

MAUI COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION

MAKAWAO - UP-COUNTRY PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: October 14, 1975
PLACE: Eddie Tam Memorial Center
CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.
PRESIDING: Commission Chairman Monsignor Charles A. Kekumano
COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mrs. Edwina Bright, Vice Chairman
Hideo Abe
Catalino Agliam
Mrs. Margaret Cameron
Dr. Sanae Moikeha
Ralph Murakami
Stephen Petro
Lloyd Sodetani
Joseph Souki
Allan Sparks
STAFF PRESENT: Mrs. C. Marciel, Public Relations

Commission Chairman Monsignor Kekumano called the third scheduled public meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Eddie Tam Memorial Center. All Commissioners were present. 15 people were present - refer to attendance sheet attached and made a part of these Minutes.

Chairman Kekumano elaborated on the purposes of the public meeting designed for citizens in the Up-Country area. He then introduced Commissioner Allan Sparks.

COUNCIL COMPOSITION:

Commissioner Sparks illustrated the pros and cons of different electoral systems including the existing system of electing councilmen in maui county.

Discussion:

1. Yes, if you are elected from a particular district, the chances are you would be more sensitive to the needs of your area.
2. The Council is considered a "legislative body".
3. Question (re district representation) - "What would the variation be - would it be similar to reapportionment - like 10%?"
Answer - (by Mr. Sparks) - "There should not be any substantial difference in population - the rule is to get it as equal as possible; 10% is probably a good figure to use".
4. One gentlemen said that if the Commission felt that an electoral system increasing the Council to 11 members would be workable, he would agree to the districts being set with three running at-large; if we go into 6 unequal districts, he would be in favor of the 9 remaining. "There are some bad points and there are some good, but we can't get everything down perfectly because of our unique geographical make-up; however, I do feel that something has to be done. We have to have better district representation - I may not like what you come up with - but we have to have something better than we have now".

5. Someone else said he favored the "three running at-large but I would like to suggest that this Commission consider that one of those three who receives the highest vote be automatically designated as Chairman, and the next highest vote-getter be designated Vice Chairman of the Council. Thereby, the people would have some influence as to who their Chairman and Vice Chairmen would be."
6. It was felt that five at-large in addition to 6 district councilmen for a total of 11 would not be a disadvantage to Maui County.
7. Some felt that the system on Oahu with 9 equal districts is good with but one drawback....."the same people get re-elected all the time.

COUNCIL TERM OF OFFICE:

Commissioner Sodetani presented the options for consideration.

Audience participation and discussion:

1. Question: Are councilmen evaluated? Answer (by Mr. Sodetani)- Unfortunately, no. All we have now is a Code of Ethics, but there is no one who really enforces it. However, the Commission is offering a provision for your consideration to create an Ethics Code and Commission.
2. Has this Commission thought about staggered terms for councilmen for continuity? Answer (by Mr. Sodetani): Yes, it has - but we have had no great reaction from the citizens simply because of the great costs involved, I believe.
3. Another citizen commented that there is no cost in government more worthwhile than the cost of involving citizens in the process. He also said that the "pros" presented by Mr. Sodetani were really not "pros" at all.
4. He also felt it is necessary to set a limit on terms...."there's a man on the Council now whose been there 10 years and he still hasn't done anything".
5. Some felt the 4-year term limited to two terms a good one.
6. Discussion also revealed limitation of terms would restrict a good councilman in many ways, including his retirement.
7. One citizen vocalized that he is not electing government officials to contribute toward his retirement - only that he does his best in what he is elected to do.
8. Question was raised as to whether the Commission would consider a candidate to serve two terms district-wise (if terms are limited) - and then allow him to run at-large immediately after serving the previous terms. Chairman Kekumano replied that this is the feed back the Commission is looking for altho' he could not answer that question at this time.

PLANNING and BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY: Commissioner Souki -

Commissioner Souki presented the considerations offered by the Commission, including -

1. to abolish the semi-autonomous status

2. that the fiscal set up be retained but that CIP projects be processed through Planning Department
3. to transfer the sewer system to the Department of Water Supply.

Discussion:

1. Is this professionally or politically feasible?
2. Souki said that the mayor would be advised by professionals; audience participation expressed he could go politically instead and asked how "he could be politically assimilated?"
3. Who makes the decisions on the Planning Board - the Advisory Board or the Planning Director? (Answered by Mr. Souki) - The Board advises, but ultimately, the Planning Director makes final decision.
4. What does Honolulu do? (Answered by Mr. Souki) - The mayor appoints.
5. Under the present set-up the Mayor appoints, the council confirms; changes could create adversary relationship. The Council is the policy making body.
6. Incompetents could become involved if the Mayor does not appoint people who are familiar with engineering aspects of the department.
7. Are you considering including the engineering division and all of that into one department? (Answered by Mr. Souki) - No, we are not considering the Public Works at all.

HUMAN CONCERNS - Commissioner Margaret Cameron:

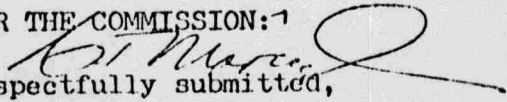
1. Mrs. Cameron presented considerations to provide all "humanly linked" programs into one department as a matter of expediency.
2. Also, that the Department of Parks and Recreation maintenance responsibilities be transferred to Public Works.
3. Question: How much would be saved? Answer (by Chairman Kekumano): We do not know at this time.

Informal discussion and comments:

1. Limit the mayor to 4-year term - not to exceed two terms
2. Managing Director - supervise all department heads and report to the mayor in order to promote efficiency in government.
3. Eliminate the mayor's administrative aides
4. Let the Mayor appoint the Corporation Counsel and the people elect the Public Prosecutor
5. Should the Corporation Counsel and/or Public Prosecutor be recommended by the Bar Association? Consensus - Not necessarily.
6. What is next step for Charter Commission? Answer (by Chairman Kekumano) To continue public meetings, gather all in-put and Commission will study and meet many more times - deadline February 28, 1976.

The Commission was commended for its diligent efforts-Nothing further, meeting adjourned 9:05 p.m.

FOR THE COMMISSION: 1


Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. C. Marciel

CHARTER

HEARING - 10/14/75

MAKAWAO
UP County

PLEASE SIGN:
NAME

ADDRESS OR ORGANIZATION

1. Mrs. Mary L. Tonn
2. Helen P. Fernandez
3. Tom Hinchett
4. John Hualuma
5. Dorothy M. La Fon
6. Allen W. Barr
7. John W. Hernandez
8. ~~Stephen Long~~
9. Jay Van Zurenburg
10. E. Marcell
11. Roger M. Wilson
12. Virginia Moskow
13. Mary S. Botelho
14. Madeline O'Neil
15. Roy Zweifel

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 Pukalani, Hawaii
 Kula Kai, H.
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 Makawao com
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 Wailuku, Maui
 Spreckelsville
 Pukalani
 Makawao
 Makawao
 Kokomo
 Kokomo
 Makawao

All Commissioners present - 11

Staff - 1