MS. RAISBECK: Hello. Hello.

volume up.

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no counties. Well, there were counties, but there

weren't any charter commissions. And that there's a

	Page 13		Page 15
1	of voters who passed ballots in the last mayoral general	1	any ballot for which the answers are yes or no and/or I
2	election to 10 percent to place it in line with the	2	favor or I am against the removal of, name of the person
3	requirements, the new requirements, for amendments to	3	in the recall.
4	the County Charter.	4	CHAIR STONE: Commissioners, any further
5	And change the requirements for recall	5	questions?
6	petitions from 20 percent of the voters registered in	6	VICE-CHAIR HEDANI: Because you covered so
7	the last general election to 10 percent of the total	7	many items so quickly, can you provide your comments in
8	number of voters who passed ballots in the last mayoral	8	writing to us?
9	general election.	9	MR. OLSON: I can,
10	Those three will be the same.	10	VICE-CHAIR HEDANI; Thank you.
11	In addition, the requirement for the recall	11	CHAIR STONE: Great idea. Thank you very
12	petition filing is currently 30 days after the filing of	12	much. Commissioners, any further clarification?
13	the affidavit. And I would suggest changing that to 180	13	Commissioner DeLeon.
14	days, which would be the same as the initiative	14 -	MEMBER DELEON: Yeah. I'd like to hear the
15	requirement. It's my understanding that the recall	15	rationale for putting the police chief under the mayor?
16	petition has never been successful.	16	MR. OLSON: Well, at the moment, it doesn't
17	In addition, the Charter currently requires	17	seem like we have anyone to blame if we're not happy
18	that the recall election turnout be 50 percent of the	18	with the performance of the police department. We can
19	voters registered in the last general election, which	19	blame the Police Commission, but they're there is no
20	seems unrealistic. And I would suggest that be changed	20	one to appeal to.
21	to 50 percent of the voters who cast ballots in the last	21	CHAIR STONE: Commissioners, any further
22	mayoral general election.	22	clarification?
23	I'd also like for you guys to amend the	23	MEMBER BAXA: Mr. Chair?
24	Charter to grant power to appoint the chief of police	24	CHAIR STONE: Commissioner Baxa.
25	directly to the mayor and have the chief of police serve	25	MEMBER BAXA: With your suggestion, would you
······································	Page 14	***************************************	Page 16
1	at the pleasure of the mayor in order that we can have	1	entirely do away with the Police Commission?
2	better accountability.	2	MR. OLSON: I don't think so because the
3	And, finally, something you might not have	3	Police Commission also reports or investigates
4	heard before, when I voted in the last general election,	4	misconduct and other things.
5	I asked the clerk of courts not clerk of the	5	MEMBER BAXA: Thank you.
6	courts I did walk-in voting. And I asked what the	6	CHAIR STONE: Very good. Commissioners, any
7	consequence of leaving a blank vote on the Charter	7	further questions?
. 8	amendment, which was on the ballot. And	8	(Silence.)
9	MS. KAHUHU: Time.	9	CHAIR STONE: So, Mr. Olson, would you like to
10	CHAIR STONE: Thank you very much, Mr. Olson.	10	come back after the other testifiers?
	TC - 1117 - 1-1 C 154 4		
11	If you would like, you can come back after all the other	11	MR. OLSON: Okay.
11 12	testifiers for three minutes. One second.	11	MR. OLSON: Okay. CHAIR STONE: Well, thank you for your
	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		-
12	testifiers for three minutes. One second.	12	CHAIR STONE: Well, thank you for your
12 13	testifiers for three minutes. One second. Commissioners, do we have any need for clarification on	12 13	CHAIR STONE: Well, thank you for your testimony. Thanks for your time and thanks for coming. Lisa, next testifier, please. MS. KAHUHU: Rick Medina.
12 13 14	testifiers for three minutes. One second. Commissioners, do we have any need for clarification on the testimony?	12 13 14	CHAIR STONE: Well, thank you for your testimony. Thanks for your time and thanks for coming. Lisa, next testifier, please.
12 13 14 15 16 17	testifiers for three minutes. One second. Commissioners, do we have any need for clarification on the testimony? MEMBER DELEON: Mr. Olson, would you finish your thought that you were just giving, the story you were talking about, or the election clerk?	12 13 14 15 16	CHAIR STONE: Well, thank you for your testimony. Thanks for your time and thanks for coming. Lisa, next testifier, please. MS. KAHUHU: Rick Medina. CHAIR STONE: Welcome, Mr. Medina. Thank you very much for coming.
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12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	testifiers for three minutes. One second. Commissioners, do we have any need for clarification on the testimony? MEMBER DELEON: Mr. Olson, would you finish your thought that you were just giving, the story you were talking about, or the election clerk? MR. OLSON: Sure. They refused to tell me. I think they were afraid of telling me the wrong thing. And so and I had previously tried to research and find out what the consequences of a blank vote was on the Charter amendment. And I was unsuccessful. So I would suggest that we have something in	12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	CHAIR STONE: Well, thank you for your testimony. Thanks for your time and thanks for coming. Lisa, next testifier, please. MS. KAHUHU: Rick Medina. CHAIR STONE: Welcome, Mr. Medina. Thank you very much for coming. MR. MEDINA: Thank you. Thank you very much for having this this Commission hearing in Kahului, Wailuku. I'm a resident of Wailuku. And my name is Rick Medina. And I'm here to offer some suggestions as to what amendments I would support. The first one would be Section 10-3 pertaining
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	testifiers for three minutes. One second. Commissioners, do we have any need for clarification on the testimony? MEMBER DELEON: Mr. Olson, would you finish your thought that you were just giving, the story you were talking about, or the election clerk? MR. OLSON: Sure. They refused to tell me. I think they were afraid of telling me the wrong thing. And so and I had previously tried to research and find out what the consequences of a blank vote was on the Charter amendment. And I was unsuccessful.	12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	CHAIR STONE: Well, thank you for your testimony. Thanks for your time and thanks for coming. Lisa, next testifier, please. MS. KAHUHU: Rick Medina. CHAIR STONE: Welcome, Mr. Medina. Thank you very much for coming. MR. MEDINA: Thank you. Thank you very much for having this this Commission hearing in Kahului, Wailuku. I'm a resident of Wailuku. And my name is Rick Medina. And I'm here to offer some suggestions as to what amendments I would support.

think, with the Ethics Commission when a certain candidate failed to file his financial disclosure on time. But as you read the Charter, it seems like the Ethics Commission should involve themselves to change the date of filing by not -- by telling him you can file as soon as you can. Now once you do that, I think you change the law. But the law should not be superseded by a commission.

