

MAUI COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION
HANA DISTRICT PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: October 17, 1975
PLACE: Helene Hall, Hana
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
Dr. Sanae Moikeha
Ralph Murakami
Stephen Petro
Lloyd Sodetani
Allan Sparks
ABSENT and EXCUSED:
Mrs. Margaret Cameron
Joseph M. Souki
STAFF PRESENT: Mrs. C. Marciel

Commission Chairman Monsignor Charles A. Kekumano called the fourth public meeting to order at Helene Hall, Hana, Maui, at 7:00 p.m. with 9 Commissioners present. 19 Hana residents were present - refer to attendance sheet attached and made a part of these Minutes, (only 15 signed attendance sheet.)

The Chairman stated that "this is the first opportunity the Charter Commission has had to come to Hana; we are here to share our studies and information gathered, with you. We are also seeking in-put and we ask that you share your feelings with us".

DISTRICT REPRESENTATION - Commissioner Allan Sparks:

Commissioner Sparks: I would imagine that living out here in Hana that people in Hana would like to have a representative on the Council who lives in Hana and is elected by the people in Hana. Is that an actual presumption? My sad duty is to inform you that in those terms it is virtually impossible to do. Let me explain. Supreme Court of the United States has ruled on something they call the "one man one vote principle"; which means if we have a district and/or districts which elect representatives to the Council, each district has to be substantially equal in population. In looking at the District of Hana which would include Keanae and Huelo there is an approximate total of 500 voters, give or take. There is a total of approximately 26,000 in Maui County. If we went the route of district representation, we must by law take the smallest number - in this case 500 - we would arrive at a total of 52 districts - therefore, we would have to elect 52 councilmen. That would be as large as our state legislature, both Houses represented. It would of course, be true district representation, but your representative would only

have one out of 52 chances and he would be rewarded or punished when he came home. However, due to cost and many other logistics, I'm sure you can see this method would not be feasible. But there's a better chance if we place some districts together, the minority could become a majority, therefore having a better chance.

Commissioner Sparks went on to illustrate several electoral systems-

1. at-large basis
2. true district representation
3. specific districts of unequal population.

Audience Participation and Discussion:

1. Hana "out for district representation". No representation on any Board, Commissions, etc. "Lanai and Molokai has representation - not too sure if that is fairly handled; nevertheless, everybody else on the Council is from Wailuku. We are ready for a compromise - we know we may have to be grouped with Sprecklesville, or Haiku or whatever, but at least we'd have a chance of representation - they'd look at our 600 votes - and give us some consideration. Gerrymandering and log-rolling is done all the time - by districts or not. We do recognize the differences in geography. We do feel strongly if you're giving it to Lanai with approximately 800 votes, then please give it to West Maui with approximately 3,000 votes, and then of course we must have some at-large candidates." (Dr. Howell)
2. Chairman: I do not approve or agree with the word "compromise" - I do not consider that a compromise - I would prefer to say that we can work out some system, but I do not consider it a compromise.
Answer: I would agree with you Mr. Chairman, I should not have used the word.
3. Many felt inasmuch as Lanai, Molokai, and now possibly Lahaina would have their own representative, Hana also should have the same representation.
4. Someone commented that the attendance is poor tonight "because Hana people realize they don't have a chance".

COUNCIL TERM OF OFFICE - Commissioner Lloyd Sodetani:

Commissioner Sodetani presented considerations on the following:

1. 4-year term of Council members without limiting terms
2. 4-year term - limit to not more than two consecutively
3. Retain present system - two-year term - unlimited terms.

Audience participation and discussion:

1. On staggered terms: Yes, then we would have elections every two years; yes, cost of government would be increased.
2. The feeling was that if Hana was given district representation it would most certainly affect Hana's decision on "Council Term of Office".
3. How much does a newly-elected Councilman accomplish in two years? It was the consensus that a newly-elected candidate was elected based on the political platform he presented during campaigning - if he did not accomplish that, then he should be out.

Eventually, we will have elected well-qualified people.

4. It was pointed out that the incumbents have the advantage.
5. Is limitation of terms permissible in our democracy? Answer: Yes, the office of President of the United States and some of our governors do have limited terms.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY - PLANNING DEPARTMENT - Commissioner Ralph Murakami:

Commissioner Murakami presented the considerations as proposed for the Department of Water Supply and the Planning Department, with posters illustrating various organizational charts.

