

Ushijima

MINUTES OF THE  
MAUI COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION

DATE: June 16, 1966

PLACE: Board Chambers, Wailuku, Maui

CALL TO ORDER: 7:15 P.M.

PRESIDING: Douglas Sodetani, Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT: Douglas Sodetani, Chairman  
Emil Balthazar  
William F. Crockett, Vice Chairman  
Shiro Hokama  
Nadao Honda  
Harry Kobayashi  
George Kondo  
Paul Pladera  
Keith Tester  
James Ushijima  
Charles C. Young, Research Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT: Kase Higa, County Attorney  
Robert Johnson, Advertiser Reporter  
Jack Stephens, Maui News Reporter  
Richard Mawson  
Daniel Higashi  
Tom Mizoguchi  
Dr. James Fleming  
Mrs. Elizabeth Fleming  
Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Pomroy

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ROLL CALL:

There were 10 members present at the regular meeting of the Maui County Charter Commission on June 16, 1966.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the regular meetings held on May 19 and May 26, 1966, and the minutes of the Public Hearing held on June 9, 1966, were distributed to the members of the Charter Commission. It was moved by James Ushijima and seconded by Paul Pladera that the minutes of May 12, 1966, be accepted as circulated. Motion was carried.

LITERATURE:

As requested by the Charter Commission, Charles Young, Research Assistant, prepared a resume of the proposed Charters of the Hawaii and Kauai Counties, which will be distributed to the members of the Charter Commission upon completion.

### COMMUNICATIONS:

Copies of the following communications received since the last meeting were distributed to the members of the Charter Commission:

1. Letter dated June 8, 1966, from Mr. Herman Doi, Director, Legislative Reference Bureau.
2. Letter dated May 27, 1966, from Mrs. Anna L. Kearney, Secretary, Molokai-Lanai District Committee, Republican Party of Hawaii.
3. Letter dated May 26, 1966, from Mr. Rudolph Wong, President, Lanai Republican Precinct Club.
4. Letter dated May 27, 1966, from Mr. Webb Beggs, Jr., Manager, Maui Chamber of Commerce.
5. Letter dated May 26, 1966, from Mr. Andrew E. Evans, President, Maui Chamber of Commerce, Lanai Unit.
6. Letter dated June 9, 1966, from Mr. Boniface Espinda, Deputy County Clerk, acknowledging receipt of our letter dated May 20, 1966, re proposed budget for July 1, 1966 to December 31, 1966.
7. Card of thanks from Mrs. Pearl Friel for flowers sent to her late husband, Cornwell Friel.
8. Minutes of the Kauai and Hawaii Charter Commissions.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Crockett questioned whether the County Attorney had completed the memorandum on reapportionment. He said the quicker we got the opinion, the better it is. Otherwise, we can't go far without it.

### NEW BUSINESS:

After explaining that the Charter Commission have had "exploratory" hearings with the various department heads, boards and commissions since the first meeting of the Charter Commission in March, 1966, and a public hearing on June 9, 1966, the Chair called for a motion to ascertain whether a charter is necessary or not. It was moved by Shiro Hokama and seconded by Paul Pladera that the Charter Commission proceed with the drafting of a charter for the County of Maui.

Discussion on the motion was called for by the Chair. Mr. Hokama said he made the motion after having heard from those attending the public hearing on June 9 that they would like to see a charter proposed again. He said the suggestions made by them should be considered in the drafting of the charter. People recognize the fact that they would like to have some piece of paper of what the structure for the County of Maui should be like.

Mr. Balthazar said if we did nothing more than codify our present laws, that alone would be sufficient reason to have a charter.



Mr. Pomroy, in expressing his views on the motion made, said the charter is necessary, but if a charter is drawn up and turned down by the public, the Charter Commission should not be discouraged, because eventually we are going to have a charter. He concluded that he was against the strong mayor type of government.

Mr. Mizoguchi said the Young Democrats have gone on record supporting the charter.

The motion to proceed with the drafting of the Charter was unanimously carried.

In lieu of the decision made, the Chair appointed a committee, composed of Emil Balthazar, as Chairman, William Crockett, as Vice Chairman, and Paul Pladera, to draft up the findings of the Charter Commission's decision to proceed with the drafting of the charter. Said findings will be transmitted to the Charter Commission and to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Crockett wondered if it wouldn't be diplomatic to have the committee composed of new members of the Charter Commission.

Mr. Hokama suggested George Kondo and James Ushijima be added to the committee.

It was moved by Shiro Hokama and seconded by Keith Tester that the recommendation by the Chairman of the five men committee, deviated with the authority to draft up a decision, be accepted. Motion was carried.

Using the proposed Charter of 1964 as a basis, the Chair categorized the following areas for study by the Charter Commission:

1. Initiative and Referendum ✓
2. Recall ✓
3. Ordinances and Resolutions 9/8/66
4. Financial Procedures
5. General Provisions
6. Charter Amendments or Revisions
7. Transitional Provisions
8. Powers of County
9. County Clerk
10. County Agencies, deleting Hospital Department

There was some discussion on the deletion of the hospital department. Mr. Crockett suggested a formal opinion on the status of county hospitals under Act 97 be obtained from the Attorney General. The Chair said he would write to the Attorney General for said information.

11. Executive Branch
12. Mayor
13. County Council
14. Code of Ethics
15. Incorporation, Limits and Form of Government
16. New provisions

After some discussion on whether public hearings should be held before the actual formation of the charter,

it was moved by Keith Tester and seconded by George Kondo that public hearings, based on the proposed Charter of 1964, be held at various locations of the County of Maui before the actual formation of the Charter.

The Chair informed the Charter Commission of the following locations for public hearings: Hana, Makawao, Kula, Haiku, Paia, Kihei, Kahului, Wailuku, Lahaina, Lanai and Molokai.

Mr. Mizoguchi suggested utilizing the PTA groups for attendance at these public hearings. Inasmuch as these public hearings will be held during the summer months, the Chair said it would be difficult to call upon them.

The following dates were set for the public hearings:

Hana	July 10, 1966	1:00 P.M.	Helene Hall
Makawao	July 11, 1966	7:30 P.M.	Makawao School
Kula	July 12, 1966	7:30 P.M.	Kula Elementary School
Haiku	July 21, 1966	7:30 P.M.	Haiku School
Kihei	July 22, 1966	7:30 P.M.	(to be determined later)
Paia	July 28, 1966	7:30 P.M.	Paia Gym
Kahului	July 29, 1966	7:30 P.M.	Kahului School
Wailuku	August 1, 1966	7:30 P.M.	Iao School
Lahaina	August 2, 1966	7:30 P.M.	Kam III School
Lanai	(to be determined later)		
Molokai	(to be determined later)		

The Chair invited the Charter Commission to attend the Conference of Government Attorneys to be held on Thursday, June 23, 1966, at 10:30 A.M., at the Wailuku Hotel Skyroom, at which time Robert Dodge, Attorney and one of the drafters of the Charter of the City and County of Honolulu, and Hiromu Suzawa, Deputy Corporation Counsel of the City and County of Honolulu, will be speaking on reapportionment on county and municipal level.

It was suggested by Shiro Hokama that future meetings of the Charter Commission be held at 7:30 P.M., instead of 7:00 P.M., as scheduled. There being no objections by the members of the Charter Commission, future meetings will be held at 7:30 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ayako Ishikawa*  
Ayako Ishikawa, Secretary