

**COST OF GOVERNMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**Kalana O Maui Building, 9th Floor, Mayor's Conference Room, Waihe'e Side
Thursday, March 10, 2016**

PRESENT: Garrett Evans, Chair
Paul Kailiponi, Vice Chair
Annie Alvarado, Member
Stanford Lantias, Member
Dale Thompson, Member
John Watling, Member

EXCUSED: Bradley Bunn, Member
E. Gayle Long, Member

STAFF: Ed Kushi, First Deputy Corporation Counsel
Shelley Pellegrino, Technical Writer for the Commission

OTHER: John Buck, Executive Assistant, Office of the Mayor
Lance Taguchi, County Auditor

HANDOUTS DISTRIBUTED:

1. February 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes
2. Draft 2015 – 2016 Annual Report
3. Findings Report (PowerPoint presentation prepared by Vice-Chair Paul Kailiponi)
4. February 3, 2016 Letter from Mayor Alan Arakawa Regarding Review of Council Salaries and Status

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Evans called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

There was no public testimony.

III. MEETING MINUTES

- A. Review and Approve February 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chair Kailiponi moved to approve the February 11, 2016 meeting minutes. Commissioner Watling seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. REVIEW AND DISCUSS CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- A. February 3, 2016 Letter from Mayor Alan Arakawa Regarding Review of Council Salaries and Status

The Commission deferred discussion on the letter until the portion of the meeting discussing potential topics for the 2016 – 2017 Annual Report (Section VII below)

V. COUNTY AUDITOR'S UPDATE

- A. Discuss Contract Extension for Pu'umakani Publishing, LLC

County Auditor Lance Taguchi explained that the Commission's contract with Pu'umakani Publishing, LLC (for the services of technical writer Shelley Pellegrino) ends June 30, 2016, and sought the Commission's opinion with respect to whether to extend the contract.

Chair Evans moved that the Commission go into Executive Session to discuss the contract extension for Pu'umakani Publishing, LLC, because the discussion involved an employment matter. Vice-Chair Kailiponi seconded the motion. The Commission approved the motion unanimously.

The Commission recessed at 10:10 a.m. Following the Executive Session, Chair Evans called the regular meeting back to order at 10:15 a.m.

Chair Evans explained that the Commission planned to extend the current contract with Pu'umakani Publishing for two months. The Commission would then amend the contract to extend the terms of service for an additional 12 months.

VI. 2015 – 2016 COGC ANNUAL REPORT

- A. County Manager System of Government

1. Review Draft Annual Report

The Commission discussed the draft annual report topic by topic. There was no discussion under the "Economy and Efficiency" or "Professional Qualifications" sections. Under the "Turnover Costs" section, Commissioner Kailiponi stated that the Commission was missing information on the names and tenures of Maui County Managing Directors between 1976 and 1988. Commissioner Alvarado volunteered to research the information. Under the "Employment Costs" and "Financial Implications" sections, Chair Evans stated that he would be providing summary information of his discussions with department directors, deputies, and employees for insertion into the report.

2. Discuss Additional Research to be Completed by Commissioners
 - a. Economy and Efficiency (Kailiponi, Bunn)

There was no additional discussion.
 - b. Professional Qualifications (Kailiponi, Alvarado, Thompson)

There was no additional discussion.
 - c. Turnover Costs (Evans, Alvarado)

See discussion under Section VI.A.1. above.
 - d. Employment Costs of Executive Branch Positions (Watling, Lantias)

See discussion under Section VI.A.1. above.
 - e. Financial Implications (Evans, Alvarado)

See discussion under Section VI.A.1. above.

3. Discuss Report Recommendations

Vice-Chair Kailiponi shared the PowerPoint presentation he created summarizing the Annual Report research and findings to date. The commissioners then discussed their proposed recommendations based on their research and findings.

Commissioner Watling stated that there appears to be no appreciable difference in cost should the form of government change to Council-Manager. Chair Evans stated that because the Commission found little difference between the two forms of government based on the “values” it researched, then it should recommend that other groups reviewing the issue (e.g., Special Committee on County Governance) take a closer look at the “other values” the Commission did not consider (e.g., accountability of executive personnel, checks and balances).

