

MINUTES OF THE
MAUI COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION

DATE: June 17, 1964

PLACE: Maui Frontier, Kahului, Maui, Hawaii

CALL TO ORDER: 8:45 P.M.

PRESIDING: Masaru Yokouchi, Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT: Masaru Yokouchi, Chairman
Emil Balthazar
C. H. Burnett, Jr.
Richard Caldito
William F. Crockett
Shiro Hokama
Nadao Honda
Keith Tester
Thomas Yagi
Charles C. Young, Research Assistant

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Cornwell Friel
Harry Kobayashi

OTHERS PRESENT: Kase Higa, County Attorney
Mrs. Jay Van Zwalenburg, President
Maui Citizens' Association for Good Government
Jack Stephens, Maui News Reporter

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The members of the Charter Commission met to review the Report of the Maui County Charter Commission which was to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors together with the proposed Charter of the County of Maui, at their meeting of June 19, 1964.

Printed copies of the second draft of the proposed Charter and copies of the Report of the Maui County Charter Commission were circulated to the members of the Charter Commission.

Mr. Higa briefly pointed out some of the technical changes which were made in the proposed Charter since the last meeting which was held on June 4, 1964. He also explained the provisions of the Report of the Maui County Charter Commission.

The Chair extended special thanks to Mr. Higa and to Harriette Miyamoto for their efforts and time spent in drafting and revising the charter.

Mr. Yagi expressed thanks to Mr. Charles C. Young, part-time Research Assistant of the Charter Commission, and the members of the press for the good coverage they have been giving on the progress of the Charter Commission. He also thanked Mrs. Van Zwalenburg for being one of the most faithful persons who has been attending practically every meeting of the Charter Commission.

DISCUSSION ON REPORT OF THE MAUI COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION:

- Mr. Young: In order that the charter may be sold to the people of the County of Maui, some protection should be given to the elected officials--specifically, the county clerk, county treasurer and county auditor. The people of Maui think enough of them to elect them year after year. When people are good enough to be elected by the people of the County of Maui, whether they are Democrats or Republicans, something should be written into the charter that they not be thrown out of office.
- Mr. Yagi: I think Charley is right; however, under the circumstances, we cannot write in the charter that these people be guaranteed jobs. We can recommend that these people be given consideration. I am very much against the fact that these people are guaranteed their jobs under the charter because there are appointive positions, too. If we are going to give elected officers the right to a job, I think we should give it to everyone, including appointed officers. Therefore, I think we should only recommend that some consideration be given to these people. I think that will insure the people. I do sympathize with them, but these are the circumstances which I feel should be considered in not guaranteeing these individuals their jobs.
- Mr. Burnett: I agree with Tom, but I don't think there is any way in which this commission can even recommend.
- Mr. Balthazar: I don't think the charter will stand or fall on the basis of the three positions.
- Mr. Yokouchi: We must abide by the principle.
- Mr. Burnett: As far as I am concerned, I do not concur that these individuals who fight against the charter should be rewarded. That is not right.
- Mr. Higa: The wording in this Report is not a guarantee that they will get a job. We discussed this matter at one time and we said that this would not be in the charter.
- Mr. Balthazar: You are assuming they will fight the charter.
- Mr. Yagi: I am very critical of this paragraph on page 15 because it says that it could be proposed in the charter.
- Mr. Yokouchi: We are going on the principle that these people deserve some consideration. I cannot see how these people are going out to fight against the charter. I think we should go strictly by principle.
- Mr. Yagi: The Charter Commission is under no obligation to these people.

Mr. Higa: When you look at the charter as a whole, this is a minor problem. Realistically speaking, this is okay.

Mr. Yokouchi: This is only a recommendation. This is only the feeling of the Charter Commission.

Mr. Hokama: Whether we put this in or not, as far as this changeover, we weren't concerned about these elected positions which might be eliminated. It does not mean a thing whether we guarantee these people their jobs as long as we feel that these people should be taken on as they are. I don't think that by putting this paragraph in, it will assure prestige and whether it is omitted, it insures prestige either. Why not just delete this paragraph? We will support the long-range objectives of this charter.

Mr. Burnett: Moved that the language in paragraph 2 of page 15 be deleted. Seconded by Mr. Yagi.

Mr. Yagi: I go on the basis that these people will vote against the charter. We know for a fact that it will be on that basis. Let us be very practical about this situation. As far as practical politics is concerned, we reward our friends and punish our enemies. It is written here "It is urged, however,...." We are doing injustice to the people as well as to the public. In that respect I feel very strongly that in the event the motion fails, I'll sign with reservations.

QUESTION: To delete paragraph 2 of page 15.

Ayes: Balthazar, Burnett, Crockett, Hokama, Honda, and Yagi.

Noes: Tester and Yokouchi

MOTION WAS CARRIED. (Mr. Caldito was excused earlier)

SIGNING OF REPORT AND PROPOSED CHARTER:

Inasmuch as page 15 of the Report had to be redone and inasmuch as the Report had to be submitted to the Board together with the proposed charter on June 19, 1964, Mr. Higa asked those members who could come to the County Attorney's Office to sign the Report, to do so. The proposed charter was signed by all members present, except that Mr. Burnett signed with reservations.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriette E. Miyamoto

HARRIETTE E. MIYAMOTO
Secretary