# DeGray Vanderbilt Box 1348 Kaunakakai, Moloka'i, Hawaii 96848

Mr. Robert Nakasone Chairman, Charter Commission c/o Mayor Linda Crockett Lingle 200 South High Street Wailuku, Maul, Hawaii 96793 October 10,1991 FAXED TO: 243-7870 For 10/10/91 Commission Meeting

Dear Mr. Nakasone:

To date, there seems to have been very little news regarding the Charter Commission's important and on-going deliberations and actions. Therefor, I respectfully request to be put on the Commission's mailing list to receive all documents received or initiated by the Commission. These would include, but not be limited to, minutes of meetings, correspondence received or sent by the commission, agendas, news releases, etc.

I would also appreciate receiving a copy of all the documents mentioned above that have been generated by the Commission to date. I will do my best to get as much pertinent information as possible out to our community so we are able to stay informed as to

your progress and direction.

In the past, the Moloka'i community has shown sincere interest regarding Charter items such as an elected Moloka'i Planning Commission, the election of Council members by district, limiting terms of elected officials, public initiative, etc. Moloka'i generally stays pretty well up on issues especially if they are given an opportunity to become involved in the legislative process on a basis that is equitable to the opportunities enjoyed by Maui residents.

On this point, might I suggest the the Commission consider the

following:

1. I noticed on the agenda for today's meeting that there is a item for "public testimony". This is terrific. Public involvement always is. However, I understand that all the meetings the Commission has held to date have been on Maui, and that in all probability future meetings will also be held there. This makes it difficult for Moloka'i resident's to appear before the Commission during this important review process where important decisions are

being considered. Possibly the Commission would consider holding one or more of its meetings on Moloka'i.

- 2. For Moloka'i residents to come to Maui is a big expense which includes the costs of air fare, taking time from work and lodging. Several state agencies provide "scholarships" to encourage neighbor island participation by the public at their meetings, especially if those meetings are scheduled only to be held on Oahu. Possibly the Commission could provide say two (2) "scholarships" each for Lana'i and Moloka'i for each Committee meeting held on Maui. This would allow residents from Lana'i and Moloka'i to attend your meetings and provide verbal input to the Commission without incurring the significant expenses, which Maui residents are not faced with.
- 3. Since the Commission has taken on a full-time secretary, it seems that it would be worthy to consider keeping full minutes of the meetings, similar to Council meetings, instead of summary minutes. The availability of this type of information would be very helpful to the public as far as assessing the actions of the Commission in coming to its final decisions. This could lead to the public having a clearer understanding of the issues being assessed by the Commission and should lead to more constructive testimony during the official public hearing phases of the process.

Thank you for your consideration of the above. I look forward to hearing back from you.

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DeGray Vanderbilt

dv:kmm:10/91

cc: Mayor Linda Crockett Lingle Councilman Pat Kawaпо Ms. Annette Mondoy, Moloka'i Commission member Moloka'i Chamber of Commerce

#### SANCHIA FOILES 633 Laniloa Way, Haiku HI 96708 (808) 572-6371

October 7, 1991

Maui County Charter Commission County Building 200 High Street Wailuku HI 96793

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Commission:

Article III of the Charter lists residence requirements for members of the County Council. Eight out of nine seats have a residence requiremnt, and all 9 members are elected at large, or by the entire county. Supposedly this arrangement means equal representation for each member of the population.

As a resident of East Maui, I feel that the extreme disparity in population of the various residence districts creates an unequal opportunity for certain areas of the county to participate in the political process. As the attached table shows, Lanai has one council seat, with a population of only 2,426. East Maui, where I live, has one council seat also, but its population is over ten times as large, with 28,606 residents.

The exact populations of each of the residence areas are:

Lanai	2,426	
Molokai	6,717	
West Maui	14,574	
South Maui	15,374	
East Maui	28,608	

Central Maui (3 seats!)

32,807 or 10,936 per each seat.

As you can see, East Maui has almost as many residents as central Maui, but has only one seat instead of three. It has over ten times as much population as Lanai, but each has one council seat.

You should also take note of the fact that Lanai is in sole ownership, so almost every resident of Lanai is an employee or a lessee of Castle and Cooke. This hardly makes for independence of voting in the representative of Lanai.

I suggest that Maui citizens would be better represented by the Council if the County consisted of equal population districts, with the council member elected by that district, similar to the situation on Oahu.