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So I feel that you have to make that a little bit more specific as to when you file your financial disclosure statement. I would think that 15 days after you file your nomination papers, it should be the deadline when you should file your financial disclosure. And if you don't file it, then the County Clerk can rule you as being disqualified to run for County office. I think that would be the strongest statement to make in the Charter.

I would like to go back to partisan elections in Section 3-2. It was a lot more fun to have a closed primary and a general. I mean, Randy Piltz, sitting over here, could have been the mayor if he ran on the democratic side and Charmaine and Alan ran on the republican side. Then we would have a democratic candidate in the general election. And all the votes that Chris Hart got might have gone to him and so on and

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I wasn't expecting to talk today because I thought that the meeting was on Wednesday. So I was in the shower when my wife told me, you got it on the calendar, today is Charter Commission. So I put together some notes real quickly and came down here.

The other thing I might mention is my opposition to single-member districts. Did I mention that yet? No, okay. Single-member districts will take away the checks and balances of the community. If somebody did something in Kihei, we wouldn't be able to punish that guy because he would not in my district, if I understand the definition of a single-member district, which is you have a district and all the voters in that district can vote for that councilmember and nobody else. Is that correct? Is that the definition for a single-member district? Linda, you seem okay. Okay. So then if I live in Kahului, I could care less about the people opposing the definition -- I mean, my vote to build something huge in Makena, the voters would not be able to show me the wrath, you know. If I live in Kihei and vote for something like that, and try to get them to vote for me, they would probably say no. So then the guy in Kihei, who represents Kihei, would vote no on the project, but the other guys would vote on the district

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so forth. So I think the fun of the election and the possibility of opening it up more, it would be better.

As you remember, it was Linda Lingle who ran on this system, but, still yet, ran and became the mayor and ran again and became the governor, because of this closed primary system that we have.

So the other thing would be the mandatory review of the Charter. I think you give the council the ability to make changes whenever they see fit. If the community determines that some changes to the Charter should be done immediately, the council can do that. So if the council has this power, then the mandatory review should be left up to the council to decide, should we have a review of the Charter after 10 years. If the answer is no, then no Charter review would be necessary. But, then again, if those of you felt that the Charter was failing the community in some areas, then you could suggest an amendment to the council, and the council could introduce it and have six votes and they could put it on the ballot. So it will be much faster and it will save us a lot of time and will save a lot of money because it's pretty costly to fund you folks on commissions. The more commissions we have, the more we have to spend. Okay. So I think that the mandatory 10

years can be optional. It can be decided by the

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1 that they --

2 MS. KAHUHU: Time.

MR. MEDINA: Ran out of time. Thank you.

CHAIR STONE: Thank you very much, Mr. Medina.

If you like -- we have questions, I'm sure. If you like, you can come back after all the testifiers and

7 have another three minutes.

Commissioners, do we have any clarification needed from the testimony? Commissioner DeLeon, please.

9 needed from the testimony? Commissioner DeLeon, please.

10 MEMBER DELEON: Rick, I don't know whether you

11 missed it in the last election, but we did correct ---

the 10.3 was corrected in the last election. The voters
 passed an amendment that requires the financial

14 disclosure to be filed at nomination time.

MR. MEDINA: What's the penalty? Because --

MEMBER DELEON: You don't get on the ballot.

The State law has also changed to allow that. So that

in the last legislature, the State Legislature changed
 State law so that the law does not prohibit the County

20 from opposing its -- its requirements in the council

21 election.22 MR. MEDINA: Yeah

MR. MEDINA: Yeah. This was only public office for County offices now; we're not talking about state positions.

MEMBER DELEON: Yeah, but the State law

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has controlled the State and the County for a long time,

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MEMBER DELEON: Yeah, but they're still voted

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MR. MEDINA: But there's a checks and balances. With bi-candidate system, we have checks and

MEMBER DELEON: Okay.

MR. MEDINA: But who is going to check the council?

MEMBER DELEON: Rick, I'd also like to ask you, do you think it's appropriate that, election after election, certain people are elected to office without competition?

MR. MEDINA: Well, maybe that's what happened when we went to the district -- single-district -single candidate for the district. I don't know what caused that. But, for me, I think, overall, just looking at it anecdotally, I think that what happened is that people have lost interest in the elections. They don't have that ability to cover all the issues.

For example, the council running -councilmember running from all districts is wanting to know more about the County. So if they want to run for mayor, they're going to be better -- they're going to know better what the county people need and how they are going to govern over the county. Most of our -- so far, most of the mayoral candidates have came up from the

slipped by in my view of that. I didn't see that. I

knew that you guys were talking about it -- the council

3 was talking about something, but I didn't know they 4

passed it. If -- you might remember if they had to file

5 15 days after or they -- if they don't do that, they're 6 not qualified to run.

MEMBER OKAMOTO: Well -- so is the problem what happens to the filing? Has that been the problem? Because we know there was a problem in the past.

10 CHAIR STONE: Any response, Mr. Medina?

11 MR. MEDINA: I don't know.

CHAIR STONE: Commissioner Okamoto, would you like to clarify that question?

