

KATHY L. KAOHU
County Clerk



JAMES G.M. KRUEGER
Deputy County Clerk

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/county/clerk

August 10, 2020

Honorable Michael J. Molina, Chair
Governance, Ethics, and Transparency Committee
Council of the County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Molina:

At its meeting of July 10, 2020, Committee Report No. 20-75 failed to pass. Council then referred the matter to the next Charter Commission.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy L. Kaohu".

KATHY L. KAOHU
County Clerk

/lks

Enclosure

cc: Director of Council Services

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COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
GOVERNANCE, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

July 10, 2020

Committee
Report No. 20-75

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Governance, Ethics, and Transparency Committee, having met on February 4, 2020, June 23, 2020, and June 30, 2020 (reconvene), makes reference to County Communication 19-28, from Council Chair Kelly T. King, relating to proposed amendments to the Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended ("Charter").

By correspondence dated September 24, 2019, your Committee Chair transmitted a proposed resolution entitled "PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI (1983), AS AMENDED, CHANGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND ESTABLISHING A DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN CONCERNS."

The purpose of the proposed resolution is to place on the next General Election ballot the question of whether Articles 6 and 8 of the Charter should be amended, effective July 1, 2021, to require the Department of Housing and Human Concerns be divided to form two separate departments, a Department of Housing and a Department of Human Concerns.

By correspondence dated June 16, 2020, your Committee Chair transmitted a revised proposed resolution extending the effective date of the amendment to December 30, 2021.

Your Committee notes Article 14 of the Charter sets procedures related to amending the Charter. The Council, by resolution adopted after two readings on separate days and passed by a vote of six or more members, may place a Charter amendment question on the ballot at the next General Election.

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Your Committee discussed the need to separate the Department of Housing and Human Concerns into two separate departments to allow for a greater focus on the County's housing needs. Your Committee pointed to other Hawaii counties as examples of having separate departments or agencies in charge of housing.

Your Committee further discussed the additional costs related to operations, staff, and equipment if a new department were established, including the need to hire a director, deputy director, private secretary, and administrative assistant. The Director of Housing and Human Concerns estimated personnel costs for these positions to be approximately \$368,924.

Your Committee agreed that funding needed to support the new department would be proposed in the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget.

Your Committee notes the proposed Charter amendment's revised effective date, December 30, 2021, would allow ample time for the departments to make the transition.

The Director of Housing and Human Concerns said although the Department's divisions have physically separate locations, in addition to a shared budget, there are overlapping functions between the two.

The Managing Director said while an increased focus on housing is important, it remains unclear whether a separate department is needed. He said funding support and the creation of additional housing positions are a better use of County resources in the short term.

Your Committee expressed the need to instill change and implement a multi-pronged approach to address the County's housing issue. Your Committee noted the public has clearly expressed that the County needs to focus on the expansion of housing opportunities for local residents. A new Department of Housing would provide a focal point for the promotion of affordable housing within County government.

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In addition, your Committee notes the Countywide Policy Plan establishes the following core theme for Maui County: "Expand Housing Opportunities for Residents."

Your Committee further notes the Countywide Policy Plan, adopted ten years ago by Ordinance 3732, stated: "A majority of Maui County residents pay an unsustainably high proportion of their income towards housing." The problem has only worsened in the ensuing decade.

Your Committee voted 7-2 to recommend passage of the revised proposed resolution on first reading. Committee Chair Molina, Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, and members Kama, King, Lee, Paltin, and Sinenci voted "aye." Committee members Hokama and Sugimura voted "no."

Your Committee is in receipt of a revised proposed resolution, approved as to form and legality by the Department of the Corporation Counsel, incorporating your Committee's recommended revisions and nonsubstantive revisions, including those necessary to avoid potential inconsistency with the Charter amendment proposed by Resolution 20-60, Draft 1.


Your Governance, Ethics, and Transparency Committee RECOMMENDS that Resolution _____, attached hereto, entitled "PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI (1983), AS AMENDED, CHANGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND ESTABLISHING A DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN CONCERNS," be PASSED ON FIRST READING and be ORDERED TO PRINT.

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**Committee
Report No. 20-75**

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



MICHAEL J. MOLINA, Chair

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COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

It is HEREBY CERTIFIED that the recommendations contained in COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 20-75 were not adopted by the Council of the County of Maui, State of Hawaii, on the 10th day of July, 2020, by the following vote:

| MEMBERS | Alice L LEE Chair | Keani N. W. RAWLINS- FERNANDEZ Vice-Chair | G. Riki HOKAMA | Natalie A. KAMA | Kelly T. KING | Michael J. MOLINA | Tamara A. M. PALTIN | Shane M. SINENCI | Yuki Lei K. SUGIMURA |
|-----------|-------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| ROLL CALL | Aye | Aye | Excused | No | Aye | Aye | No | Aye | No |



COUNTY CLERK