

PIA Committee

From: Maui_County Council_mailbox
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 4:32 PM
To: PIA Committee
Cc: Stephen West
Subject: FW: Please distribute this to all the councilmembers as testimony from the ILWU
Attachments: PIA-10(16).pdf; ATT00001.htm

FYI

From: Stephen West [mailto:swest@ilwulocal142.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 4:25 PM
To: michael.victorino@mauicount.us; Maui_County Council_mailbox <county.council@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Please distribute this to all the councilmembers as testimony from the ILWU

Aloha. can you please make copies of this testimony and provide it to all of the council members before tomorrow's meeting.

Mahalo



LOCAL 142

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION

LOCAL OFFICE • 451 ATKINSON DRIVE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814 • PHONE 949-4161

HAWAII DIVISION: 100 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720 • OAHU DIVISION: 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
MAUI COUNTY DIVISION: 896 Lower Main Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 • KAUAI DIVISION: 4154 Hardy Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766
HAWAII LONGSHORE DIVISION: 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

June 28, 2016

The Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Chair
Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

RE: PIA-10(16)

Dear Chair Victorino and Members of the PIA Committee:

On behalf of the ILWU Local 142 and its Maui Division, we are writing in strong opposition to PIA-10(16), which proposes to amend the Maui County Charter to change county governance from a Mayor-Council form to a County Manager form. The charter amendment would be placed on the ballot for voters to decide in the 2016 General Election.

Our opposition stems largely from our firm belief in the value of the separation of powers between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. This separation of powers delineates governmental responsibilities and provides for checks and balances to ensure accountability and transparency.

That the current form of governance (Mayor-Council) is said to be lacking may be chiefly due to issues other than the form of governance. If, as the Special Committee on County Governance has heard, the problem is cronyism and the need for stronger directors' qualifications, this can be remedied by measures other than changing the form of governance. PIA-10(14) proposes to require Council approval of the mayor's appointment of department directors. The proposal can be strengthened to include qualifications for department director positions (education and experience) that will serve to prevent cronyism and will ensure that those with the best credentials and temperament are appointed to the positions.

We are also concerned that a County Manager form of governance will concentrate power within the County Council, which will hire, fire, and supervise the County Manager. Although some may say the nine members of the council will not always agree, a separation of the powers will eliminate the perception that all power rests with the County Council. Under a Mayor-Council form of governance, voters who are satisfied or dissatisfied with the performance of the mayor and his/her appointments, may vote for someone else in the next election. Not so under with a County Manager.

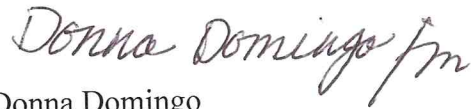
Furthermore, the recommendation of the Special Committee on County Governance for a charter amendment to change to a County Manager form of governance was adopted by a vote 6 to 5, hardly a mandate. It appears, therefore, that considerable dissension even within the committee that vetted this issue exists.

“AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL”

The Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Chair
Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee
June 28, 2016
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The ILWU urges that the proposed charter amendment be deferred indefinitely. Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Domingo fm".

Donna Domingo
President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Castro".

Stephen Castro
Maui Division Director