MEMBER OKAMOTO: Could possibly I ask that to Commissioner DeLeon? Because I'm -- I didn't realize that was the case, either.

MEMBER DELEON: We could continue this afterwards, but, basically, what happened in the last election, there was a proposed Charter amendment that changed -- took out that 15-day window and eliminated it, so that the filing was required to be done on nomination. That, in itself, did not kick somebody off the ballot, but the -- but the State law that governs -and I can't give you the citation, but the State law that governs how elections operate prohibited the County

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- 1 council level. You very seldom see someone come from
- 2 the outside and to be mayor without any experience,
- 3 which Chris Hart proved it's hard to do that, you know.
- 4 So I think it's a good learning route to -- to run the
- 5 entire county -- run from the entire county and have a
- 6 system the way we have it, except bring back the closed 7
- primary system so that we democrats can know we're 8 voting for a democrat or republican voting for a
- 9 republican. When you get into the general -- well, Bob
 - Nakasone lost, who was a republican. You know that election? Bob was very popular in the general -- in the

12 primary, but he lost in the general. So at that point

13 in time is when the independents came out and voted. 14 They didn't bother to vote in the primary, because there

was a party thing. See?

CHAIR STONE: Mr. Medina, thank you. Commissioners, any further questions?

MEMBER OKAMOTO: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

19 CHAIR STONE: Commissioner Okamoto. 20 MEMBER OKAMOTO: Back on the financial

disclosures, I am a little confused notice. I believe Commissioner DeLeon said that if you didn't file on

23 time, you wouldn't be on the ballot, but you -- you 24 don't understand it that way, is that correct?

MR. MEDINA: I didn't -- that must have

1 from putting a provision in there saying that if you 2 don't meet the deadline, then you're out. State law 3 was changed in the last -- in the last State Legislative 4

Session so that if you do not file now, you're not on the ballot.

CHAIR STONE: Okay. Commissioners, any further clarification?

MEMBER OKAMOTO: Yes, I have just one more. CHAIR STONE: Please, go ahead.

9 10 MEMBER OKAMOTO: I understand that you're not

for the district voting, you want to keep the voting as 12 is now. And one of the last questions to you had to do 13 with, you know, we keep electing the same people over

and over. Do you understand that to be pretty much true statewide? Are we electing the same legislators and

16 senators and so forth pretty much? 17 MR. MEDINA: You know, I don't know what to

18 make of this. It's six of one, half a dozen of the 19 other. But some people seem to think that democrats 20 control the elections, the state's controlled by

21 democrats, the legislature by democrats, the council

22 maybe. I don't know who the mayors are, where they come

23 from. I don't know who the council people are. I don't 24 know if they're democrats or republicans.

What this does -- and maybe you'll recall

coming from your practice and your sincere aloha for the community. So thank you.

MR. TOMOSO: Oh, okay. Mahalo.

CHAIR STONE: Thank you, Mr. Tomoso. Would you like to come back for another three minutes after --

MR. TOMOSO: If anybody -- I wasn't expecting anybody to say anything. It's like, Oh, "what are you talking about."

CHAIR STONE: Well, your testimony is much appreciated. Thank you very much.

MEMBER BAXA: Mr. Chair, I just would like

CHAIR STONE: Yes, Judge. Sorry.

MEMBER BAXA: Your suggestion is very general. Could you at some point, if you have some specific proposals in this area that you have mentioned, so that we will be able to deal with it.

MR. TOMOSO: That's why I took this paper, because I was going to finish it.

20 MEMBER BAXA: Thank you.

MR. TOMOSO: The summary. I just pau work, yeah, so I'm not even ready.

23 CHAIR STONE: Commissioners, any further 24 clarification or questions?

25 (Silence.)

I had submitted a viewpoint to "The Maui News" in regards to the editorial that's attacking this Commission. I did do some research over the last 20 years about Charter amendment proposals that come from the council versus the Charter Commission. And I'm happy to report to you that the success rate for proposals that you folks will be proposing is four out of five. So for every five proposals you make, four will be adopted. The council has approval rate of five out of five. Every proposal that they have presented to the voters, it's been approved over the last 40 years. When voters do approve proposals by the Charter Commission, it's general, on average, about 52 percent pass rate, whereas, with the council, it's 60 percent. And so I think that those two statistics tells something very important.

If you look at the actual proposals, the council proposes very narrow changes to the Charter, they're very specific, and they're guaranteed to pass. If there's any doubt that amendment won't pass, the council generally won't submit them, with maybe one or two exceptions to that. But that's what the council does, the council -- and why would the council do that? There's a motivation to do that, right? They have to get reelected, that's one possibility. But everybody --

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Page 36

1 CHAIR STONE: No. Thank you very much.
2 MR. TOMOSO: Mahalo.

CHAIR STONE: Mr. Tomoso, again, thank you for your time. Aloha.

Lisa, next testifier, please.

MS. KAHUHU: Lance Collins. Chair, Lance brought this.

CHAIR STONE: Mr. Collins, welcome.

MR. COLLINS: Thank you. We had copies made as you requested at the last meeting. So I'm actually not part of the West Maui Charter Working Group, but I had originally emailed, I think, the link to this, but here's a hard copy of it. And if you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them. I wasn't a member, but I was -- I did give them technical assistance. Anyway -- so if you have any questions, I would be more than happy to answer what I can. Probably the questions would be best directed towards them, but I can answer generally if there's questions.

