Testimony to Special Committee on County Governance

From: Linda Kay Okamoto

Date: April 29, 2016

I regret that I am unable to be on Maui today for the meeting. I had assumed that I could participate by phone, but find that doesn't seem to be an option.

As you know I voted in opposition to the change in our county government structure. I did submit my comments in an earlier written document to the committee, so I won't go in to those reasons here.

I looked over the TIG document very carefully. Only option 3 would be acceptable to me. If the group is truly committed to having a county manager form of government, then we must do away with the Mayor. It makes no economic sense to have a paid Mayor with his staff when they are simply ceremonial. The County Council Chairperson can serve as the ceremonial head of the County.

(I am available by phone today 559-0200 if that option is acceptable. Also I will be away from the state from May 3 to the 11)