



County of Hawai'i
Office of the County Clerk
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August 12, 2010

Honorable Edmund Haitsuka and Members of the
County of Hawai'i Charter Commission
c/o Hawai'i County Council
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Dear Chairman Haitsuka and Commission Members:

RE: Comments Regarding Proposed Ballot Language Summary for CA-17

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The August 10, 2010 Memorandum from Education Ad Hoc Committee Chair Jarman proposes the following summary for CA-17:

This proposal would change the name from "reapportionment commission" to "redistricting commission." "Reapportionment" more generally refers to determining how many seats in Congress will be granted to a state. The new name would more accurately reflect the commission's responsibility, which is to redraw political district lines based on population changes.

Commission members would be appointed by July of the year before the redistricting year instead of in January of the redistricting year

This proposal requires public hearings both before and after finishing the draft plan.

The present charter presents criteria for drawing district lines as guidelines. This proposal makes those criteria mandatory. They are: (1) No district shall be drawn to unduly favor or penalize a person or political faction; (2) Insofar as possible, districts should be contiguous and compact; (3) District lines shall, where possible, follow permanent and easily recognizable features; (4) Districts shall have approximately equal resident populations as required by applicable constitutional provisions.

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In my opinion, the summary should include the provision that if adopted, the 2011 redistricting commission will still be appointed in the manner of Sections 3-17(d) of the 2008 edition of the charter. As an example the second paragraph could be changed to read: "Following the 2011 Redistricting Commission, Redistricting Commission members would be appointed by July of the year before the redistricting year instead of in January of the redistricting year."

If I can provide further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 961-8271.

Yours, very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "K. Goodenow", with a stylized flourish at the end.

KENNETH G. GOODENOW