

CHARTER COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 9, 1991
MITCHELL PAUOLE CENTER, MOLOKAI

Present

James Cockett
Dolores Fabrao
Annette Mondoy
Robert Nakasone (Chair)
Victor Reyes
Allan Sparks
Lloyd Yonenaka
Sue Nakano-Ruidas (Staff)

Excused

Sherrilee Dodson (Vice Chair)
Anne Takabuki
Jamie Woodburn
Deborah Wright

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nakasone opened the public meeting at 7:08 p.m.

II. OVERVIEW OF CURRENT CHARTER FOR MAUI COUNTY AND
PRESENTATION OF IDEAS FOR AMENDMENTS

A. Commission Chair Nakasone explained the purpose of the public meeting on Molokai as being educational, informational and also the opportunity to receive input from the public. He noted that this was the first phase of the Commission's work, with the second phase being deliberation and the third phase decision-making and packaging for the voters.

Nakasone also noted the commission's three committees, set up to review different portions of the Charter.

B. Commission member Sparks presented a brief history of the Charter of Maui, subsequent amendments to the Charter and a description of the duties of the Charter Commission.

As Chair of Committee A, Sparks presented details of proposed districting schemes for an At-Large system (with adjusted residency requirements) and for two types of True District systems: all nine equal districts and a seven equal plus two district system.

II. OVERVIEW OF CURRENT CHARTER FOR MAUI COUNTY AND
PRESENTATION OF IDEAS FOR AMENDMENTS (Continued)

Sparks noted that the proposed "districts" on the three presentation maps were merely for visual purposes and that "districts" could be formed in any number of ways. He asked Molokaians present to "keep an open mind about districting and not reject it out-of-hand," further reminding them that it was possible that their percentage of influence and pool of candidates would both become larger.

- C. Committee B Chair James Cockett explained the function of his committee in reviewing current departments and their scope of duties.

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

- A. Sara E. Sykes (Individual) read her testimony (see Communication 91-37) urging that Maui County adopt sub-units of government such as townships or neighborhood boards. Utilizing this type of division would solve several county-wide problems, including easing the financial burden on the county for smaller populated areas by allowing them to apply for federal, state and private funds (for which the county does not qualify as a whole). Sykes stressed the distinction between the current planning commission vs townships and neighborhood boards is that the planning commission is appointed while the boards would be elected.

Sykes also noted that zoning questions could be referred to their own local board, with that board doing the presentation to the County for and on behalf of constituents.

When questioned by commissioners, Sykes said she has contacted planning commission members and that they see townships or neighborhood boards as working "hand and glove" with them and not as competition.

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY (Continued)

Sykes stated that Molokaians sometimes feel "cut off" and noted that it is not always possible for them to attend hearings and meetings due to time and cost.

At commissioners request, Sykes will forward additional background research and supporting information for her proposal.

B. DeGray Vanderbilt (Individual) asked that commissioners consider the following items from the past:

1. His request for two scholarships for each Charter meeting so representatives from Molokai could attend (perhaps one pro/one con or first come/first served basis).
2. Citizens should be allowed to put things on the ballot.
3. He would like to see some type of districting for Molokai (maybe townships or neighborhood boards could be an answer if some could be elected and others could be appointed).
4. The Council should not be allowed to override the Planning Commission recommendations.
5. In favor of limiting Council terms to four terms of two years or two terms of four years.
6. There are no copies of the County Charter available in Molokai's court house.
7. Perhaps there would be a way to do "sky bridging" for public meetings (like Maui Community College uses for its classes).
8. Would like to receive commission materials in a more timely manner.

Vanderbilt was advised that he would have access to Molokai's commission member Annette Mondoy's files.

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III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY (Continued)

- C. Doris Miller (Individual) expressed her concern with the way the Council "often overrides the Molokai Planning Commission."

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Nakasone pronounced the public meeting closed at 8:52 p.m.

APPROVED:

Robert Nakasone, Jr.
Robert Nakasone, Chairman

1/16/92
Date