

PIA Committee

From: Dave DeLeon <gad@RAMaui.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 3:53 PM
To: PIA Committee
Cc: Gladys Baisa
Subject: written testimony
Attachments: written.test.charter.questions.5.23.16.docx

Please see the attached. I was asked by Council Member Baisa to submit written comments.

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

MAY 23, 2015

SUBMITTED BY: DAVE DELEON, 335 WAIAMA WAY, HAIKU 243-8585

RE: PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS PIA 10 (2), 10 (5), 10 (7) in

POLICY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

In response to a request from Council Member Gladys Baisa following my verbal testimony offered today, I am following up with these brief comments on the agenda items below:

PIA 10(2) Cost of Government Commission: This proposal would make the County Auditor responsible for assigning duties to the COGC. My immediate response is that this proposal seems to be a solution in search of a problem. This commission's prime function is to act as a research arm of the County, seeking ways to reduce costs or to preview proposals that could add unnecessary costs to the function of government. In its recent review of the proposal to change our governance to a Council-Manager form, the commission focused like a laser on the cost and economic implications of the proposal. It produced a professional grade, objective study that would have cost the County a lot of money to obtain on the consultant market. The proposer of this amendment suggests that the commission is now redundant given the appointment of the County Auditor. I find the COGC to be supplemental to the Auditor function and a real value to the County and the taxpayer. This is such an obscure change and no issues have arisen, so there is really no issue needs to be addressed. If one does appear in the future, it can be adequately handled by the next Charter Commission.

PIA 10(5) Giving Council Service Attorneys the right to represent the Council against the Corporation Counsel. (1) this issue should wait until the Council decides its course of action on the Council-Manager proposal. (2) Under our current form of government, this proposal would set up a conflict within the government. This is one government, and as such it should have only one legal representative.

PIA 10(7) Council Approval of Mayoral Appointments of Department Directors. I support the general concept. If the nominees to the Cost of Government Commission must appear before the Council to complete their appointment process, then it makes sense that department directors should as well. There is some level of angst in the community over some recent departmental appointments. While I don't share that feeling, I do see this as a reasonable reform that would give the Council reasonable oversight over these very important appointments. I do, however, believe that this proposal is premature and should wait until after the Council-Manager question is addressed.