

MINUTES OF THE  
MAUI COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION

DATE: October 17, 1963

PLACE: Board Chambers, Wailuku, Maui

CALL TO ORDER: 7:40 p.m.

PRESIDING: Masaru Yokouchi, Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT: Masaru Yokouchi, Chairman  
Emil Balthazar  
C. H. Burnett, Jr.  
Richard Caldito  
William F. Crockett, Vice-Chairman  
Cornwell Friel (Molokai)  
Shiro Hokama (Lanai)  
Harry Kobayashi  
Keith Tester  
Thomas Yagi  
Charles C. Young, Research Assistant

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Neda Honda

OTHERS PRESENT: Department of Education:  
James W. O'Neal, District Superintendent  
Masao Aizawa, Deputy District Superintendent  
John Kwon, Program Assistant

School Advisory Council:  
John Y. Arisumi, Chairman  
Meyer M. Ueoka, Member

School Affairs Committee:  
Lanny Morisaki, Chairman

Others:  
Kase Higa, Deputy County Attorney  
Richard Kibe, Administrative Assistant  
Mrs. Rachel Jio, Secretary, Makawao School PTA  
Robert Johnson, Advertiser Reporter  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Davis  
Mrs. J. Van Zwahlenburg  
Baldwin High School Students

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ROLL CALL:

There were 10 members present and 1 excused at the regular meeting of the Maui County Charter Commission on October 17, 1963.



#### MINUTES:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on October 10, 1963 were distributed to the members and approval of said minutes was deferred until the next meeting. Minutes of the meeting held on October 3, 1963 were approved with the following exceptions:

1. Mr. Balthazar's statement on Page 9 refers to the Safety Department and not the Traffic Department.
2. Mr. Crockett elaborated on his request on Page 15. He requested that the final analysis as to what percentage of purchases is made through bidding and what percentage of purchases is made by direct purchasing be made by Mr. Young.

Mr. Yagi requested that the members of the Charter Commission receive the minutes of the meetings about three days prior to the next meeting so that approval of such minutes can take place at that meeting instead of two meetings later. Inasmuch as the secretary is swamped with work, the Chair mentioned that he will look into this matter.

#### LITERATURE:

The following were distributed to the members of the Charter Commission:

1. Information gathered by Charles C. Young, Research Assistant:
  - a. Supplemental information regarding Maui District Schools, Department of Education.
  - b. Communication from Kula Sanatorium regarding hospital purchases.
  - c. Information from Maui Police Department regarding purchases.
  - d. Reprints from Honolulu Star-Bulletin and Honolulu Advertiser on the activities of the Kauai Charter Commission.
2. Information from the Department of Education:
  - a. Special School Fund: Comparative Statement Showing Appropriations & Expenditures for the Calendar Years 1959 - 1963.
  - b. Statement showing School Construction and Other Improvements Financed by County of Maui Bond Issue and State of Hawaii Funds.

#### OLD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Instead of discussing any business, the Chairman proceeded with the meeting with the representatives of the Department of Education.

#### GENERAL DISCUSSION:

##### Department of Education:

Mr. John Y. Arisumi, Chairman of the School Advisory Council, introduced the following: Mr. James O'Neal, District Superintendent; Masao Aizawa, Deputy District Superintendent; John Kwon, Program Assistant; Meyer Ueoka, Council Member; Lanny Morisaki, Chairman of the School Affairs Committee; and Mrs. Rachel Jio, Secretary of the Makawao School PTA.



