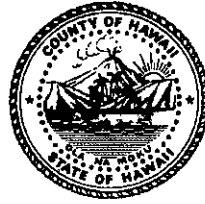


William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Nancy E. Crawford
Director

Deanna S. Sako
Deputy Director

County of Hawaii

Finance Department

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DATE: August 13, 2010

TO: Edmund Haitzuka, Chairman and Members
Charter Commission

FROM: Deanna Sako, Deputy Director

RE: Proposed Amendment to Education Language for CA-15

CA-15 RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPEN SPACE FUND

(EC) In 2008-2006, Hawai'i County voters approved an ordinance to place to buy open space with 2% of the county property tax revenues into the public access, open space, and natural resources preservation fund. Ordinances can be changed by the county council with a majority vote. In 2009, the mayor and council stopped payments ("moratorium") into the open space fund until July 1, 2011.

This proposal would put an open space preservation fund in the charter, which cannot be changed except by a charter amendment. It further requires a MINIMUM of 1% of property tax revenue be directed into an open space fund. The figure can be changed by ordinance, but it cannot fall below 1%. There is no conflict between this proposal and the current ordinance.

This proposal authorizes the use of additional monies such as grants, donations, and the county borrowings. It limits the use of money in the fund to the purchase and acquisition of lands and property for outdoor recreation and education, including access to beaches and mountains; preservation of historic or culturally important land areas and sites; protection of natural resources, significant habitat or eco-systems, including buffer zones; preservation of forests, beaches, coastal areas, natural beauty and agricultural lands; and protection of watershed lands to preserve water quality and water supply.