

To: Josh Stone, Chair, Maui County Charter Commission, and Members

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Subject: **COMMENTS ON AGENDA FOR JUNE 27, 2011**

1. **One of the most important actions you will ever take is choosing your staff. If the applicants are too few and not good enough, reopen the process.**

While it is natural that discussion of whom to hire as staff would be in executive session, there is no reason not to announce openly how many applications were received for each position.

2. On July 4, 1776, a committee of people just like you signed a document that said: "— That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed."

That committee knew that people cling to old customs, even when they suffer from them. They also knew that power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely; and they were determined to create a government whose power was subject to the people.

3. Here are the population figures for the Council residency districts, from the GIS dept:

East Maui	3,136	2010 Maui County population 154,834
Makawao-Haiku-Paia	21,232	
Upcountry	16,557	
South Maui	27,350	
Kahului	25,437	
Wailuku-Waihee-Waikapu	28,536	
West Maui	22,156	
Molokai	7,255	
Lanai	3,135	

4. Re Chair Stone's letter to Council chair: I think it should be Commission policy that every Council member is free to propose charter changes as an individual, just as any citizen can. I also would like to emphasize the important fact that **the Commission does NOT need Council approval for its proposals.**

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5. The Commission website ought to have a cumulative running list of proposals for charter change. Commissioner DeRego suggested a spread sheet, but not everyone has software for that. I would hope the list includes the name of the person making the proposal, and date.

6. Besides agendas and minutes, the website should include for each meeting an item that includes all the public document material sent to the Commissioners relative to each agenda item. I call it "backup material", you could call it "Communications".

It would look like this:

5/9/11	Agenda
5/9/11	Communications
5/9/11	Minutes

That way, both commissioners and public would have access to it, without using up large amounts of space in email. (After the meeting, documents passed out at the meeting should be added.)

7. Akaku has been showing the meeting of 6/13/11 a number of times. (Tape 450). If Commissioners will make use of the Open Mic possibility, and if this meeting and future meetings are taped for Akaku, it will increase the commission's public profile considerably.

8. The Honolulu Charter Commission of 2005-2006 had a large budget for outreach. **The Honolulu commission spent \$509 K The major categories were**

salaries	238K
postage	76 K
advertising	60K
building rental	48K
printing	22K
Other Services	21K

(Incl. brochure mailing service; ad and brochure design; translations; TV and radio production)

**<http://www1.honolulu.gov/chc>
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