

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

POLICY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

June 17, 2016

**Committee
Report No.** _____

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, having met on May 23, 2016, and June 1, 2016, makes reference to the following:

1. County Communication 09-229, from Michael J. Molina, Chair, Committee of the Whole, relating to proposed amendments to the Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended.
2. Resolution 14-70 (recommitted), entitled "PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI (1983), AS AMENDED, TO CLARIFY THE DUTIES OF THE COST OF GOVERNMENT COMMISSION."

The purpose of Resolution 14-70 is to place on the next General Election ballot the question of whether Charter Section 3-9.3 should be amended to state the Cost of Government Commission acts only upon the request of the County Auditor, to whom it is advisory.

Your Committee notes Charter Article 14 sets forth procedures related to amending the Charter. The Council, by resolution adopted after two readings on separate days and passed by a vote of six or more members, may place a Charter amendment question on the ballot at the next General Election.

Your Committee notes the Council passed Resolution 14-70 on first reading on June 20, 2014, as recommended by Policy and

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
POLICY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Page 2

Committee
Report No. _____

Intergovernmental Affairs Committee Report 14-66. The Council recommitted Resolution 14-70 on July 8, 2014.

Your Committee further notes Charter Section 3-9 declares it to be the policy of the County to promote economy, efficiency, and improved service in the transaction of the public business. The section calls for limiting expenditures to the lowest amount necessary to perform essential functions.

Charter Section 3-9.2 states the Office of the County Auditor shall conduct, or cause to be conducted, certain audit functions. It also empowers the Office to conduct evaluations of County organizations, operations, and regulations.

The Cost of Government Commission is ancillary to the Office of the County Auditor. As set forth in Charter Section 3-9.3, the Commission is "advisory to the county auditor." In submitting the Office of the County Auditor's proposed annual budget to the Council, the County Auditor is required to also include a budget proposal for the Commission. The Commission is also authorized to study the County's "method of operations" in order to "determine what changes, if any, may be desirable."

Resolution 14-70 reflects a concern that there may be duplication of services between the Cost of Government Commission and the Office of the County Auditor.

The County Auditor stated the Commission works independently from his office. The Commission's reports are qualitatively different than the County Auditor's reports. Whereas the Commission provides recommendations on future County practices or procedures, the Office of the County Auditor provides audits on past County activity, which may or may not include suggestions for policy changes.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
POLICY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Page 3

Committee
Report No. _____

After considering the independent value of the entities' respective roles, your Committee decided the proposed Charter amendment was not needed.

Your Committee voted 9-0 to recommend filing of Resolution 14-70. Committee Chair Victorino, Vice-Chair Couch, and members Baisa, Carroll, Cochran, Crivello, Guzman, Hokama, and White voted "aye."

Your Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee RECOMMENDS that Resolution 14-70 be FILED.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
**POLICY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Page 4

**Committee
Report No.** _____

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



MICHAEL P. VICTORINO, Chair

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