

Letters

THE MAUI NEWS 6/10/11

Work was done without permits, permission

Ten years ago, kitesurfers arrived at Kanaha Beach Park with their tractors and chain saws. They bulldozed a parking lot close to the shoreline, flattened beaches and destroyed Hawaiian plants and trees (generally, commercial kitesurfing activities are incompatible with the natural shorelines). These actions over time degraded the shoreline. This abuse left a mile of shoreline deprived of vegetation and severely eroded.

In March 2011, the Japan tsunami hit Maui. It destroyed many but not all of the native plants which had been restored through thousands of volunteer hours spanning the past 10 years.

On March 12, some kitesurfers took advantage of the situation. Under the guise of cleaning up, they chopped down trees and removed native plants from the restored shoreline area. What they were really doing was manipulating the situation to extend the beach area for more kitesurfing.

A few weeks later, they drove a tractor into an area of the beach called Ka'a Point. They cut down several trees and dragged them all over causing severe damage to the natural topography and native plants. Their tractors penetrated the railings systems, trying to create a new and larger parking lot on the beach. The logs were dragged long distances and are used as benches. Twenty large logs and other debris were dumped into a pristine area Ka'a Point.

Repeated calls were made to the Mayor's Office/Parks Department with no response. Again, all of these activities were done without permits or permission.

Mike Perry
Makawao

What is real situation with planned building?

credible. The planning commission says no significant impact for a six-story, 93-foot building to be constructed at Kanaha Pond abutting the wildlife refuge, a designated National Natural Landmark, upon pile-driven beams slammed into the wetland base in the tsunami evacuation zone. How about impact on the three endangered bird species or on the view corridor or traffic on Hana Highway?

Do community plans mean anything? The 2002 Wailuku-Kahului one states, "Protect shoreline wetland resources and flood plain areas as valuable natural systems and open space resources. These natural systems are important for flood control, as habitat area for wildlife, and for various forms of recreation. Future development actions should emphasize flood prevention and protection of the natural landscape" and "drainage channels should not be used for building sites but rather for public open space." Do the commissioners consider this?

Is there truly a shortage of office space in Central Maui? It certainly doesn't seem so when one travels around the area. I thought the cause of the doctor shortage on Maui was the lower rural rates paid by Medicare and the high cost of malpractice insurance. You mean they just can't find an office? What is the real situation with this out-of-place building?

Mike Moran
Kihei

To: Josh Stone, Chair, Charter Commission and Members
From: Sally Raisbeck
427 Liholiho Street Wailuku HI 96793 808-244-9604
Date: June 13, 2011
Subject: Maui News editorial of June 7, 2011

Dear Chairman and Members:

I thought it would be good to have in your files this editorial explaining how unnecessary you are.
Sally Raisbeck

An unneeded redundancy

June 7, 2011

The Maui News

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The Maui County Charter Commission is composed of a group of public spirited, well-intentioned folks who honestly want to look at ways the charter could be improved.

As the chairman wrote in a Viewpoint here on Sunday, the commission wants input from citizens of the county on changes and amendments to the charter.

Our only question is: Is there even a need for a Charter Commission?

Yes, the commission can propose changes to the charter - but so can the County Council. Citizens can present a petition to the council asking for amendments. If the council is unresponsive, those same citizens can present a petition with signatures of 20 percent of registered voters to the County Clerk and have the measure put on the ballot.

So what is the purpose of - or the need for - a Charter Commission?

Well, the best explanation we have heard is to provide political cover. Disclaimer: None of the current members of the commission that we know of are serving to protect a particular politician.

But we did have one of those politicians explain to us that a Charter Commission makes it possible for potentially sensitive issues - like district selection of council members - to actually appear on the ballot for the citizens of Maui to consider.

That same politician expressed the view that districtwide representation makes ultimate sense - but the politician did not want to be the one responsible for putting it on the ballot.

In other words, if THEY win, I don't want THEM blaming ME.

Maybe there is another reason to justify the commission's existence. But, frankly, we don't see it.

Let the County Council exercise its judgment - and courage - in proposing charter changes. If citizens don't meet a responsive council, let them get the required signatures to get an amendment on the ballot. Most importantly, let the selfless citizens on the Charter Commission provide their judgment and expertise on other, nonredundant panels.

* Editorials reflect the opinion of the publisher.

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Rec'd 6/13/11 - Raisbeck - Public Testimony

June 5, 2011

RECEIVED
CORPORATION COUNSEL

2011 JUN -7 AM 8: 57

Maui County Charter Commission
Attn: Jeff Stone, Commission Chairperson

Written Testimony for the Charter Commission regarding the County of Maui Department of Fire and Public Safety.

Dear Jeff,

After reading your viewpoint in the Maui News on June 5, 2011, I decided to get involved again. In 2000, I started working with certain members of the Fire Department to get the fire department under a commission. I sent in written testimony and the question was placed on the ballot and passed. Several items were left out of our submission including a maximum term and minimum qualifications.

