

Testimony for the
Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee
Maui County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii
June 27, 2016

Proposed Charter Amendments (County Manager Form of Governance) PIA – 10(16))

Chair Victorino and Members:

My name is Sheri Morrison. I am here to give testimony on the Committee item relating to a County Manager Form of Governance.

As a former county employee and former Managing Director for the County of Maui, I am interested in the Committee's review, and where we go from here. They say "the devil is in the details," and that is definitely true of this proposal. We all need to understand the consequences of such a major overhaul in order to make an informed decision.

I ask that you consider a few questions as you deliberate this item:

HIRING AND FIRING

1. If the Department of Personnel Services and a recruiting firm draft the position description for a new County Manager, will the public have any input? Will the Council have the power to review and approve the position description?
2. Will the new County Manager need a recruiting firm to find and screen new department heads and deputies? Will Council approval of these appointments be required?
3. Will employment contracts be open-ended or will a set number of years be established, with renewal a possibility?
4. Will there be a Deputy County Manager?
5. What sort of action or ethical breach will be considered as cause for the Council to remove the County Manager? How many votes will it take to do so? Will the Mayor have veto power?
6. What happens if the County Manager is actually fired? Who runs the County then? Would the Deputy County Manager and department heads leave with the person who appointed them? Is there a way to plan ahead for such a transition?

RECEIVED AT PIA MEETING ON 6/27/16

SALARIES, STAFFING, POSITION DESCRIPTIONS, AND TITLES

7. How much will the County Manager be paid and who decides?
8. Will the County Manager have executive staff that he or she appoints?
9. What happens to the Department of Management and all the civil service employees currently working there? Will the County Manager be their department head as well as head of countywide operations, or will another department head be appointed?
10. Will the Mayor continue to have executive staff? How many and for what purpose? What happens to CDBG (Community Development Block Grants) and the Office of Economic Development?
11. Who will draft the position descriptions and contracts for department heads and deputies? Will the County Council have any power to review and approve?
12. Will the County Manager be called the “County Manager,” or the “Managing Director”?

These are just a few of the questions that seem worthy of deliberation by this Committee and the community before we are asked to vote on such an important issue.

Thank you for your consideration.