It is not a difficult task to create equal-population districts on Maui. The Lieutenant Governor's office has an interactive computer program with a data base of census data down to the block level that could easily create council districts.

The argument is made that since each council seat is voted on by all voters in the County, therefore the one-man, one-vote rule is met.

It is my belief that a fair voting process requires not just that voters have equal opportunity, but that candidates shall be given equal opportunity to compete. The present system is unfair to candidates, and by artificially restricting the candidates is also unfair to the voters.

To make clear the unfairness involved, surely it is correct to assume that good candidates are equally likely in any part of the county. Assume that there are 20 excellent candidates, and they are evenly distributed in the 100,000 population of the county. Then for each 5000 residents, we have one excellent candidate.

If candidates were elected in 9 equal-population districts, each district would have 20/9 excellent candidates. So an average of 2.2 excellent candidates would compete in each district.

In the present system, Lanai would have only a 50 percent chance of having a good candidate. Molokai would have at least one good candidate. Central Maui would have 6 good candidates, and three of those could be elected. But in East Maui, there would be 6 good candidates, all competing for only one seat.

The system as it is now unfairly penalizes candidates from the more populous districts, while giving a free ride to the candidates from the small districts. The whole county suffers from the unbalanced representation that results.

Some method must be found to eliminate this extreme disparity.

Sincerely yours,

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P.S. Notice also that Central Maui plus Lanai plus Molokai constitutes a majority of the Council (5 out of 9 seats), even though the population included in those districts is only 42 percent of the county.

## MAUI COUNTY

#### COUNCIL RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT AREAS

lai	1990 Precinct	Place	1990 Populat:		O Voters a) <sub>R</sub> (a)	port
Lanai	10-1	Lanai	2426	589	149	
	LANAI TOTAL	S	2426	589	149	30%
Molokai	10-2 10-3 10-4 10-5	Molokai Molokai Molokai Molokai	985 3460 1645 497	132 655 394 77	120 229 96 30	
Mo	10-6	Kalaupapa	130	51	15	
4	MOLOKAI TOT	ALS	6717	1309	490	27%
West Maul	10-7 10-8 10-9 9-1	Honolua etc. Mala/Kaanapali Lahaina Lahaina/Olowalu	4806 4302 3368 2098	471 698 610 313	569 498 112 243	
1	WEST MAUI T	OTALS	14574	2092	1422	24%
South Maul	7-1 6-11 9-2 9-3	Maui Mdws/Waile Makena Kihei School Kihei Com.Ctr.	a 2347 131 7957 4939	215 12 666 949	527 26 954 859	
li c	SOUTH MAUI	TOTALS	15374	1842	2366	27%
	6-6 6-7 6-8 6-9 6-10 7-6 7-5	Hana Keanae Huelo Haiku Paia Paia Makawao Pukalani	1668 246 375 5322 485 1606 7271 6127	279 53 56 860 102 354 1363 1252	911	
2	7-4 7-3 7-2	Kula Ulupalakua	5438 68	1058 44		
		nhabited parts o				also)
	EAST MAUI T	OTALS	28608	5421	3828	32%

Note (a) Numbers given are for Waihee votes and Hemmings votes for governor.

MAUI COUNTY

## COUNCIL RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT AREAS, page 2

1990 Precinct	Place	1990 Population		Voters a) R (a)	
7-7	Spreckelsville	213	23	79	
7-8	Kahului/Puunene	1012	227	56	
8-1	Kahului	3221	1007	248	
8-2	Kahului	3982	1126	189	
8-3 and	Kahului				
8-4		7627	1976	300	
8-5	Wailuku	2061	542	172	
8-6	Wailuku	2686	809	338	
9-4	Waikapu	746	217	66	
9-5	Waihee	1159	252	101	
9-6	Paukuka1o	5694	1027	286	
9-7	Puuone	2915	547	220	
9-8	Piihana	1491	450	116	
CENTRAL ARE	A TOTALS	32807	8203	2171	32%
Central are	a has 3 Council	seats.			
1/3 CENTRAL	TOTALS	10936	2734	724	
COUNTY TOTA	LS	100506	19456	10406	29%

Note (a) Numbers given are for Waihee votes and Hemmings votes

Currently there are 8 residence-required seats, and 1 no-district-residency seat. 100,506/8 = 12,563.

P.I. 94-171 COUNTS Hawaii

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P.L. 94-171 COUNTS Hawaii, Maui County