So, anyway, my name is Lance Collins, I'm an attorney and a scientist in Wailuku. I actually -- I have two parts of my testimony. So the first three minutes, I will do the most important and I'll come back when others have had a second chance to talk about the other part of it.

sort of there's different intentions and situations for the council. And their primary duty is to legislate, create laws, and to help the operation of the County through the legislative process. Your role, however, as a commission, is to -- you folks are not running for office, you are removed from that part of the political process, you know, you come from a diverse range of areas from the county, with different perspectives, you're in the real world, you don't live in the County building. You all have real world perspectives and they all vary. And generally with proposals of the Charter commissions, as compared to the County Council, the proposals have been much broader, they -- they have been much more systematic, and they've been sort of a whole government approach, whereas, when the council goes in, it's lasered in and people don't -- there's generally no disagreement or contention.

And so I don't think that what you folks do is redundant. I don't think that -- I don't think what you do overlaps with what council does. And, frankly, I think that if you look at how council operates right now, there's tremendous inefficiency. Little gets done in a timely manner. The budget only gets through because, by law, it has to get through. And that's about it. That's the only thing that is done on time.

1 MEMBER DELEON: 2010? 2 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, last year. I'm sorry. 3 2010, last year. 4 MEMBER OKAMOTO: One other question on this. 4 How did this group get together, do you know? 5 How did this group get together, do you know? 6 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. They came together and 7 you know, I think was it Nell Woods had seen the 8 Maui Charter archive, from the previous retrieved 9 some of the documents from the previous Charter 10 commissions, with the help of Lisa and Corp Counsel's 11 Office, and, also, the County Clerk's Office. Anyway, 12 so she had gone through it, and I guess that she had 13 talked to some people. Originally, there were more 14 people and then "I don't want to be named" and all this 15 kind of stuff, so it ended up being a group of four. 16 And they met and they asked me if I would help them 17 because I'm a scientist and lawyer. And I said, yes. 18 So they met over about a year and-a-half period and came 19 out with this. 20 I have to tell you, it's been a long time 2 in nature. I think well, of course, Dr. Wiger is on the Commission, but the others probably will be com to Lahaina, or at least some of them. If Dr. Lavense off island, he, obviously, won't come. I don't know you talked with them in the last six months. But, ye my understanding is they're all very much interested this process and they all said we're going to go to Lahaina public meeting. But I can also answer questions. And I probably will be coming to the Pa meeting again next week. So if you have any questi I'm happy to show up early or stay late if necessary. MEMBER BAXA: Thank you. CHAIR STONE: Thank you, Mr. Collins. Mr. Collins. We'll be back and MR. COLLINS: Yeah. My email I emaile to everybody, maybe it went in the spam folder it' lawyer@maui.net. So if you want to ask me question please feel free to ask me. CHAIR STONE: Thank you very much for y		Page 37		Page 39
2 Charter Commission and left it to the council, they 3 wouldn't have the council, they 4 the 5 MS. KAHUHU: Time. 6 MR. COLLINS:Charter Commission. I wrote 7 a viewpoint. I don't know if if's going to get 8 published. 9 CHAIR STONE: Thank you, Mr. Collins, very 10 much. Again, you'll be coming back after the other 11 testifiers? 12 MR. COLLINS: Sure. 13 CHAIR STONE: Okay, great. Commissioners, do 14 we need any clarification? 15 MEMBER DELEON: Brief comment. I feel 16 validated. Thank you. 17 CHAIR STONE: Thank you, Commissioner DeLeon. 18 Yes, Commissioner. 19 MEMBER DELEON: Brief comment. I feel 10 this report, when it was written? 10 this report, when it was written? 11 MEMBER OKAMOTO: Could you give us a date of the report came out, that was the cond of their purpose. Page 38 1 MEMBER DELEON: 2010? 2 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, last year. I'm sorry. 2 December, sometime in the fall. And the working group 24 sort of dishanded. Once the report came out, that was the end of their purpose. Page 38 1 MEMBER DELEON: 2010? 2 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, last year. I'm sorry. 2 December, sometime in the fall. And the working group 24 sort of dishanded. Once the report came out, that was 25 the end of their purpose. Page 38 1 MEMBER DELEON: 2010? 2 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, last year. I'm sorry. 3 2010, last year. 4 MEMBER OKAMOTO: One other question on this. 5 How did this group get together, do you know? 6 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, last year. I'm sorry. 2 100, last year. 5 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, last year. I'm sorry. 6 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, last year. I'm sorry. 7 2010, last year. 8 MEMBER DELEON: 2010? 9 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, last year i'm sorry. 9 2010, last year. 9 2010, last year. 9 2010, last year. 10 2010, last year. 11 2010, last year. 12 21 22 23 24 24 25 25 26 26 27 27 28 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29	1	So even if they you know, even if we abolish the	1	stuff was that didn't get in here was pretty
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22 tagether and not heating each other up. Recause this 22 tagtimony. Lice any more tagtificant	21	since I've seen very compassionate people sitting down	21	CHAIR STONE: Thank you very much for your
22 together and not bearing each other up. Decade this 22 testimony. Lisa, any more testiners?	21	together and not heating each other up. Decause this	22	testimony. Lisa, any more testifiers?
group, as I'm sure you know all these people, some are 23 MS. KAHUHU: None.	22	together and not beating each other up. Because this		
	22			
somewhere in the middle. And it was some of this 25 that would like to testify?	22 23	group, as I'm sure you know all these people, some are	23	MS. KAHUHU: None. CHAIR STONE: If there's any new testifiers,

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1 (Silence.)

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CHAIR STONE: No. Okay. Then we will go into round two of our oral testimony. I will call back up Ms. Raisbeck for three minutes, please. Go ahead.

MS. RAISBECK: Okay. Okay. Rick brought up partisan elections. My experience, because when I first came to Maui, they did have partisan elections in the democratic primary for council and for mayor. And what seemed to me was the partisan elections, you have a very narrow gate on the democratic side, a very narrow gate on the republican side so that very good people would never advance to the general election where they could be elected by the general population. So I much prefer the nonpartisan elections.