- Mr. Morisaki: I will start my presentation on the sheet entitled County of Maui Special School Fund. This is made available from the General Fund of the County of Maui. We have gone back to the year 1959 and made the totals available to you. The County of Maui, in essence, as far as the schools are concerned, is obligated only to the extent of capital improvements - repairs and maintenance program of the schools of the County of Maui - and we also furnish the monies for the janitors and janitorial supplies. The last item on this particular sheet, you will note, have reference to bonds floated for school purposes wherein we indicate from the year 1959 on, what we are paying in interest and principal.
- Mr. Burnett: What does utilities include?
- Mr. Morisaki: Utilities include telephone and lights. The County pays for one telephone at each school and the State pays for the others.
- Mr. Yagi: Does the County purchase the supplies or do the schools purchase the supplies?
- Mr. Morisaki: In that respect, supplies for the Department of Education, including janitorial supplies, are purchased by the Department of Education and other maintenance supplies such as lumber, paints, etc., are purchased by the County.
- Mr. Yagi: Can either the State or the County purchase all the supplies instead of the County purchasing the building materials and the Department of Education purchasing the janitorial supplies, whichever is cheaper?
- Mr. Morisaki: As far as the materials and supplies are concerned, I am sure the school department would prefer the County personnel who handle these constructions to purchase the materials. However, the janitors' supplies should be with the State because the janitors come under the principals of the schools and they make their requests to the office of the Department of Education.
- Mr. Balthazar: Are these items purchased through bids?
- Mr. Morisaki: They are normally purchased through local merchants because they are not big items.
- Mr. Crockett: Would it be cheaper getting supplies through the State or the County?
- Mr. Morisaki: Because the materials and supplies which are under the Department of Public Works has to do entirely with construction work, it would be better if the County purchases these materials.
- We have made a study last year whether or not bulk purchasing might help us. There was the problem of storage space, etc. It was found that perhaps it may not constitute savings. With the Public Works Department it could be done and maybe a saving might be made. This, I think, is a matter to be studied under centralized purchasing.



- Mr. O'Neal: I might elaborate on the personal services. They include the carpenters, painters, plumbers, electricians and supervisors who do work at the school level at repairs and maintenance on Molokai and Maui. We have contractual services on the Island of Lanai since we have no employees on that island.
- Mr. Balthazar: Are these people under the payroll of the County of Maui? Are they under the Public Works Department?
- Mr. O'Neal: They are under the Public Works Department, but are under a separate division because most of their work concern schools.
- Mr. Burnett: What about janitorial services?
- Mr. O'Neal: For the 29 schools we have 22 full-time employees which include one lawn mower operator who operates in 8 to 10 schools and 16 half-time custodians who are mostly women. Our custodial services are not up to a very good standard.
- Mr. Burnett: Why?
- Mr. O'Neal: We don't have the finances.
- Mr. Burnett: Do you have anything to say about who you can get for janitor?
- Mr. O'Neal: Yes, if we have a vacancy, we select a person from the civil service eligible list. I would say by and large our workers are good. We have not had pressure politically in the appointment of our people. However, we have appointed only one in the last year.
- Mr. Yagi: Would it be better and much more efficient if funds are made available from the State than the County so that you will be up to par as far as the custodians are concerned?
- Mr. O'Neal: This is one of the recommendations I would make.
- Mr. Tester: Do you contract out your custodial services on some of the islands. There are janitorial services which are available for cleaning office buildings, schools, etc. There might be a chance of saving money when you contract out.
- Mr. O'Neal: That might be possible. At Wailuku Elementary School we have about 875 children. We have a man full time and a woman who works 4 hours a day.
- Mr. Tester: That is for the building only?
- Mr. O'Neal: Building and grounds. We have one Power Mower Operator in the different schools once in two weeks.
- Mr. Tester: How are the grounds handled, for instance, at Kam III School?
- Mr. O'Neal: They have one full-time man and one part-time man and they are responsible for all the grounds.



