

February 16, 2010

CA-16

Honorable Chair Haitsuka and Members,

I am writing in opposition to CA-16, which would amend the method of citizen initiated amendments and revisions to the charter for the following reasons: it is too convoluted and confusing and the charter is meant to be a broad document.

First, the language from Article XI is much too convoluted and confusing. To put this simply, read the current provisions of Article XV and the language contained in Article XI and determine which one is easier to read and make sense of. There is simply too much detail and procedures in Article XI. This brings me to my second point:

The charter is meant to be a broad document. The finer details of what the charter authorizes is meant to be made through ordinances or administrative rules. The charter is simply supposed to say "ok, the citizens are authorized to petition the county for a charter amendment by collecting a certain number of signatures." And from there, the details are to be worked out at the agency level. There is simply too much detail for a charter provision in this amendment.

Therefore, I oppose CA-16 and strongly urge the charter commission to reject this proposal in any form.

Ken Adams
Hawaii County