I just wanted to say to you that I think if you looked at that Honolulu report, Honolulu -- report of the Honolulu Charter Commission, their numbers started very, very low of people coming out to testify and then, naturally, it increased almost exponentially. So that you can expect, for the end of this period, to have large numbers of people coming out. I don't think this is going to be typical.

And, again, when people vote in a mayoral election, or a presidential election, it will be this next time, many people don't bother even with County structure that will be accountable to the people and that --

3 MS. KAHUHU: Time.

MS. RAISBECK: Thank you.

CHAIR STONE: Thank you, Ms. Raisbeck.

6 MS. RAISBECK: This is very important. 7 CHAIR STONE: Thank you very much.

Clarification from any of the Commissioners?

(Silence.)

CHAIR STONE: No. Thank you very much for your time and your testimony. It's very appreciated.

Mr. Medina, would you like another three minutes?

MR. MEDINA: Not really. Thank you.

15 CHAIR STONE: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Tomoso?

MR. TOMOSO: Only to complete my thought.

CHAIR STONE: Great. Thank you.

MR. TOMOSO: Well, the last time I talked

19 about relationship. The next thing I wanted to talk 20 about is how a charter like this not only un-silos

21 government, it makes government -- it should make it

22 more efficient, there should be an efficiency and flow

23 assured in -- in the language between the levels of

24 government. Because I think the most important thing 25

here is that I'm looking at how government is

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1 accountable to its constituents, but, also, government 2

mayor, they don't bother -- well, they probably bother with the mayor, but they don't bother with voting on all the council positions. And certainly many people just brush off the Charter amendments. That's why it's easy to pass them, because the only people who vote on it are

elections. They don't bother with the council and

people who care very much about that particular amendment, and so they're easy to pass. So then it becomes very important how they get on to the ballot.

And it's my feeling that it should not happen every two years. Every little thing gets put as a Charter amendment put on by the -- by the council, that it would be better to have it happen once in 10 years. And people would realize, "Oh, this is really important, I've got to do something about this." I think it would be better.

And when Eric talked about the different percentages that are required to qualify for people-based Charter amendments or initiative or recall, those are critical because, if they're too high, naturally, who is going to go and get 17,000 signatures. It's sort of ridiculous.

I guess that's what I wanted to say. But it is important. Your work is very important because you're trying to create a structure or to refresh a

accountable at intra level. Government has to be accountable to itself first. And sometimes -- I used to work for government, at both -- at all three levels. And sometimes my accountability factor was compromised

because, you know, of certain things internally that happened, either by administrative rule or somebody no like nobody, you know, you know how it is with people.

9 And sometimes it's like -- I try to get along, yeah. 10

11 Yeah, I try to get along because you never know when the 12 bridge you have needs to be crossed. You don't want to

do it.

14 So, again, un-siloing of government, the idea 15 of relationship of government -- oh, yeah, the idea of 16 checks and balances are very important because you --

17 like a nonprofit board, no one member of the board has 18 authority over that board; that authority is shared by

19 the entire board. And without making it more

20 bureaucratic, you know, I don't think that any one 21 person in government should be more important than

22 another because we need to be accountable to each other 23 and we have to have a relationship with government.

> But if you want to go more to my thought, just go to appreciative inquiry. Thank you.

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County Council, and that affects the entire process of how the County Council operates.

(Silence.) CHAIR STONE: No. Thank you very much for your time. Mr. Collins.

Commissioners, any clarification on that testimony?

3 I definitely feel that if this Charter 4 Commission can do one thing, and that is to change how

MR. COLLINS: Thank you again for allowing me three additional minutes.

CHAIR STONE: Thank you very much, Mr. Tomoso.

5 the council is composed and how it operates. And how you do that, there's a number of different ways you can 7 do it. But I really hope that if the Charter Commission 8 does nothing else, you folks really have come up with a 9 better way of picking councilmembers and how the council 10 can operate. Because I think, until that's done, 11 anything else that you folks do is going to be secondary 12 to what the main issue is. And that --

I strongly believe that how our County Council operates is tremendously inefficient. And I think that there needs to be some kind of change. And I think that it's sort of a negative reinforcement loop which causes the inefficiencies. And I think that it ends up -- a lot of the problems that I heard coming from testifiers up in Pukalani and tonight, and in general, through letters to the editor and just listening to people, I think most of them come from the fact that we have a

MS. KAHUHU: Time.

very poorly structured setup for County Council. I think one of the reasons why we don't have

MR. COLLINS: That was my main issue. Thank you.

competitive races is because everybody -- everybody who votes or could vote feels tremendously disempowered because our present setup dilutes everybody's vote. I know that Mr. Molina feels like he wants to be able --

CHAIR STONE: Thank you, Mr. Collins. That's appreciated. I appreciate your points about council's inefficiencies and changes must be made. Do you have any specifics, specific proposals that could help the Charter Commission focus in on making a more efficient council?

MR. MEDINA: Medina.

MR. COLLINS: Well, I think there's a couple of ways. One possibility is to lengthen terms. I'll tell you, in the 50 years that we've had Charter and

MR. COLLINS: Medina. Sorry. Sorry, it's

Charter amendment proposals, people of Maui do not like

late. It's late. I'm sorry.

