

GET Committee

From: Rita Massey <ritahands@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2019 5:03 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Testimony in favor of GET-11(28)

Aloha esteemed Council members,

I am submitting testimony in favor of Maui County Council hiring a Special Counsel regarding interpretation of the Maui County Charter as it pertains to the powers and authority of the County Council regarding legal decisions on behalf of the County. The Council voted last month to settle the Lahaina Injection Wells case and withdraw the appeal to the Supreme Court.

I notice that on the GET Committee agenda for Oct 15 there is an issue of a legal settlement. It is interesting that the Council is involved in deciding on legal matters but somehow in this case the Corporation Counsel is pushing their own agenda over the authority of the County Council, clearly trying to circumvent the law (again) on this issue.

It is important to stay in integrity with the County Charter and how the balance of powers plays out in government, especially when there is the will of a clear majority of people who have spoken up. We do not want to set a bad precedent where the authority of the Council is not heeded on a future issue.

The Corporation Counsel should be working for the Council as well as the Administration. Apparently here they are not, which is why the Council needs the Special Counsel to ensure your authority is not trampled on.

Please vote to hire the Special Counsel to get clarity on this issue. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rita Massey
613 Luana Place
Kihei
808-633-1497