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David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services  
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

August 20, 2025

Mr. Evan Dust, Chair  
Cost of Government Commission  
c/o Office of the County Auditor  
County of Maui  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mr. Dust:

**SUBJECT: COST OF GOVERNMENT COMMISSION'S  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOARDS AND  
COMMISSIONS (GREAT-5(2))**

At its meeting of September 2, 2025, the Council's Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee intends to discuss the Cost of Government Commission's recommendations for boards and commissions.

The following is a brief summary on this matter:

- At its meeting of September 24, 2024, the Council's Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee (2023-2025 Council term) received a presentation from the Cost of Government Commission on recommendations in its 2011 Annual Report and in the May 2021 correspondence to the Charter Commission.
- On October 11, 2024, the Council adopted Resolution 24-168, entitled "URGING THE COST OF GOVERNMENT COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A STUDY AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COST SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCY IN COUNTY BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS."

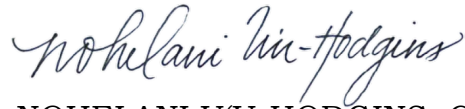
May I please request your attendance at the Committee's September 2, 2025, meeting at 1:30 p.m. Please be prepared to provide a status update on

Mr. Evan Dust  
August 20, 2025  
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the study and any recommendations as requested by Resolution 24-168. Please also be prepared to respond to the Committee's questions.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (Kasie Apo Takayama at ext. 7665, or Maria Leon at ext. 7866).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nohelani U'u-Hodgins".

NOHELANI U'U-HODGINS, Chair  
Government Relations, Ethics, and  
Transparency Committee

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Attachment

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.  
County Auditor

# Resolution

No. 24-168

## URGING THE COST OF GOVERNMENT COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A STUDY AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COST SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCY IN COUNTY BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

WHEREAS, in its 2010-2011 Annual Report, the Cost of Government Commission published its report of findings and recommendations for Commission Term 2010-2011, including an executive summary of its Boards and Commissions Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee identified 13 Maui County boards, committees, and commissions for study with the goal of providing recommendations to eliminate or refocus those entities; and

WHEREAS, the criteria for investigating these 13 boards, committees, and commissions were based on the initial perception that those entities either:

- did not perform a function vital to running County government,
- represented an opportunity to increase County revenues, efficiency, or both by their elimination or change of focus,
- duplicated services offered by not-for-profit or private sector entities, or
- no longer served a relevant function; and

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee also compared the Maui County entities with those in other jurisdictions, including the City and County of Honolulu and the County of Kauaʻi; and

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee concluded that enacting its recommendations would represent an estimated savings to the County of \$2.9 million over five years, or \$580,000 per year; and

**Resolution No. 24-168**

WHEREAS, in May 2021, the Chair of the Cost of Government Commission transmitted to the Maui County Charter Commission correspondence entitled “Proposed Charter Amendments and Recommendations Concerning the Cost of Government Commission and Other Boards and Commissions”; and

WHEREAS, in the May 2021 correspondence, the Commission recommended that:

- the Cost of Government Commission members’ terms be modified so that they are staggered as required by Charter Section 13-2;
- the Charter Commission review all board and commission terms and reconcile them with their respective enabling legislation and Charter Section 13.2; and
- Charter Section 3-9.3 be amended to grant the Cost of Government Commission authority to issue stand-alone reports to the Mayor, County Council, and County Auditor; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting of September 24, 2024, the Council’s Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee discussed the recommendations in both the 2011 Annual Report and the May 2021 correspondence to the Charter Commission; and

WHEREAS, during the meeting, the Committee acknowledged that the number of boards, committees, and commissions has increased, and new concerns have arisen since the 2011 and 2021 documents were drafted; and

WHEREAS, the Committee members expressed their desire for updated recommendations from the Cost of Government Commission to increase fiscal responsibility and efficiency, efficacy, and transparency in County processes; now, therefore,

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

1. That it urges the Cost of Government Commission to conduct a study and provide recommendations for cost savings and efficiency in County boards, committees, and commissions; and

**Resolution No. 24-168**

2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Cost of Government Commission; Lance T. Taguchi, CPA, County Auditor; and the Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor of the County of Maui.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*Nohelani U'u-Hodgins*  

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NOHELANI U'U-HODGINS

# COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

## CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

It is HEREBY CERTIFIED that RESOLUTION NO. 24-168 was adopted by the Council of the County of Maui, State of Hawaii, on the 11th day of October, 2024, by the following vote:

MEMBERS	Alice L. LEE Chair	Yuki Lei K. SUGIMURA Vice-Chair	Tom COOK	Gabriel JOHNSON	Natalie A. KAMA	Tamara A. M. PALTIN	Keani N. W. RAWLINS- FERNANDEZ	Shane M. SINENCI	Nohelani U'U-HODGINS
ROLL CALL	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

  
COUNTY CLERK