

MINUTES OF THE
MAUI COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION

DATE: April 9, 1964
PLACE: Board Chambers, Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii
CALL TO ORDER: 1:40 P.M.
PRESIDING: Emil Balthazar
MEMBERS PRESENT: Emil Balthazar
Richard Caldito
Cornwell Friel
Nadao Honda
Harry Kobayashi
Keith Tester
Charles C. Young, Research Assistant
MEMBERS EXCUSED: C. H. Burnett, Jr.
William F. Crockett
Shiro Hokama
Thomas Yagi
Masaru Yokouchi
OTHERS PRESENT: Kase Higa, County Attorney
Planning Commission:
Robert Ohata, Planning Director
Joseph Medeiros, Chairman
Civil Service Commission:
James M. Izumi, Personnel Director
Eugene Bal, Chairman
Masaru Omori, Member
Mrs. Jay Van Zwalenburg
Jack Stephens, Maui News Reporter
Robert Johnson, Advertiser Reporter
Soon Oak Lee, Member, Board of Supervisors
Shigeto Murayama, County Treasurer

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ROLL CALL:

There were 6 members present and 5 excused at the regular meeting of the Maui County Charter Commission on Thursday, April 9, 1964.

PLANNING AND TRAFFIC COMMISSION:

Mr. Medeiros: The Planning and Traffic Commission recommends that we retain in essence the present setup. The strongest argument is that a commission is necessary to devote all its energy to planning solely. Planning means long range goals. Under the present setup we have continuity of thought. For the best of economic development you should have continuity.

Mr. Tester: What don't you like about the charter plan?

Mr. Medeiros: In the strong mayor type of government you have a change every four years. The present type of planning commission is working well. We have a comprehensive zoning ordinance and a general plan. The charter plan is like Honolulu's. Judge Jamieson has ruled against the Planning Commission.

On Kauai the Planning Commission is like ours and they have a general plan. On Hawaii the planning director is appointed by the Chairman and the Planning Commission. Here's an example of constant squabble between the planning director and the Commission. There has been poor planning.

Mr. Tester: Do you prefer the Commission appointing the planning director?

Mr. Medeiros: Yes.

Mr. Tester: Would council confirm it?

Mr. Medeiros: No objection to that.

Mr. Friel: Do you want the Commission to be a policy-making group?

Mr. Medeiros: Yes. You can have the public approach the Commission. Under the present setup the public has the opportunity to approach the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Balthazar: You know that the planning director would be subject to possible removal by the mayor if he is appointed by the mayor. Do you think that the planning director should be a member of the cabinet or a member under civil service?

Mr. Medeiros: I think a civil service employee. I am thinking of continuity.

Mr. Caldito: If the planning director is appointed by the Commission, that means the planning director would not be responsive to the mayor.

Mr. Medeiros: He would be responsive in a roundabout way because the planning commissioners would be appointed by the mayor.

Mr. Caldito: Bob, what is your status now? civil service?

Mr. Ohata: Yes.

Mr. Balthazar: How long were you in this position?

Mr. Ohata: Since 1958--6 years.

Mr. Tester: Are there any feelings about the Economic Development Coordinator?

Mr. Ohata: No.

Mr. Tester: Would you have any objections for him to be placed under this planning department?

Mr. Medeiros: No objections. It would be more in line.

Mr. Tester: As far as I am concerned, I feel that the economic development coordinator should be tied in some way with the Planning Department.

Mr. Balthazar: Your commission is called the Planning and Traffic Commission. Would you feel it is a logical merger--planning and traffic?

Mr. Medeiros: Because of the small size of this county, it would be a logical merger.

After thanking Mr. Chata and Mr. Medeiros for appearing before the Charter Commission, Mr. Balthazar called upon the Civil Service Commission for their presentations.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION:

Mr. Bal: As Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, I very strongly advocate that this Commission operate as it is operating now, under the provisions of Chapters 3 and 4. I feel that the merit system could be better operated by a commission who is not only a policy-making commission, but an advisory commission with a strong personnel director. We feel that the personnel director should be a person who understands the merit system thoroughly. He should be a graduate from a recognized college, and he should have had at least five years of personnel work. Also, we feel that the personnel director should be covered under civil service and only be removed for cause.

I feel that, and I am speaking from experience, you should keep this position as far away from politics as possible. It would be better for the employees of the county, and the personnel director can do the work much more efficiently without any pressure. The position of personnel director is one of the most important positions in the county setup.

Mr. Tester: The personnel director is now appointed by the Commission?

Mr. Bal: That is correct--appointed by the Commission and the Commission has the power to remove the personnel director. He has no appeal rights whatsoever.

Mr. Tester: How long are the members of the Commission appointed for?

Mr. Bal: Five year staggered terms.

Mr. Caldito: Are you requesting any changes from the present setup?

Mr. Bal: We are asking that it remain as covered under Chapters 3 and 4.

Mr. Caldito: Are the qualifications of the personnel director the same?

Mr. Bal: We have the minimum qualification requirements in the class specifications.

Mr. Izumi: As it is under the present law, the director's position is classified by the Commission and as you know, right now there is this Statewide Compensation Law. In order for the job to be priced, it has to be classified. The director's position is subject to the compensation plan.

Mr. Balthazar: Do you feel that the director should share in the policy-planning functions of the Civil Service Department?

Mr. Izumi: Policy as such in terms of the Commission and the department as far as reflected in the laws. Although the Commission is required by law to promulgate rules and regulations to supplement the law, those rules and regulations must be approved by the chairman before they can become effective.

Mr. Tester: Do you feel that the mere fact that the appointment of the personnel director is made by the mayor as proposed in the charter puts it back into politics?

Mr. Bal: I really feel that way. In answer to Mr. Caldito's question, we want everything in chapters 3 and 4 to be left there. As far as my personal opinion is concerned, I don't care if the fees are taken away. I am willing to serve as a non-paying member of the Commission.

Mr. Balthazar thanked Mr. Izumi and Mr. Bal for their comments. He stated that their comments will be taken under consideration by the members of the Charter Commission.

COMMENTS ON PROPOSED CHARTER BY DEPUTY CORPORATION COUNSEL:

Mr. Higa informed the members of the Charter Commission that he had sent copies of the proposed charter to Mr. Hiromu Suzawa, Deputy Corporation Counsel, and to Mr. Richard Takasaki, Vice-President for Business Affairs at the University of Hawaii, for their comments. Mr. Higa stated that he has incorporated almost all of Mr. Suzawa's suggestions in his "Recommended Technical Changes on the First Draft".

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriette E. Miyamoto

HARRIETTE E. MIYAMOTO
Secretary