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And, you know, I know he wants to punish somebody in Kihei, but that's not actually how it works anymore. Because when you're one of 150,000 people, you don't have any say over anything. And you just have to rely that the irrational exuberance of the electorate will punish somebody or not punish someone.

four-year terms. So the likelihood of that changing --2 you know, you never know, but that's one possibility. 3 I do think that there's a serious problem with

And I want to use the election of Ron Vaught and Michelle Anderson as a great example. Ron Vaught had all of the endorsements that you could possibly want to get elected, he had tons and tons more money than Michelle Anderson, and lost. He lost to Michelle Anderson. And that didn't signify, oh, there's some part of the electorate that's gaining strength or some block that's gaining strength; all it signified was that getting elected becomes much more unpredictable when there's an open seat and that it's harder and harder to predict. And it's not based on money necessarily, it's not based on endorsements; it's just based on how everybody was feeling when they filled out their absentee ballot or went in on general election. And that is not that -- that should not be the way that people run for office. It should be based on the person's something or voter's feeling like a person

should be in office. And I don't think that -- because

of the incumbency problem that's happening with the

our present at-large system. I know that some people feel like it's the only way to empower certain rural areas in this county, but I don't think that that's the case. I actually think if you look at voter dilution, nobody wins. And -- and the people who are most oppressed are the rural areas. That -- that is one of the reasons why, in Reynolds v. Sims, the U.S. Supreme Court said to go to one person, one vote. Because what was happening is, in some states, a few rural counties were getting like more than half of the -- all of the State Senate seats and then everybody else was getting whatever was left over. And in some areas, the big city would have 99 percent of the senate seats, and then all the rural areas would have one. And the problem with that is that in both of those instances, it doesn't -the representatives don't reflect in a proportionate way the electorate.

And in our system, for example, consistently, if you don't get a majority of the votes in the Kahului-Wailuku area, you do not get elected to office. And Michelle Anderson, having her election in '04, happens to be an exception to that statement, but she's

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- 1 the only exception to that statement ever. And on 2 Molokai and on Lanai, the people that they pick, unless 3 there's only one person running for that seat, the 4 people that they by majority vote for do not get elected 5 to office. And so those are just examples. In Hana, I 6 think it's been a fairly close call. Although, I think, 7 in one election, Hana picked one person and someone else 8 got elected. They were the incumbent, and I don't know 9 that really counts. But --
 - CHAIR STONE: Thank you. Commissioners, any further questions or clarification for Mr. Collins? MEMBER OKAMOTO: Yes, I have one question. CHAIR STONE: Commissioner.

14 MEMBER OKAMOTO: I hear over and over about 15 you know, the same people getting elected over and over. 16 Again, do you see that any different in the State 17 Legislature? I've been here for 40 years. In our 18 district, I've never seen anyone but an incumbent win, 19 unless there was no incumbent.

20 MR. COLLINS: Sure. Actually, Sol 21 Kahoohalahala lost to Ron Davis in 2000.

22 MEMBER OKAMOTO: Yeah, that's right. There 23 was one.

24 MR. COLLINS: Then Joe Bertram was voted out 25 of office. And, typically, what actually happens -- and

single-member district voting and they are highly competitive. And Kauai, which they have no residency requirement whatsoever, just top seven out of the list of 14 get to go. They generally have the turnover, but somebody usually has to do something inappropriate or offensive to get off the -- to get off the list.

CHAIR STONE: Yes, Commissioner Crivello. MEMBER CRIVELLO: Geographically, Maui Nui is -- we're separated by water, Molokai, Lanai, Kahoolawe, with Maui. So when you say there is inefficiency with our present council setup, can you elaborate or clarify a little bit more? And to add to that, if I'm understanding you right, you were looking at some -some sort of different approach than -- than the present way of electing our council. What about the constituents having direct accessibility? Also, if you can clarify that for us.

MR. COLLINS: Sure. Well, you know, there's several different models that Maui's been subjected to at the State level. The State uses single-member districts. And just using Molokai, just as an example, off the top of my mind, for right now, a 102,000 person county, a district would run about 16,000 something. And so that would be essentially about half -- as a community would be about half of one district,

single-member district. And so in that instance, let's

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- 1 this happens across the whole U.S. -- because every 10
- 2 years census data changes and there has to be a
- 3 reapportionment, that is generally where there is the
- 4 highest turnover. But that isn't always the case. In
- 5 the mid-nineties, like half of the senate got thrown out 6 almost in the same election, same -- in the same

7 democratic primary. 8

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MEMBER OKAMOTO: But not in Hawaii. MR. COLLINS: No. In Hawaii, in the mid

10 nineties, yeah. Because there were --

> MEMBER OKAMOTO: Oh, because that -- the year there was reapportionment, yes.

MR. COLLINS: No. No, that wasn't reapportionment. In the '96 election, quite a number of state senators -- they were mostly in Honolulu -- were all thrown out of office. And, actually, it was interesting because the reasons that they were thrown out, all the neighbor island senators that voted the same way, they actually got protected and didn't get thrown out. Although, like Avery Chumbley (inaudible) reapportionment and so forth. So it does happen. Reapportionment, that has helped, but that is one of the

things to help this sort of incumbency problem. But, on the Big Island, they do actually run fairly competitive elections. They do have

say I were running for the Molokai, Waihee seat -- I don't know, whatever -- but I was running for that seat, if -- if my constituents or my -- hopefully, my 5 constituents were not -- did not feel like I was responsive to them, I would have to rely on getting 100 percent of the other half of that district in order to get into office. And I can tell you just from the data I've looked at in terms of elections around the state, and, more generally, on the West Coast and so forth, that never happens. Nobody can ever win -- nobody ever wins elections by only getting half of -- 100 percent 13 half -- geographically half of one district. It's statistically highly improbably. And I haven't seen any

> And so whereas in this instance, although there's somebody who is from Molokai, he is -- he's really -- his -- where he gets his base is Central Maui. And he's most responsive to that, or he should be, if he, of course, wants to keep getting reelected unless there's things that go against the election.

evidence of it ever happening.

Now, multi-member districts, you know, it's -you get to pick three people. And Ben Cayetano, for example -- I don't know if you know how he originally got into the House of Representatives, but he was in a

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1 multi-member district, solid AJA district, always had 2

two Japanese representatives, and he ran. And as it

turned out, he got in because -- I don't know if you

guys are familiar with historical AJA voting patterns,

5 but they always vote one that's not the same race.