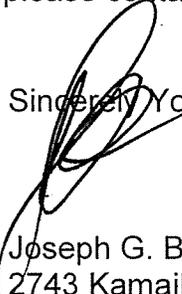
In 2011, I realize it was a mistake. All the charter change did was create another layer of bureaucracy and expenses. The Fire Chief should report directly to the mayor. Since we are not in law enforcement there is no need for a commission to oversee the department. I retired in 2002 and have watched with interest the fire department, its budget and policies. The change to the commission has not improved or affected services. It has only served to insulate the Fire Chief from direct accountability to the Mayor along with increased costs to the taxpayer.

I ask that the Department of Fire and Public Safety Commission be abolished and the Department be placed directly under the mayor.

I also recommend a department with a 27 million dollar budget have requirement for a 4-year college degree for the assistant chiefs, deputy chief and the fire chief. I understand the hands on operations of a Fire Captain, but being in administration for five years does not prepare a firefighter to be the Fire Chief. There should be a minimum qualification of a college education for all positions above Fire Captain. Since there is no written test for any position above captain, the only other way to ensure some type of minimum qualifications is to require either a 2-year degree for Battalion Chief and a 4-year degree for Assistant Chief and above. When I retired the process to get promoted above captain was based on seniority, since I transferred from the Police department I was not going to be promoted above captain. Since going to the commission the promotion above captain is based on loyalty to the chiefs. Neither system is the best method to serve the public.

If you have questions regarding this written testimony please contact me at 442-3063 or email at joeb@mauiproperty4you.com.

Sincerely Yours,


Joseph G. Blackburn
2743 Kamaile St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

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3x3

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY

To assist the Maui County Charter Commission in understanding and considering your testimony, please fill in and complete the following sections of this questionnaire. Your submittal of this form is completely voluntary and not mandatory, and you may chose to just rest on your oral or written testimony to the Commission. Thank you for taking the time to assist the Commission.

1) The general subject of your testimony and recommended amendment(s) to the charter:

HOUSEKEEPING
① UNIFORMITY TO LANGUAGE W/ REGARD TO FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FORMS

② SUBMISSION TO COUNTY CLERK PUBLIC
③ ETHICS → PRIVATE COMMISSION

③ DISTRICT VOTING: KEEP IT SIMPLE
4 (3 YR TERMS) ? → LANA MOLOKA HANA

2) If you know, the specific existing article, chapter and section in the current Maui County Charter that your testimony will or is intended to affect [examples: Article 8 (County Departments), Chapter 12 (Department of Police), Section 8-12.2 (Police Commission); Article 8 (County Departments), Chapter 17 (Salary Commission), Section 8-17.1 (Organization and Functions):

(If you don't know the specific article, chapter, or section, the Commission staff will research and try to get back to you to confirm)

3) If called, whether you would be willing to further testify or clarify your testimony before the Commission at future meetings: yes no

If yes, please fill in contact information: ALAN KAUFMAN 870-9861

Name: _____ Date: 8 JUNE 11

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY

To assist the Maui County Charter Commission in understanding and considering your testimony, please fill in and complete the following sections of this questionnaire. Your submittal of this form is completely voluntary and not mandatory, and you may chose to just rest on your oral or written testimony to the Commission. Thank you for taking the time to assist the Commission.

1) The general subject of your testimony and recommended amendment(s) to the charter: _____

1 - Change to 3-1
2 - Amend section 8-11.4 Powers, Duties and Functions.
CB of Water Supply

2) If you know, the specific existing article, chapter and section in the current Maui County Charter that your testimony will or is intended to affect [examples: Article 8 (County Departments), Chapter 12 (Department of Police), Section 8-12.2 (Police Commission); Article 8 (County Departments), Chapter 17 (Salary Commission), Section 8-17.1 (Organization and Functions): _____

See above

(If you don't know the specific article, chapter, or section, the Commission staff will research and try to get back to you to confirm)

3) If called, whether you would be willing to further testify or clarify your testimony before the Commission at future meetings: X yes no

If yes, please fill in contact information: 1167 Holoponi Road
Kula HI 96790-8341

Name: John J Wilson Date: June 8, 2011

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY

To assist the Maui County Charter Commission in understanding and considering your testimony, please fill in and complete the following sections of this questionnaire. Your submittal of this form is completely voluntary and not mandatory, and you may chose to just rest on your oral or written testimony to the Commission. Thank you for taking the time to assist the Commission.

- 1) The general subject of your testimony and recommended amendment(s) to the charter:

VOTING FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS
TERM LIMITS FOR " "

- 2) If you know, the specific existing article, chapter and section in the current Maui County Charter that your testimony will or is intended to affect [examples: Article 8 (County Departments), Chapter 12 (Department of Police), Section 8-12.2 (Police Commission); Article 8 (County Departments), Chapter 17 (Salary Commission), Section 8-17.1 (Organization and Functions):

ARTICLE 3 SECTION 3-2

(If you don't know the specific article, chapter, or section, the Commission staff will research and try to get back to you to confirm)

- 3) If called, whether you would be willing to further testify or clarify your testimony before the Commission at future meetings: yes no
If yes, please fill in contact information: _____

Name: RON MONTGOMERY Date: 6/8/2011