

MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE
MAUI COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION

February 21, 1966

The first meeting of the Maui County Charter Commission was held in the Chambers of the Board of Supervisors at Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii, on Monday, February 21, 1966, at 7:32 p.m., with Chairman Douglas Sodetani presiding.

ROLL CALL:

The following members were present:

Douglas R. Sodetani, Chairman
William F. Crockett
Stanley Cornwell Friel
Shiro Hokama
Nadao Honda
Harry N. Kobayashi
George Y. Kondo
Paul Pladera
Keith B. Tester
James S. Ushijima

Commissioner Emil Balthazar was excused due to illness.

OTHERS PRESENT were the Honorable Kase Higa, County Attorney of the County of Maui; Charles C. Young, Information and Complaint Officer of the County of Maui; Robert Johnson, Honolulu Advertiser Reporter; and Jack Stephens, Maui News Reporter.

RULES OF PROCEDURE:

Mr. Tester moved for adoption of the Rules of Procedure and Further Rules of Procedure of the previous Maui County Charter Commission. Said motion was seconded by Mr. Friel and carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:

It was moved by Mr. Tester and seconded by Mr. Friel that Mr. Crockett be nominated as Vice-Chairman. Nominations were closed on motion entered by Mr. Honda and seconded by Mr. Friel. Mr. Crockett was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman.

PROPOSED BUDGET:

The following proposed budget for the period February 10, 1966 to June 30, 1966, which was previously circulated to the members of the Maui County Charter Commission, was explained by the Chair:

Salaries:

Commissioners - 11 members	@\$100/mo.	\$ 4,400.00
Stenographer - SR-11	@\$414/mo.	1,656.00
Research Assistant - Contractual	@\$200/mo.	800.00

Expenses:

Lanai Commissioner - Travel, Room & Board (16 meetings) ...	502.08
Molokai Commissioner - Travel, Room & Board (16 meetings) ...	508.16
All Commissioners - Travel & Mileage	1,000.00
Consultant Services and Travel	1,200.00
Office Supplies and Printing	500.00
Telephone	100.00
Repair, Painting and Refinishing of Office	250.00

Equipment:

Desk, Chair, Typewriter, Filing Cabinet and other sundry equipment	<u>750.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$11,666.24</u>

The Chair explained that there was no space available for use as the office of the Maui County Charter Commission within the County Building and that the only possible office space available is the former HGEA office, which is adjacent to the Maui County Employees Federal Credit Union office in the old armory building on Wells Street in Wailuku. However, since the office is in such a dilapidated condition and is in need of repairs, the Building Inspection Division of the County of Maui was asked to inspect said office and they estimated that it will cost approximately \$350.00 for repairs, painting and refinishing of said office.

Motion: Mr. Tester moved for adoption of the proposed budget with the correction that instead of \$250.00 as proposed, a request for \$350.00 be made for the repairs, painting and refinishing of the office. Motion was seconded by Mr. Kondo and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

(a) Manner in which Drafting of Charter should be Approached:

Mr. Tester felt that the Charter Commission should proceed by taking up the items that were controversial in the proposed charter, which charter was defeated in the 1964 general election.

Mr. Crockett suggested that the members orient themselves again with the various departments of the County of Maui inasmuch as it has been about a year and a half since the proposed charter was defeated at the last election. He felt that the new members should have the opportunity of meeting with the various department heads and

going through the experience as the previous Charter Commission members did, and that the department heads should be permitted to comment on the sections of the proposed charter which affect their respective departments. He thought that by going through the same procedure, they may come up with different conclusions from that of the last proposed charter.

Mr. Crockett further expressed that the Charter Commissioners should not let the public feel that whatever type of charter they may draft is necessarily the same charter which was proposed by the previous Charter Commission. He said that the people shouldn't be led to feel that what will or may be proposed is a "rubber-stamp" charter.

Mr. Sodetani summarized the following manner in which he wished to see the Charter Commission proceed:

1. Members to review Act 97, which created some disturbance between the County and the State.
2. Have copies of the final draft of the charter which was proposed by the previous Charter Commission printed and distributed to the various organizations in the County of Maui, and request each organization's comments or recommendations by a certain date.
3. In the meantime, meet with the various department heads and get their opinions. In this way, the members of the Charter Commission should get a better idea of how the public and the various departments are thinking.
4. When the tentative draft of a proposed charter is prepared, copies should be sent to the various organizations in order that the public may study said draft and offer their comments and recommendations at the public hearings.

Mr. Ushijima felt that the new members of the commission should be given an opportunity to learn of the various County operations before deciding whether or not they should formulate a charter. Further, he felt that it is their responsibility to the public, before deciding on the form of government, to familiarize themselves with the County operations.

Mr. Pladera also felt that they, as new members, should be given an opportunity to do some "homework". He stated that there is probably no other way that they could pursue this matter, except to deal with the controversial issues of the proposed charter.

Mr. Kondo stated that as a new member he honestly believes that the majority of the voters did not understand or were simply not interested in the proposed charter,

and that was the prime reason for the defeat of the charter at the last election. He felt that when the tentative draft of the charter is prepared, the commissioners should do a lot of selling.

Mr. Hokama also expressed that the commissioners should follow the same procedure as the last commission did--that is, to meet with the various department heads in order to re-educate themselves on the setup of each department and in order that the new members may understand the present organizational setup of the county government.

Then, Mr. Hokama said, they could send out copies of the previous proposed charter, asking the various organizations for their comments insofar as the controversial issues are concerned.

Motion: Mr. Pladera moved that the Charter Commission first study the present form of government in the County of Maui and that the Chairman be authorized to schedule hearings accordingly. This motion was seconded by Mr. Honda and carried unanimously.

Suggestion: Mr. Kobayashi suggested that some form of news should be released to the various organizations, either weekly or monthly, in order that the public will not have to go through the entire charter at one time.

(b) Frequency of Meetings:

It was agreed by all members that they will meet once a week, alternating between 1:30 and 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays, the first of said meetings to be held on Thursday, March 3, 1966, at 1:30 p.m., with the County Auditor.

EXPLANATION OF ACT 97:

Mr. Higa explained to the commissioners that under the provisions of Act 97, which was enacted in 1965, some of the departments or agencies which were under the control of the County, were transferred from the County to the State. He further explained that unless the Legislature at this session takes away the functions of the hospital or some other department entirely from the County and determines that the State itself will operate said department either directly or through their respective boards, appointed by the State, the County will still be involved with these departments.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY AND PART-TIME RESEARCH ASSISTANT:

Mr. Sodetani explained that according to the Rules of Procedure, "[the chair] shall appoint staff members and consultants when authorized, . . ." He requested permission of the commissioners to recruit a secretary and a research assistant as provided for in the proposed budget.

Motion: Mr. Hokama moved that the Chairman be authorized to appoint a secretary and a research assistant on a contractual basis. Seconded by Mr. Kondo and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriette E. Miyamoto

HARRIETTE E. MIYAMOTO
Acting Secretary