

To: Charter Commission for 3-12-10 meeting
Fr: Margaret Wille
Re: **CA-23** (Electronic Notice) and **CA-15** (Land Fund)
Date: 3-11-10

I SUPPORT CA-23 (Electronic Notice Requirement) which requires electronic notice whenever newspaper notice is required – and within the same time frame as provided for newspaper notices.

I SUPPORT CA-15 SO LONG AS IT IS AMENDED TO PROVIDE FUNDING AT THE 1% level , if the Commission does not agree to the 2% level approved by the electorate.

I SUPPORT the 1% compromise for the following reasons:

- What is most important is to ensure that the Land Fund becomes part of the Charter – so that it cannot be totally eliminated by a vote of the Council.
- The 1% allocation is the minimum required – by ordinance addition funding can be appropriated when the County is not faced with the same level of severe budget cuts.
- Whereas 0.5% is a real slap in the face to the electorate, 1% is, in my opinion, a decent minimum level of funding. 1% is sufficient to provide the leverage needed to seek matching funds through private and public grants and to support bond initiatives. Maui County has fixed a 1% minimum allocation for its Land Fund.
- If there were clear support on the Commission for the 2% figure that would be great. However I do not see that support on the Commission and given the Administration's opposition any Land Fund Charter Amendment over 1% is more likely to fail. Such an outcome would be very sad and very wrong.
- I believe the Commission appreciates the intent of the Land Fund and want to see this voter initiative become part of the County's Charter. At the same time I understand the Commission seeks to set a minimum funding level that can realistically be supported and defended during these difficult economic times.