6 That's what they always say. I don't know if it's true,

7 but that's what they say. That's what political

8 scientists like Herbert Kimura used to say. So Ben got

in. And the same is true for Neil Abercrombie and quite a number of other politicians in the seventies that

10 11 became senators in the eighties was because of that.

12 And they didn't -- they didn't -- weren't the highest

13 vote getters, but they represented a different opinion.

> And so in a multi-member district model, it's quite possible that, for example, Molokai is half of one district and with -- and then Waihee, Kaupo or -- I think that was somebody's proposal -- it's quite possible that there be two people in a three -three-person multi-member district coming from Molokai It's quite possible. It's also quite possible that

21 there would be one or -- or none. But the people of 22 Molokai would definitely have three people that they

23 could -- that they could absolutely have a strong

24 connection to.

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I don't know about Molokai, I don't know how

hear that proposal. I agree with the hearings officer proposal that they have. But some of the other ones start getting a little bit complex and -- but I can answer the questions. I know the sentiments of the group because I was the reporter for it. So I'm happy to do that if you folks would like that.

CHAIR STONE: Mr. Collins, we have another Commissioner with a question.

MEMBER BAXA: Mr. Chair, I wanted to ask something about your mentioning about the inefficiency of the council. You know, I know you have a doctorate in political science, but you know the importance of the principle of checks and balances.

MR. COLLINS: Absolutely.

MEMBER BAXA: Don't you think the council is, in a way, exercising its duty, it's a check to executive?

MR. COLLINS: I definitely think that the council did a very good job of that in the 2005-2007 term, but I don't know if it was -- you could -- it was the most efficient way of checking. It was more of a open hostility with the mayor. And there's been periods in the past where there's been a contentious relationship. But I think -- generally I think the council has been very efficient in being a checker of

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connected you folks feel to like Kalani English or Mele

Carroll. But, you know, that's one reason why we have a 2 3 reapportionment every 10 years, because that -- that's

one of the efficiencies that's created by the system is 4

to help move things around.

CHAIR STONE: Thank you, Mr. Collins. Further clarification for any of the Commissioners? Commissioner DeLeon.

MEMBER DELEON: Lance, are you or members of this group available to give a presentation to this board?

MR. COLLINS: You know, they disbanded, but I can -- and Flo is actually on the Commission, but I -if you folks would be able to -- I'm sorry -- they said that if people have questions regarding the final report that I could answer them. So I don't think that would be a problem.

MEMBER DELEON: Because, you know, they spent an enormous amount of time going through this. And we would like to -- you know, we're not necessarily going to follow you chapter and verse, but just to give us the thought process.

MR. COLLINS: I personally don't agree with some of the proposals. I definitely think you folks should abolish the Liquor Adjudication Board, definitely Page 56

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1 balance over the mayor in the long run in this system. 2 And, you know, their job is primarily to legislate laws 3 and pass the budget. And they only pass the budget on 4 time because they have to by law.

Just by analogy, the Philippine Senate has 25 at-large senators that happen to always get elected from the metro Manila area. And they generally are either -there's, actually, a brother and sister in the senate, but they generally are either aimed towards becoming president, or they just want to do it on their way to retirement. And I think that's one of the problems of having at-large districts, because on the council, sometimes you feel like this is either the end of someone's career or that this is the stepping stone to the mayor because they have the same base as the mayor, there's no incentive to sort of act like a mayor. So in a broad sense it could be called a check, but I don't necessarily think that the council efficiently does act as a check and balance to the mayor in the longer term.

CHAIR STONE: Thank you, Mr. Collins. Commissioner Hedani.

VICE-CHAIR HEDANI: I have a couple questions. The final report of the West Maui Charter working group, what is your relationship with the group?

MR. COLLINS: Oh, I was its secretary and I

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gave technical assistance, you know, when they had questions about, you know, statistics and city manager

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VICE-CHAIR HEDANI: Like a support? MR. COLLINS: Yeah, support. And I know all the people that were on it. I said, "Sure, that's fine. What do you want me to do? Take me out to lunch."

VICE-CHAIR HEDANI: The second question that I had was that you said if this Commission could accomplish anything within any changes that we might propose would be to change the method by which the council operates. Is that contained within the final report?

MR. COLLINS: Well, I submitted this because I was asked at the end of last week -- the original proposal, it wasn't my original idea -- but this -these are not my proposals because I'm not -- I wasn't a voting member.

VICE-CHAIR HEDANI: I understand. My only question was whether or not you thought that the report contained changes or recommendations that would address --

MR. COLLINS: It has -- it has major, major changes, yeah. I think it addresses that and quite a number of other issues.

would come back and have that back and forth. And, of course, they had strong feelings about things. And it went on for about a year and-a-half. So, no, there were no organized or publicized community meetings. But part of it is because that's -- they didn't want to operate that way, they weren't a commission or anything like that. They felt like for their purpose it would be sufficient to just --

CHAIR STONE: Thank you. Commissioner -- I'm sorry. We're going to go to Commissioner Crivello -oh, DeRego. Excuse me.

MEMBER DEREGO: Lance, on reading here on Page 2, because I've been glancing through this, it says that the working group conducted a scientific telephone poll at the same time that proposal number one on district voting was submitted by Councilwoman Jo Anne Johnson in April. What I don't see in here, in this report, are any exhibits or supporting documentation with that kind of detail. It would be helpful for the Commission, you know, if they had meetings with people, that they have meeting notes, those kinds of things. And it's the same thing a board and commission for the County would have to do, and submits a report to the -- the council.

MR. COLLINS: It's, actually, on the website. See, I think part of the problem is that -- I guess my

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VICE-CHAIR HEDANI: Okay. Thank you. CHAIR STONE: Commissioners, any further clarification? Oh, yeah, Commissioner Sugimura.

