

# Resolution

No. 26-85

## PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OF THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI (1983), AS AMENDED, REMOVING THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE HAWAI'I STATE MOTTO

WHEREAS, under the Hawai'i State Constitution and the Maui County Charter, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i is one of the official languages of the State of Hawai'i and County of Maui.

WHEREAS, the Preamble to the Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended, states:

WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI, mindful of our Hawaiian history, heritage, and culture and our uniqueness as a four island county, dedicate our efforts to fulfill the Hawai'i State motto, "Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono," ("The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.")

In order to secure the benefits of the best possible form of county government and to exercise the powers and assume the responsibilities of county government to the fullest extent possible, we do hereby adopt this charter of the County of Maui, State of Hawai'i.; and

WHEREAS, the common translation, "The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness," is frequently challenged by linguistic and historical experts; and

WHEREAS, removing the English text allows the original phrase, "Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono," to stand on its own, respecting its complex indigenous meanings without subjecting it to potentially misleading Western interpretations; and

WHEREAS, an English translation alongside the original 'Ōlelo Hawai'i phrase is unnecessary and redundant; and

WHEREAS, the Council proposes that the question be placed on the next General Election ballot of whether the Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended, should be amended to remove the English translation of the Hawai'i State motto from the Preamble; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That, in accordance with Charter Section 14-1(1), it proposes the Charter Preamble be amended to read as follows, with deleted material in brackets:

**"PREAMBLE**

WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI, mindful of our Hawaiian history, heritage, and culture and our uniqueness as a four island county, dedicate our efforts to fulfill the Hawai'i State motto, "Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono[.]" ["The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness."]

In order to secure the benefits of the best possible form of county government and to exercise the powers and assume the responsibilities of county government to the fullest extent possible, we do hereby adopt this charter of the County of Maui, State of Hawai'i.;

2. That, in accordance with Charter Section 14-2(1), this Resolution be submitted to the voters of the County of Maui at the next General Election;
3. That the County Clerk prepare the necessary ballot for presentation to the voters at the next General Election;
4. That, in accordance with Charter Section 14-1(1), it proposes that the following question be placed on the next General Election ballot:

"Shall the Charter be amended, effective upon passage, by removing the English translation of the Hawai'i State motto in the Maui County Charter Preamble, allowing the original phrase, "Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono," to stand on its own?"

5. That, in accordance with Charter Section 14-2(2), the County Clerk must publish the proposed amendment in this Resolution in its entirety in a newspaper of general circulation;

6. That, on approval by a majority of the voters voting on the proposed amendment and on official certification of the result, the amendment proposed in this Resolution takes effect upon passage;
7. That, as authorized by Charter Section 14-4, the County Clerk must revise and publish in its entirety a revised Charter including amendments adopted in this Resolution and renumber provisions and cross-references as may be necessary by the approval of the revisions or amendments; and
8. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor and County Clerk.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:



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Yukari Murakami  
Deputy Corporation Counsel  
Department of the Corporation Counsel  
County of Maui

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INTRODUCED BY:

*Keani Rawlins-Fernandez*  

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KEANI N. W. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