

PIA Committee

From: Michael Victorino
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 11:01 AM
To: PIA Committee
Subject: FW: Please Vote No on Governance Charter Proposal

From: Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez [mailto:tominmaui@icloud.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 11:00 AM
To: Michael Victorino <Michael.Victorino@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Please Vote No on Governance Charter Proposal

Aloha Mike,

My name is Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez and I am speaking on behalf of Go Maui, Thank you for work on the Charter amendments. I will be commenting on two proposed charter amendments. These are County Governance and the Department Director's selection and approval process.

The Cost of Government Commission has said the change will not save any money. Governance Committee members who did not accept the majority report are characterized in Letters To The Editor as "defeated."

In one move we are asked to increase the cost and size of government while placing an additional Bureaucratic barrier— unaccountable to the public—between our government and the governed.

In fact, the proposed Charter changes on department director's selection, qualifications and council approval do more to reform our government than the experiment placed before you today.

In previous meetings on the proposed Charter Amendment to alter our form of government, some have testified to "Let the People Decide" and noted that this was the basis of our right to self-government.

Let me add a different view, not mine, but that of one of our founding fathers, James Madison, writing in the Federalist Papers #10 who said, "If a faction consists of less than a majority, relief is supplied by the republican principle, which enables the majority to defeat its... views by regular vote. It may clog the administration, it may convulse the society; but it will be unable to execute and mask its violence under the forms of the Constitution."

Or, I would add, under a contrived and rushed election on a tight time frame such as the recent BREXIT election in Great Britain.

The proposed charter amendment to change our form of government in Maui County is a serious proposal which may have unintended political and financial consequences.

A decent respect for the opinions of our citizens requires more discussion and a more through investigation and public meetings to be held in every council district.

Let the people decide?

Yes, but letting the people discuss and debate and learn from each other is a necessary first step that is lacking in this process.

A small impassioned minority, no matter how well intentioned and virtuous, speaking in a small meeting room is not full participation by our citizens in this critical decision.

To be put it simply, this cake is not baked. Go Maui respectfully requests that the Council not support the Charter Amendment on County Governance and avoid what could be viewed later as an historic and unnecessary mistake.

Thank you.