

**COST OF GOVERNMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES
Kalana O Maui Building, 9th Floor, Mayor's Conference Room
Thursday, January 10, 2013**

PRESENT: Frank De Rego Jr., Chair
Garrett Evans, Member
Jeffrey Halpin, Member
Joseph Kanahuna, Member
Ronald Kawahara, Vice-Chair
Fred Rohlfig, Member
Rick Tanner, Member
Tina Gomes, Member

EXCUSED: Victoria Johnson, Member

STAFF: John Buck, Executive Assistant
Michelle Makii, Administrative Assistant
Scott Hanano, Corporation Counsel

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair De Rego called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

There was no public testimony.

III. REVIEW AND DISCUSS DECEMBER 13, 2012 MINUTES

Commissioner Tanner moved and Commissioner Kanahuna seconded the motion to pass December 13, 2012 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. REVIEW AND DISCUSS CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

There was no correspondence received.

V. STATUS OF CHARTER AMENDMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Chair De Rego explained that he and Vice-Chair Kawahara met with Council Chair, Gladys Baisa regarding the implementation of the Office of the County Auditor. They emphasized the following points:

1. Implementation process should be open and transparent
2. The County Auditor position should be non-political and therefore an open application process should be instituted
3. Enough staff must be provided to support the County Auditor as well as the COGC
4. It is important that the COGC establish a collaborative and cooperative relationship with the County Auditor

Chair De Rego explained that County Auditor's term is six years, the Salary Commission establishes the salary and the Council establishes the job description.

VI. DISCUSS IDEAS AND ORGANIZATION FOR THE COST OF GOVERNMENT COMMISSION 2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT

a. Subcommittee Reports

i. Permits

Chair De Rego explained that he reviewed the draft of the Permits Subcommittee report and suggested that:

1. The introduction to the report is an important vehicle because it sets up the Subcommittees findings and recommendations. He thinks that there should be more information in the introduction such as:
 - a. Explaining what the permitting process is
 - b. Why does the permit process exist?
 - c. Historically, what were the challenges in having an effective, efficient and economical permitting process?
 - d. Why was it worth our time and effort to look at this subject in the first place?
 - e. On average, how many permits are handled by Department of Planning, Public Works and Water?
 - f. Of those permits, how many are approved in the course of the year?
 - g. What is the average length of time for permit approval of big projects and small projects?
2. This report is basically like telling a story where the introduction states why the COGC chose to investigate this subject matter, the narrative includes what the subcommittee found during this investigation, therefore making recommendations. Chair De Rego explained that the findings must link up to the recommendations in a practical and direct way.
3. The report should clarify that the subcommittee is investigating building permits because there are many different permits throughout the County.

ii. County Services

Chair De Rego explained that he reviewed the draft of the County Services report and suggested that:

1. The subcommittee should have more information in the introduction
2. The subcommittee should make sure that the findings link up to the recommendations
3. It should be known that there are 16 departments that provide services to the public according to Article 8 of the Maui County Charter
4. There should be definitions of what a custom service is and what a standard service is
5. The subcommittee needs to decide on a definition of what a service is
6. A cost accounting approach to county services would be too complicated, therefore the focus should be to coming up with criterion to whether a service should be fully funded, partially funded or be totally funded by user fees
7. The report should include the fact that the subcommittee discovered that some of these fee structures have not been looked at in awhile
8. The subcommittee needs to clarify what N/A means on the Menu of Services

Chair De Rego explained the report overview is the responsibility of the Chair and will contain: 1) general comments, 2) specific recommendations gleaned from past reports for follow-up by the Mayor and Council, 3) some observations about the establishment of the Office of County Auditor and 4) a summary of the findings and recommendations from the Subcommittees. He invited the Commissioners to read the overview and make suggestions for changes.

Chair De Rego directed both Subcommittees to meet with the Commission's technical analyst, Shelley Pellegrino, to work on their reports.

Commissioner Rohlfing suggested that the completion of the final report be postponed until the final meeting of the Commission's term in March. The Commission's technical analyst, Shelley Pellegrino, commented that the report's completion by the end of January was a custom started by a previous Commission in order to influence the budget deliberations for that year. Chair De Rego observed that the Commission does not usually testify before the

Council on current its report until the following October, and that many of the recommendations of past reports have not been acted upon by the Council and the Mayor until well after the report has been published. The COGC agreed by unanimous consent that March 14, 2013 be the final deadline for the 2012-2013 annual report.

VII. Determine Next Meeting Date and Agenda

Next meeting will be January 24, 2013, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Public Works Conference Room. The agenda will include working on the annual report.

VIII. Adjournment

Commissioner Rohlfing moved and Commissioner Gomes seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.