Discussion:

1. Hana people reiterated they do not have in-put in these areas as they have no representatives on either Board.
2. The system in Planning is practically duplicated in the Department of Water Supply.
3. There is now limited accountability to the Mayor on both Boards; if the Mayor appointed each Director (Water and Planning) rather than their respective Commissions, accountability would be improved, including intra-departmental coordination.
4. Wouldn't there be loss of independence within these two departments? (General opinion from Commissioners - yes.)
5. Yes, each department makes its own decisions as it sees fit.
6. The Planning Commission powers, in particular are executive and advisory-legislative -
 - a. executive in that they appoint the Director and set rules and regulations;
 - b. legislative-advisory in that they take in certifications and advise the Director;
 - c. this is submitted to the Council - the Council must agree before it becomes law.
 - d. This is a general overview.

General and Informal Discussion Followed:

Managing Director -

1. not to be confused with City Manager. This was explained by Chairman Kekumano as a "middle management position" in the administration; also someone to serve as "acting Mayor" in his absence (this is now assigned to the Finance Director).
2. The position would also serve as a type of evaluator of all department heads.

Question: Would this position take over if the Mayor died?
Answer: No - then there would have to be a special election.
3. Increased cost of government? Not really - the Mayor now has administrative aides - this would be a matter of conversion by the Mayor and approval of the Council.

County Attorney - to consider a separation and create two different departments because there is now conflict of interest. To also

consider the creation of the Office of Public Prosecutor - either appointed or elected. This appeared to be a favorable consideration to the audience. However, would a successful akamai attorney leave a lucrative practice to join the County for only a limited period?

Parks and Recreation and Public Works - The general feeling was there should be some clarification of maintenance and operations within the two departments, particularly as it pertains to the Hana Park and/or surrounding areas.

Human Concerns - No opposition to this consideration.

Ethics Code and Commission - No opposition.

Boards and Commissions - Considerations had no oppositions.

Planning Department - It was felt a good idea to incorporate Land Use and Codes into Planning.

Police Department - It was felt that these considerations should be decided by the Police Commission.

CHAIRMAN KEKUMANO: Someone earlier asked me about a ballot here in Hana in this group regarding matters which we discussed. I'm not so sure about the fairness of this method, because I do not think that everyone in Hana who might be interested in the considerations we have discussed, is here tonight.

DR. HOWELL TO CHAIRMAN: If you would like our organization to poll our people, we shall be glad to do so.

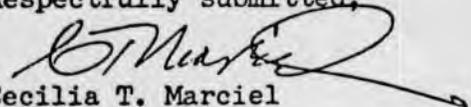
CHAIRMAN KEKUMANO: No, thank you very much, because I think it would probably be premature. It may be possible that we may have to come back here - we don't know.

Dr. Howell expressed thanks to the entire Commission: "We appreciate your taking the time out of your lives to educate yourselves and coming all this distance to educate us on this complicated matter of the basic structure of our government, especially in this isolated place. (Applause).

There was no further business - adjournment 9:00 p.m.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

Respectfully submitted,


Cecilia T. Marciel

NOTE: Upon questioning, Dr. M. Howell admitted he represented approximately 200 people of the Hana Improvement Association - they pay no dues - the Executive Committee of 17 people meet at least once a month.

CHARTER REVISION Hearing - 10/17/75 Hana

PLEASE SIGN:

NAME	Address or Organization
1 - Russell C. Howell	Box 91, Hana
2 - Milton M. Knell -	
3 - Dionne Grant	Box 85 Hana
4 - Francis Dugg	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
5 - Linkin Pelikai - 76	Box 144 Hana
6 - Fusao Nakamura	Hana
7 - Earl Morton	Box 184 Hana
8 - Jan Morton	" " "
9 - Ginny Chang	Hana, HI
10 - Helen Frances Diehl	" "
11 - Henry C. Diehl	" "
12 - Fr. Walter Demeyer	Hana St. Mary's
13 - Robert Carroll	PO Box 157, Hana, Maui 96713
14 - Bob Litzen	P.O. BOX 214 HANA
15 - W. Norman King	P.O. Box 222 Hana
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