

MAUI COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION
LANAI DISTRICT PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: October 10, 1975
PLACE: Lanai City, Lanai, Hawaii
CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.
PRESIDING: Commission Chairman Monsignor Charles A. Kekumano
COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mrs. Edwina Bright, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Margaret Cameron
Hideo Abe
Catalino Agliam
Dr. Sanae Moikeha
Lloyd Sodetani
Joseph Souki
Allan Sparks
ABSENT and EXCUSED: Stephen Petro, Molokai
Ralph Murakami
STAFF PRESENT: Mrs. C. Marciel, Public Relations

The second scheduled public meeting called to order by Commission Chairman Monsignor Kekumano was held at the ILWU Hall, Lanai City, Lanai Hawaii, October 10, 1975.

A head count showed 29 people present (exclusive of Commissioners and staff) although attendance sheet revealed 25 signatures. (Refer to attendance sheet attached hereto and made a part of these MINUTES).

In his opening remarks, Chairman Kekumano referred to the handouts which had been distributed and said that "this is a long list of topics we have researched and studied for many months. We would like to go over them with you; these are only considerations and proposals; we are asking citizens of Maui County to voice their preferences and make known their feelings. You will note that there may be two or three propositions on the same topic, but we want you to understand these are not final. We want to put together the Charter as Maui wants it."

Commissioner Allan Sparks was then introduced who in turn explained the Council Composition and illustrated different electoral systems such as;

- a. at-large basis
- b. true district representation
- c. specific districts of unequal population.

Audience participation:

1. That Lanai has approximately 826 eligible voters i.e. 1974 voters registration list, about 3% of the entire voter population of Maui County of 26,000 electors. (approx. figure)

2. One person said "we're not getting a fair shake from our councilman - he's always on Maui and elected by Maui. We'd like to elect our own representative".
3. Commissioner Sparks reiterated Supreme Court Decision that in elections by districts, all districts must be equal in population.
4. The question was raised as to the possibility of Lanai and Molokai each electing their own councilmen and allowing each a one-half vote on the council. (This was not a unanimous feeling).
5. It was emphasized that Lahaina has a larger voting population and they do not have separate district representation.

COUNCIL TERM OF OFFICE - Commissioner Lloyd Sodetani:

Mr. Sodetani illustrated and spoke on the following;

- a. four-year term - without limit
- b. four-year term - to serve not more than two consecutive terms
- c. to retain present system - two year term with unlimited terms.

Discussion - audience participation:

1. Some felt that to limit a good councilman's terms of office would be a loss to the community.
2. Others felt it could go "either way".
3. That we do need "new blood" - sometimes they get too many political pressures from everywhere.
4. That limited terms are conducive to "getting more people involved".
5. Upon questioning, Commissioner Sodetani explained in detail the high costs of County and State elections - a total of approximately \$85,000.
6. That staggered terms could be considered; however, the State Senate conducted an in-depth study on that subject and concluded that the costs of government would be excessive.

PLANNING DEPT. - WATER DEPT. - Commissioner Joseph M. Souki:

Commissioner Souki explained the organizational chart of the Planning Department and the different options the Commission had discussed if the public desires a change in the format.

Discussion - audience participation:

1. Question: Would there be an increase cost in government if the procedures of appointments were changed?
Mr. Souki answered: No.
2. Question: What is the composition of Planning Commission? Answer: 7 people, comprised of professionals and lay-people; serve without remuneration for a period of four years.

3. That the Planning Department would become an Advisory Board.

4. In explaining the Board of Water Supply, it was noted that the set up is essentially the same as the Planning Department. There was not much exchange in this area as Lanai residents receive their water from Dole Pineapple Company.

HUMAN CONCERNS - Commissioner Margaret Cameron:

After Mrs. Cameron's explanation regarding combining these related departments under "one umbrella", Chairman Kekumano asked for questions. The major concern from the audience was increased cost. The Commission felt it would be more economical this way.

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Chairman Kekumano spoke on the rationale of revising this particular department and the difference between the Corporation Counsel and the Office of the Public Prosecutor. Public reaction to this consideration appeared favorable.

BOARDS and COMMISSIONS:

Lanaians present felt they needed better representation on Boards and Commissions. During discussion it was alleged that "only businessmen on Lanai are appointed" to these positions. The allegation was denied. Chairman Kekumano said that appointments are made by the Mayor, approved by the Council.

ETHICS CODE and COMMISSION:

Commissioner Souki pointed out that this Commission does not now exist and serious consideration should be given to revision of the Ethics Code.

Discussion:

1. That the Ethics Commission would be predominately concerned with elected officials and/or Boards and Commissions.
2. Others would relate through the ombudsman.
3. Ostensibly, the public prosecutors staff would provide staff back-up for the Ethics Commission.

The Chairman asked for more questions:

1. A lady remarked that "I'm glad I came. You gave me a good idea how our government operates".
2. Someone inquired about a councilman's salary; answered by Chairman; "\$900.00 per month plus expenses".

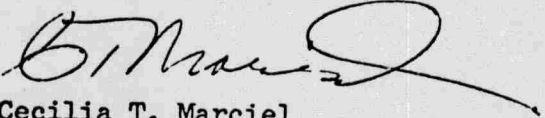
3. How will considerations be presented - "as a package or by options?" Chairman Kekumano replied the Commission has not gone that far; there would be many more deliberations, but most likely there would be some options.

It was the consensus that Lanaians are proud to have their citizen Commissioner Catalino Agliam a member of the Charter Commission.

There was nothing further - meeting adjourned in Lanai City at 9:16 p.m.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

Respectfully submitted,



Cecilia T. Marciel

CHARTER REVIEW Comm.
Lanai, 10/10/75

Please Sign:

NAME

1. Elaine Kanihiki
2. Samuel Paaliki
3. Michael Ostrows
4. Leah Caballero
5. Elizabeth Rana
6. Duane Black
7. Jim Johnson
8. John [unclear]
9. [unclear]
10. Roy Wilbur
11. Gene Cook
12. Cirino Cabras
13. Ato Barandas
14. Dean Del Rosario
15. Aris Sakamoto
16. Jane Connally
17. Peter Connally
18. Hideki [unclear]
19. Mylene Kieber
20. Phillip C. Schrader
21. Michael Yamamoto
22. Harry K. Yamamoto
23. Harold C. Minami
24. Gregory Cabray
25. Sally Kaye
26. -
27. -

Commissioners Present: (9)

1. Kekouao. Chairman
2. Mrs. E. Bright, V. Chairman
3. Dr. Moikeha
4. Mrs. M. Cameron
5. H. Abe
6. L. Sodehani
7. A. Sparks
8. J. Souki
9. C. Aglian (Lanai)

Mrs. C. Marciel,
Staff. PR

EXCUSED:

- S. Petro, (Molokai)
- R. Murakami