- Mr. Balthazar: Are cottage rentals self-supporting?
- Mr. Morisaki: For the past two years we have considered it self-supporting and I think that is how it will be. As a matter of fact, the School Affairs Committee made a proposal to the Board which was adopted, and we have since raised the cottage rentals 50% this year.
- Mr. Balthazar: Does it include depreciation? Are these rentals comparable for the cottages in the districts they are located?
- Mr. Morisaki: We have never looked into the fact that these cottages are located in different localities, but we have gone on the basis of the age of the cottages and the number of occupants.
- Mr. O'Neal: At the rate we are charging we are not able to maintain them adequately. We do the minimum repairs.
- Mr. Caldito: How much do you charge for rental?
- Mr. Morisaki: \$9.00 to \$28.00 per person.
- Mr. O'Neal: Our income for the last year was \$10,000 to \$11,000. This is why our cottages look bad, but we have been doing some renovating.
- Mr. Morisaki: It is our intent that, with the present rentals, we will be able to do better.
- Mr. Balthazar: Are they kept in a separate fund?
- Mr. Morisaki: The rentals go in a rental fund.
- Mr. Crockett: Would there be any problem in giving this specific responsibility to the State?
- Mr. Morisaki: I do not know how the State feels. As far as the County is concerned, if the State wants it, they can have it.
- Mr. O'Neal: Actually the place we feel we need cottages are Lahaina, Molokai and Hana. If we do not have cottages in these districts, we have difficult time getting people to go there.
- Mr. Young: Do you supply janitorial service to the Maui Technical School?
- Mr. O'Neal: No, this is one school where the janitors are paid by state funds.
- Mr. Tester: How do you handle the Lanai gym? Is the maintenance contracted out?
- Mr. O'Neal: Yes, what little is done at the Lanai gym was turned over by Dole to be used by the school. We maintain it. When we secured it, we secured with it the custodian. We now have two custodians because we already had one there. We have no county workers there. We have set up \$100,000 which the principal can use to hire plantation people.



Mr. Crockett: Does the money come from State sources?

Mr. O'Neal: Out of the \$125,000 for maintaining the schools, \$100,000 is to be used as revolving fund. Once it is used, we appropriate more as needed.

From the standpoint of capital improvement I would like to look at the place where there is more money available and by and large, it would be the State. I would like to see something performed. The State has appropriated money. The State has allocated that money to the committee to be expended by the County for the schools.

Mr. Tester: On top of that we also have the County bond issues.

Mr. O'Neal: Yes. I would like to see something done. The State is like an impersonal body. They make an appropriation, but we have a difficult time getting contact with the State than it is working through the County. The County people feel quite responsible to the local school people. I think our working relations are more a personal, close basis, whereas our relations with the State is quite far.

Mr. Crockett: You feel that the capital improvements should be handled by the State but the actual expenditures of the money should be a joint responsibility?

Mr. O'Neal: Right now most of the responsibility is placed on the County government. I think the school department should have more of a say. This is not in any way reflecting on the present administration. I don't think we find a group more responsive to our needs. I would think that the school department, as funds are allocated by the State for school construction repairs and maintenance, should have more to say about expenditures of the funds.

Mr. Tester: Suppose you had a bad leak in the roof - do you go to the County Engineer or to the Board?

Mr. O'Neal: Actually we have a setup where we have a work order. The school principal calls our office, and we contact the Public Works Department. A school can put in a request for repairs, but it might not be done for 6 months because there are other jobs which are pressing.

Mr. Yagi: Would you prefer to have the school maintenance people come directly under the school department of the State or County?

Mr. O'Neal: I don't think the school department is in a position to supervise carpenters, painters, plumbers, electricians, etc. I think we can supervise custodians. But I don't feel we want duplicate positions in this small area. I have been satisfied with the service we get for the most part. I don't think we will be saving money. I think we will be costing the people more money by getting our own work gang to do the work.



- Mr. Caldito: Regarding personal services - in 1959 \$118,308 was allocated for personal services and in 1963 \$173,772 was allocated. There is a difference of \$55,000. Why?
- Mr. O'Neal: I think most of it was increased by increments. I doubt we have more people.
- Mr. Morisaki: The reason for that would be the act passed by the legislature and the salary increases came just about this time. That is why the big jump.
- Mr. Caldito: There is another item - janitorial services jump from \$71,693 to \$116,500. That is \$45,000 difference.
- Mr. Morisaki: In this area we ran into more expense for more part-time school custodians.
- Mr. Yagi: Would it be much more efficient if maintenance were under the State setup instead of the County?
- Mr. O'Neal: When you say State do you mean Department of Education or State Department of Public Works?
- Mr. Yagi: State Department of Public Works or whichever department handles the State schools.
- Mr. O'Neal: I do not know whether or not it would be more efficient if we would go to another agency in the State instead of the County.
- Mr. Morisaki: The School Affairs Committee is set up to handle the Special School Fund and they are charged with the responsibility of informing the members of the Board of Supervisors on what is taking place. We have worked very closely with the Department of Education because of the fact that we are not as familiar in knowing exactly where there is necessity for repairs and maintenance.
- Lately we have been working with the School Advisory Council who has helped us in many ways.
- Mr. Yagi: If there is a separate setup wouldn't it be better for the State to handle its own maintenance?
- Mr. Caldito: Maui Technical School has only one janitor. That school is bigger than Kam III School and you have 1½ times as much service at Kam III.
- Mr. Ueoka: I think it is a different situation when you compare Maui Technical School with other schools. At Maui Technical School there are shops and the students themselves assist in cleaning. At the Technical School most of the ground is paved and there is hardly any grass, whereas in the elementary schools you will find many areas with grass which needs maintenance. I would say in some schools it depends on the individual.
- Mr. O'Neal: If the State Department of Public Works had a work crew similar to the work crew of the County, I would imagine they can do an efficient job as the County could. I don't know whether there would be a great saving. I don't know if the State would feel the same responsibility as the County.