MEMBER SUGIMURA: So, Lance, I was just wondering, for this kind of report, who it was prepared with, did it go through the whole West Maui, through, you know, community meetings, or did it just have these three or four people, plus yourself, and you came up with these recommendations? I mean, I'm just curious to

see how strong it is in terms of --MR. COLLINS: Well, you know, what -- what they decided or agreed on in either the first or second meeting was that they would meet once a month and then they would go and talk to their various groups. Actually, I think Flo cheated and talked to people outside of West Maui and added input. But that was never -- anyways, that was their thing, is that they sort of all came from different social groups within West Maui. They -- they had very little bravado, but a majority of the board put something together. Otherwise, they really have -- they all come from different groups on the west side. And so they essentially, at parties and birthdays and that sort of

thing, talked to people. And I guess some of them are

senior clubs and stuff. And they would talk and they

email must have gone to a spam folder or something 2 because I -- I was able to get from Lisa, or someone at Corp Counsel, everybody's email. Maybe it was Mike

4 Molina. And I emailed a link with this and, also, the

5 link -- it's also on their website, the

6 westmauicharter.org, but has the three-page thing that

7 QMark Research in Honolulu -- the sort of the quick

8 executive summary of that poll. But it is there and

9 there's some other supporting documentation on the 10

MEMBER DEREGO: Because if we are or do follow up on Commissioner DeLeon's suggestion of having someone from this group speak to us, it would be good if there was some sort of summary with supporting documentation with any irrelevant statistics that sort of buttress this particular report.

MR. COLLINS: I think that's the only statistic. The rest of it really is the proposed language in the back. The last sort of 45 pages, or 40, is the supporting document.

MEMBER DEREGO: So there's no record of "people" that they went and talked to and --

MR. COLLINS: No, absolutely not. This was much more informal. It wasn't intended to be a mini charter commission or anything like that. It was just a

	Page 61		Page 63
1	group of people who all felt like changes need to be	1	your time.
2	made. And they actually, among themselves, came up with	2	MR. COLLINS: Thanks.
3	dozens and dozens of proposals. But they agreed at the	3	CHAIR STONE: Mr. Collins, thank you.
4	beginning that they would have a census where everybody	4	So that finishes up our oral testimony. If
5	had to agree. So they were only able to agree on six,	5	there are no objections, the Chair will accept public
6	half a dozen of one, six of another.	6	communications into the record. And we shall be
7	CHAIR STONE: Thank you very much,	7	adjourning for the evening.
8	Mr. Collins. Any further questions?	8	Yes, Commissioner.
- 9	MEMBER DEREGO: I just have one comment. I'm	9	Without objections. I don't think I have a
10	very uncomfortable about psychologizing about Maui	10	Commissioner objection.
11	voters, the reason why they don't vote, those kinds of	11	VICE-CHAIR HEDANI: Mr. Medina had testified
12	things, without any kind of empirical evidence to	12	earlier before the Commission, has a wealth of
13	buttress those kinds of claims, especially when we're	13	information and experience about the function of County
14	talking about voter dilution. Any kind of comments like	14	government. And I know it's difficult within a
15	that are, basically, conjecture. As a sociologist, I am	15	three-minute or a six-minute period of time to explain
16	very much interested in social behavior. And I would	16	the things that you want to have said relative to the
17	I would welcome at some point in the future some study	17	Charter, so I'd be very much interested, if you do have
18	why Maui voters' behavior is the way it is at this	18	the time, to receive copies in writing.
19	point. In terms of our process, it would be very	19	MR. MEDINA: Thank you.
20	difficult for me to start psychologizing about Maui	20	CHAIR STONE: Thank you very much. So if
21	voters in terms of the kind of decisions that we're	21	there are no further objections, I will close public
i	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	22	testimony and we'll accept public communications into
22	expected to make. So it's just a comment.		* *
23	MR. COLLINS: Yeah. My actually, I I	23	the record. And we'll be adjourning this meeting as
24	should clarify. When I said voter dilution, I'm	24	of time, Lisa? Sorry.
25	actually referring to the legal term that's in the	25	MS. KAHUHU: 7:50.
	Page 62		Page 64
1	Voting Rights Act. And it's a very specific thing where	1	CHAIR STONE: At 7:50. Thank you very much
2	you essentially use one voter and you put it over the	2	for everybody being here. Your testimony and input is
3	voting base. So one over 16,000, versus one over	3	extremely valuable and much appreciated. Thank you.
4	150,000 is voter dilution. And the reason that Voting	4	(Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.)
. 5	Rights Act was put in was because and it could be	5	(g aa je aanea aa / le v F aan)
6	disagreed with voter dilution does cause voter	6	
7	disempowerment. Yeah, it's not something that I could	7	
. 8	I could go back and get literature to support it, but	8	
9	whether or not specific Maui voters feel disempowered	9	
10	specifically over this. I don't know that there's any	10	
11	specific data. But just based on that and other	11	
12	contexts, I agree. That's all it was. I wasn't trying	12	
13	to speculate or psychologize.	13	
14	CHAIR STONE: Thank you. Commissioner DeLeon.		
		14 15	
15 16	MEMBER DELEON: Lance, would it be helpful if		
	- 3		
16	we got this survey information?	16	
17	we got this survey information? MR. COLLINS: Sure.	16 17	
17 18	we got this survey information? MR. COLLINS: Sure. MEMBER DELEON: If you could get it to us, it	16 17 18	
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1	CERTIFICATE	
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4	I, TONYA MCDADE, Certified Court Reporter of	
5	the State of Hawaii, do hereby certify that the	
6	proceedings contained herein were taken by me in machine	
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	shorthand and thereafter was reduced to print by means	
8	of computer-aided transcription; and that the foregoing	
9	represents, to the best of my ability, a true and	
10	accurate transcript of the proceedings had in the	
11	foregoing matter.	
12	I further certify that I am not an attorney	
13	nor an employee of any of the parties hereto, nor in any	
14	way concerned with the cause.	
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