Economy and Efficiency

The Commission stated that performance measures should be made more accessible, transparent, and user-friendly. In addition, there should be explicit connections between County plans and performance measures.

Technical Writer Shelley Pellegrino noted that there has been some discussion in the Special Committee on County Governance meetings regarding reports that certain departments are required to produce, but have not been completed. Commissioner Alvarado stated that drafting these reports should not be difficult, should be made a priority, and can be the basis for starting a County dashboard.

Professional Qualifications

The Commission recommended that the County Council have more explicit involvement in the hiring of executive appointees. Ex-Officio Member John Buck stated that in the City and County of Honolulu, the Mayor recommends the hiring of a director. The County Council is then permitted to vet the candidate, but has no right of refusal with respect to his or her hiring by the Mayor. First Deputy Ed Kushi stated that Councilmember Hokama introduced a bill that would be heard in the Council's Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee the following week to require that all Mayoral appointees appear before the Council for review and approval. Currently, the Council reviews the appointments of the Prosecuting Attorney, Corporation Counsel, and Director of Water Supply.

The Commission recommended that a Charter amendment be drafted authorizing the County Council to have a say in the hiring of department directors and deputies. To that end, the County Council should be provided the opportunity to vet an appointee either in writing or at an open public hearing, and may share its feedback and recommendations, but has no right of refusal.

Turnover Costs

The Commission recommended that the Mayor create a transition team prior to leaving office.

Financial Impact

The Commission made no recommendations under this topic.

The Commission recessed at 11:25 a.m. and reconvened at 11:35 a.m.

B. Update of Previous Annual Report Findings

The Commission learned that updates to both topics below are being finalized.

1. Grants Review Process (Long)
2. Lana'i and Moloka'i Planning Commissions (Watling)

C. Discuss Timeline to Complete Annual Report

Technical Writer Pellegrino suggested that the Commission review another version of the Annual Report, which will include the additional information being collected and recommendations the Commission discussed, at its next meeting. The Commission could then schedule another meeting soon thereafter to approve the report.

The Commission agreed to the suggested timeline.

D. Discuss Communications Plan for Sharing the Annual Report Findings

The Commission decided that it would like to share its annual report with the Special Committee on County Governance and the Maui County Council.

VII. CONSIDER POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR 2016 – 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Buck summarized Mayor Arakawa's letter asking the Commission to review the salaries and status of Council members. He stated that Mayor Arakawa would like the Commission to discuss whether Council members are fulltime or halftime members. If they are considered fulltime members, are they actually working full time? There was no further discussion regarding the letter.

Chair Evans requested the County Auditor's opinion with respect to how the Commission can identify potential topics of review. Mr. Taguchi responded that in order to maintain the independence and credibility of the Office of the County Auditor, he prefers not to recommend potential topics to the Commission. Mr. Taguchi did recommend that the Commission make sure it maintains its independence and that any topic it chooses to review is of interest to the public.

Commissioner Alvarado suggested that commissioners read the "Ask the Mayor" column in The Maui News for potential topics of interest to the public. Commissioner Watling also suggested that the Commission send out an annual press release asking the public to submit potential topics.

Vice-Chair Kailiponi suggested sending a letters to the Mayor and County Council members soliciting ideas. He also requested that each commissioner bring 2-3 ideas to the next Commission meeting.

VIII. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2016 – 2017 TERM

Chair Evans stated that he would like to step down as Chair for the next term and serve only as a member. Commissioner Thompson nominated Paul Kailiponi for Chair, and Commissioner Watling seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously to elect Paul Kailiponi as Chair for the 2016 – 2017 term.

Commissioner Lantias nominated Annie Alvarado for Vice Chair, and Commissioner Kailiponi seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously to elect Annie Alvarado as Vice Chair for the 2016 – 2017 term.

IX. DETERMINE NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2016, in the Mayor's Conference Room, Waihe'e side, at 10:00 a.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.