

MINUTES OF THE
MAUI COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION

DATE: January 16, 1964
PLACE: Board Chambers, Wailuku, Maui
CALL TO ORDER: 1:45 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
Shiro Hokama
Nadao Honda
Keith Tester
Thomas Yagi
Charles C. Young, Research Assistant
MEMBER EXCUSED: Harry Kobayashi
OTHERS PRESENT: Kase Higa, Deputy County Attorney
Mrs. Jay Van Zwalenburg

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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 January 16, 1964.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the meeting held on January 9, 1964 were distributed to the members of the Charter Commission.

GENERAL DISCUSSION.- Initiative and Referendum:

How much time should the council be allowed to consider a proposal?

Mr. Burnett: If we are going to have a special election, we cannot allow the council to have much time to consider it, but if we are going to place it on a regular general election, there is no point in stressing the time other than a time before the general election.

Should we call for special election to decide a proposal or leave it until the general election?

Mr. Crockett: I think we should call for a special election soon after the filing of a petition. I think it would be fair to the people who file a petition because, if you hold it for a long period of time, the interest will die out and we will not have a good turnout and, also, it will help the general public - you won't have a long ballot. The only counter-fact will be the problem of cost. I think 60-day period is sufficient.

Mr. Balthazar: One way to cut public cost will be to specify that said election will be held on a Saturday. That would hold public cost down and save some people loss of time from work.

It was moved by Mr. Tester, seconded by Mr. Caldito and carried unanimously that there be a 60-day time limit for getting the required number of signatures on a petition and that the council be given 90 days to consider the proposed measure.

It was moved by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mr. Balthazar and carried unanimously that at the expiration of the 90 days the proposal be referred to the electorate for a special election, and if the 90-day period is within six months of the next general election, there is no need for a special election.

Mr. Crockett also moved that the council shall not have power to initiate referendum; initiative and referendum will be only for the people. Seconded by Mr. Balthazar and carried. (9 ayes, 1 no - Burnett)

Mr. Balthazar: Could we make a provision for an amendment to be circulated in addition to the petition?

Mr. Higa: Every charter has a provision for modifications to be made by the council.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Higa explained the tentative draft of the charter (Article VIII - Executive Departments, Boards and Commission) which was circulated to the members of the Charter Commission at its meeting held on January 15, 1964. He stated that on Page 21, Chapter 1 should be "Office of the County Attorney" and not "Office of the Corporation Counsel". Also, under Section 8-1.2 of the same chapter an alternate - the county attorney shall be appointed and may be removed by the council - should have been included.

The question of where such agencies and people like the Civil Defense Agency, Economic Development Agency, Safety Coordinator and Transportation Control Committee should be placed was raised. It was suggested that the Safety Coordinator be under the Department of Public Works and that the others be under the administrative assistant instead of directly under the mayor; however, no definite decision was made. Mr. Higa felt that in a county this size there is no need for a managing director as they have in Honolulu. He mentioned that there could be a provision for an administrative assistant in the administrative code.

The Chair called for a recess at 2:45 P.M. Meeting was reconvened at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Yagi inquired as to the possibility of the members of the Hawaii, Kauai and Maui Charter Commissions getting together to exchange ideas. Most of the members felt that the best time for such a meeting would be after the first series of public hearings before the second draft is prepared. The Chair will look further into this matter.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, MAUI COMMUNITY HOSPITALS:

Mr. Yokouchi: After thinking it over, I feel we should maintain the present Board of Trustees because, as far as the financial area is concerned, the politicians are responsible for so many other departments. The Board of Trustees will not be financially responsible as the council.

Mr. Yagi: I feel that the Board of Trustees should be maintained for the simple reason that we cannot have health problems put in politics. In the event that we do abolish the hospital Board of Trustees, the politicians would be running the hospital and the patients will not get the proper type of medical care as they are getting now. The Board of Trustees have the power to appoint the administrator by law. The Board of Trustees, together with the medical staff, adopt some policies in respect to running of the hospitals. In the event we do away with the Board of Trustees the politicians would have the say concerning the doctors, and the medical personnel will not have anything to say as to how the hospital should be run. Today the trustees can say how the hospitals should be operated.

Mr. Yokouchi: I am against the present setup of the trustees. The public at large is not recognized in the trustees. You should have areas represented as in the makeup of the legislative body.

ADJOURNMENT:

After reminding the members to be prepared to go through the entire draft of the charter at the next meeting, if possible, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:35 P.M.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Wednesday, January 22, 1964, at 7:30 P.M., in Board Chambers and Thursday, January 23, 1964, at 1:30 P.M., in Parks Conference Room at the Memorial Gym.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriette E. Miyamoto

HARRIETTE E. MIYAMOTO
Secretary