirmed by the council and may be removed by the mayor. The director shall have had a minimum of five years related experience.
(1979, Prop. 12; 2000. Prop. 2, sec. 1; 2000, Prop. 7, sec. 4.)

Section 6-8.3 Powers, Duties and Functions.

The ~~[director]~~ department of ~~[research and]~~ economic development shall:

- (a) Provide leadership, guidance and support for sustainable economic development in agriculture, energy and tourism and other industries vital to the economic health and well being of our island community.
- ~~[(a)]~~ b) Collect and develop data necessary for managerial and legislative decision-making, and program and policy-making.
- ~~[(b)]~~ ~~[Provide staff leadership for public and private development programs, enterprises and plans, including economic, social and cultural proposals, which enhance improvement of the county community]~~
- (c) Coordinate informational and regulatory knowledge of ~~[all]~~ federal and state grant-in-aid participation programs which affect the county's economic development.

I look forward to presenting this request and my support for this Amendment to Art. VI, Section 6.8-1 through 6-8.3 to you and the members of the Charter Commission at the upcoming meeting scheduled for January 21, 2010. Should you need any further information and/or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Very truly yours,



RANDALL M. KUROHARA
Director