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May 21, 2010

To: Charter Commission
From: Margaret Wille
Re: Charter Commission Communications 136 and 252
Date of Commission meeting: May 21, 2010
Chair Haitsuka and Members of the Hawaii County Charter Commission

**A. Communication 136 and 136.1, 136.2, and 136.3
Recommendations re Combining of Charter Amendments**

I suggest combining some of the proposed Charter amendments and suggest that certain proposed amendments stand alone. I have listed the proposed amendments in the general order that I believe they should be listed on the ballot.

1. Re: Increased notice to the public: ***combine***
CA -23 Electronic Notice with Newspaper Publication
CA – 9 Special Notice Requirement
2. Re: Respect for the aina and the culture: ***stand alone***
CA-26 Conservation of Natural and Cultural Resources
3. Re: Funding of the open space – public access fund: ***stand alone***
CA- 15 Land Fund
4. Re: Expand role of the public prosecutor to include educational and preventative responsibilities: ***stand alone***
CA- 29 Prosecuting Attorney Powers
5. Re: Revisions to procedures to recall elected officials: ***stand alone***
CA-7 Recall Procedures

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6. Re: Clarification concerning drawing election district lines and requirement of adherence to redistricting criteria and providing additional time for the redistricting commission to act: ***stand alone***

CA-17 Reapportionment to Redistricting

7. Re: Allowing for Increased Responsibilities for Department of Environmental Management and additional qualifications for Director of Department of Environmental Management: ***combine***

CA-10 Department of Environmental Management Powers and

CA-11 Department of Environmental Management Qualifications of Director of Department of Environmental Management

8. Re: Increased due process procedures provided prior to removal of director of Human Resources, Director of Water Supply, Director of Liquor Control, and the Fire Chief ***stand alone***

CA-6 Removal of Directors Serving under Commissions

9. Re: Amendments relating to reorganization of Boards and Commissions

To extent possible combine all of the following

CA-1 Department of Water Supply [changing titles of positions]

CA-2 Data Systems [relocates the Department]

CA- 3 Fire Department [relocates the Department]

CA- 4 Civil Service Law [changes provisions relating to Civil Service laws to comply with state law.

CA-5 Merit Appeals Board [provides for staggered terms]

CA-36 Housekeeping Amendment [wording corrections in the Charter]

10. Re: Board and Commission Compensation: Allows for discretion whether members to be compensation and reduces the maximum allowed to two times the state minimum wage ***stand alone***

CA- 38 Relating to membership and compensation on boards and commissions

11. Re: Process to amend the Charter including increasing the time the Charter Commission has to complete its work ***combine***

CA- 13 Mandatory Charter Review and

CA- 12 Initiation of Amendments or Revisions to Charter

B. RE: Ad hoc Committee to Consider Appropriate Educational Efforts to be Made by Commission Prior to Election Day

I suggest Casey Jarman, Susie Osborne, and Todd Shumway, volunteer for this ad hoc committee. They are all currently employed in educational institutions and have encouraged educational outreach to the public. There is no one on the Charter Commission who I would object to being on this ad hoc educational outreach committee.

I encourage this ad hoc committee to work with the Community Development Action Committees, and Community Development Steering Committees, and Hilo Vision Committee

These regional community committee groups are an appropriate public forum for these discussions. In this public outreach effort, I encourage the Charter Commission to be supportive of these community development plan (CDP) committees. Although a majority of the Charter Commission members voted to memorialize these Community Development Plan Action Committees in the Charter at the final vote, there were not enough votes to equal a majority of the entire commission (as is required in the procedural rules). Statements have been made by persons in the executive branch that failure of the Charter Commission to include reference to the Community Development Plans in the Charter shows a lack of support for these regional community level organizations and participation by these committees in issues relating to development in the affected communities.

Especially in these difficult economic times, the role of these regional community committees to provide for increased public participation, and to encourage voting by an informed electorate, is important. Utilization of these community forums for its public outreach would show support by Charter Commission members. Generally these CDP and related groups meet monthly. Two or more commission members could attend each such regional meeting and assist the committees in facilitating public understanding of the issues addressed in the proposed Charter Amendments.

The Commissions website should be used, as well as newspaper and radio ads, and local blog sites –which can direct residents to the Commission’s website and to any up coming public presentations.