

PIA Committee

From: Lawrence Koss <LKoss1@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2016 3:57 PM
To: PIA Committee
Subject: Brief testimony re PIA-10(16)

Aloha PIA committee & Council

I was in the chambers this morning intending to briefly testify to PIA-10(16) yet ran out of time.

I firmly support this item being put to a vote by the public in the next election. Prior to returning to Maui in 2012, I lived for eight years on Bainbridge Island WA outside Seattle. During those years, BI made it's own shift from a Mayor-led government, replete with all its inherent "old boy" politics and favoritism that had effectively turning/eroding BI from which its once intimate, semi-rural, abundantly tree-ed community into a sadly spec-marketed, gentrified suburb of Seattle.

The transition seemed "seamless" and with it - while BI couldn't restore the many affordable houses lost to the greed of the principal "developer" (who was married to the judge with his attorney married to the Mayor and corporate planner hired away from the City) - the change in leadership was obvious as it went from prejudicial vertical to community-oriented horizontal. I'm aware, too, that Santa Rosa CA with it's 170K population similar to Maui has also made this shift and have a friend who lives there and feels good about it.

I believe this is an idea "whose time has come" and respectfully request that the PIA committee and Council render the decision to the public by putting it on the ballot in November.

In closing, I would like to add a point of correction to a vigorous testimony made by a gentleman whose name I don't know. In a rapid fire, somewhat self-acclaiming presentation, he described extensive research he made in comparing the two forms of government across costs, etc – a presentation which at times seemed a bit self-serving.

At one point, he said the increase in cost would be 83-85% greater as a function of the combined salary paid to the city manager and h/her "deputy." Yet alas, when comparing this to the Mayor form of government, he failed to admit that the Mayor of Maui has his own "deputy" in the form of Managing Director, Keith Regan. Indeed, these two salaries total \$262,080 parallel the speaker's estimate of a combined city manager/deputy salary – i.e., the assertion that a city-manager/deputy salary will exceed a mayor/managing director combination is a patently false with the notion of the difference involving a 83-85%k salary cost increase being pure fabrication.

Mahalo nui loa for your kind attention to the above.

Sincerely

Lawrence Koss