- Mr. Tester: You really prefer the County to do the maintenance?
- Mr. O'Neal: I feel that way.
- Mr. Burnett: I gather from what you state you would be perfectly content to go just the way it is.
- Mr. O'Neal: In the long run I think, when the money is appropriated for the schools, the schools should have more to say how it should be spent. I think we need more control of the money.
- Mr. Crockett: If the money comes from the State, isn't there a certain amount of danger that the County of Maui might not get its fair share and the people can't determine what the level of support for the schools should be?
- Mr. O'Neal: When I say money coming from the State, I would say primarily for school construction. The County has bond issues for school construction. In the long run we are going to look to the State for capital improvements. If there are more money available, I would like to see an appropriation from the State, but I would like to see the expenditures for the most part for the County level.
- Mr. Crockett: Right now the City and County of Honolulu is paying their own way for capital improvement. The school construction program on Maui is paid through the State. How do you feel about the basic responsibility of the schools?
- Mr. Morisaki: As a member of the Board, I will say this should remain with the County. I would say to the effect that this money should be handled administratively and the repairs and maintenance should be by the State. However, I will also favor that the money spent by the County for such purposes be withheld by the State. If this comes about, then I would say definitely the County should take control of it. It may happen that Maui County will not get their share because it is a known fact that Oahu's needs are much more than ours. They might take part of our funds.
- Mr. Burnett: You would like to stay the way you are?
- Mr. Morisaki: Yes.

The Chair called for a recess at 8:45 p.m. Meeting was reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

Before continuing with our meeting with the Department of Education, Mr. O'Neal stated that Mr. Mizuha, who is the Maui member on the State Board of Education, was not able to meet with the members of the Charter Commission since he was attending the Board of Education meeting in Kohala.

- Mr. O'Neal: I think we have been more than fortunate because of the people we had in the legislature. We got more money than Hawaii and Kauai combined. I realize that this cannot happen always but we have always proved by the last two years that the money has been appreciated. I think the expenditure of the fund should be by the County.



- Mr. O'Neal: I don't feel as strong about the State coming in on the matter of custodial services. I realize you cannot have the County doing one thing and the State coming in on another. But I like the County doing this more so than the State. I think the State is more impersonal and harder to work with.
- Mr. Yokouchi: The State Constitution states where the State shall be responsible for all school needs. Does that include physical facilities? How does that place with the charter? We have been talking basically about which is better - the State or County handling the fiscal needs of the school.
- Mr. Higa: It is true that the State Constitution provides that the State shall be responsible for the school facilities and there has been some contention by some attorneys that it is illegal for the County to handle school construction, but others contend that the State can designate its duties to the County. As far as the provisions of the charter goes, I don't think we need to decide that question.
- Mr. Yagi: Can it be written in the charter that the State will provide the money to the County for spending and that the Department of Education will have control over such money?
- Mr. Higa: The enabling act under which this Charter Commission was formed specifically states that the Charter Commission shall not touch nor in any way affect the fiscal powers of the State or County. By law we are delegated to perform certain functions with the schools and I doubt whether you can say that the State should take over.
- Mr. Yagi: Mr. O'Neal mentioned that the Department of Education wants control of the money. In the past did the Department of Education have any control over such money?
- Mr. Higa: Even on the State level, if it is on construction of schools, it is not the Department of Education that does the actual spending of money. It is the Department of General Services.
- Mr. Yagi: But the Department of Education has the say. Is that right?
- Mr. O'Neal: I think to a certain extent.
- Mr. Yagi: Instead of going to the School Affairs Committee in the past did the Department of Education have control?
- Mr. Yokouchi: No, it has always been the County of Maui Board of Supervisors.
- Mr. O'Neal: When we do this, the County, the School Advisory Council and the school department all sit down and go over the needs.



- Mr. Balthazar: There would be the question involved that, by the Department of Education having full control, there would be no politics involved.
- Mr. O'Neal: I would not say full control. I would say we need more control.
- Mr. Tester: What is your feeling about the consolidation of schools? Is it a financial saving?
- Mr. O'Neal: Yes, I would say so. We could consolidate Kahakulua with any school in Central Maui and drop one position.
- Mr. Caldito: That would be a saving?
- Mr. O'Neal: Yes, but the County would have to haul the youngsters.
- Mr. Young: In other words, it will be a saving to the State but additional expense to the County.
- How many one-room schools are there on Maui?
- Mr. O'Neal: Two -- Kahakulua and Kaupo.
- Mr. Crockett: In Honolulu where they have the strong mayor type of government, the Council is not responsible for administration. How does the Mayor decide how maintenance funds should be spent?
- Mr. Morisaki: I think in Honolulu the budget is approved by the Council.
- Mr. Crockett: It could just as well be handled administratively here as far as the Department of Education is concerned.
- Mr. Ueoka: I don't want to add confusion but there has been considerable talk about giving the Advisory Council more powers, more than what they have at the present time. There is a possibility of the Advisory Council getting into the picture. It is just a suggestion. Up to this point, as far as relationship is concerned, the relationship has been very good.
- Mr. Balthazar: In the question of politics I think of it as a kind of vehicle for responsible people. I would tend to shy away from giving any commission or board complete fiscal powers because fiscal powers really belong to our elected officials, and I think there is a danger when you give quasi-judicial powers to the people. Therefore, if the State tends to give the Advisory Council more powers, then certainly we would tend to pull away from the State to the County.
- Mr. Yokouchi: It depends on the form of government contemplated. If the County is responsible for the fiscal powers of the schools and if it is turned over to the District Superintendent, we are releasing that power to the State officials because the District Superintendent is a State employee.
- Mr. Balthazar: Because education is important, I think we need a lot more time before we conclude these problems.



- Mr. Yagi: I understand there is a separate building department in the City and County of Honolulu and the Superintendent is appointed by the Mayor. But I believe one of the big departments is school construction. It lies between the Mayor and the Superintendent.
- Mr. Crockett: You are relying on the State for our capital improvements. I feel that one of these days soon the people of Honolulu are going to say that they are not getting their fair share of their money. For example, their schools are being paid for by real property taxes, whereas ours is being paid for by the State. However, I think the basic feeling is that education is a statewide function because people who are educated on Maui go to Honolulu and I think when you look from that viewpoint, it is logical to make this a State responsibility.
- Mr. Burnett: In most places the city takes care of their own schools.
- Mr. O'Neal: On the mainland there are school districts. They have to raise their own taxes.
- Mr. Yagi: In the past wasn't there some controversy in respect to the Department of Education building the Kahului School and coming to the Board for additional funds?
- Mr. Aizawa: The Department of Education has never had any control of expenditures of funds. It has always been with the approval of the Board of Supervisors. As far as the janitors' salaries and supplies are concerned, it is under the control of the Department of Education. The law is written that way and that is the only portion of the Special School Fund which is under the control of the Department of Education. As far as the hiring of the custodians are concerned, that depends on the amount of money.
- Mr. Yagi: What about projects or construction?
- Mr. Aizawa: We have been working very closely with the Advisory Council and the School Affairs Committee.
- Mr. Crockett: Does the Department of Education set up the minimum amount of support the County can give?
- Mr. O'Neal: There is certain appropriation that has to be made, but the department has no control over the County as far as custodial supplies, etc.

ADJOURNMENT:

After thanking everyone for their presentations, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

October 24, 1963, at 1:30 p.m., in the Board Chambers with the Department of Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

*Harriette E. Miyamoto*  
HARRIETTE E. MIYAMOTO  
Secretary