

# Charter Commission

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

Honolulu Hale • 530 South King Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



## NOVEMBER 22, 2016, 3:30 PM COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM 205 HONOLULU HALE

### MINUTES

#### Charter Commission Members Present:

David W. Rae, Chair

Kevin Mulligan, Vice Chair

Judge Michael F. Broderick

Guy K. Fujimura

Nathan T. Okubo

Paul T. Oshiro

Cheryl D. Soon

R. Brian Tsujimura (left at 4:01 PM)

John D. Waihee III, Governor

Pamela Witty-Oakland

#### Commission Members Excused/Absent:

Reginald V. Castanares, Jr.

Donna Ikeda

Edlyn S. Taniguchi

#### Others Present:

Glen Takahashi, City Clerk

Kim Ribellia, Deputy City Clerk

Julie Kaneko, Stryker Weiner & Yokota

Dawn Hirai, Stryker Weiner & Yokota

Megan Muramatsu, Managing Director's Office

Linda Luli Nakasone Oamilda, Executive Administrator, Honolulu Charter Commission

Norma Reyes, Secretary, Honolulu Charter Commission

#### Testifier:

Natalie Iwasa

I. CALL TO ORDER

*Roll Call: Guy Fujimura, Kevin Mulligan, Pamela Witty-Oakland, Dave Rae, John Waihee, Cheryl Soon, Mike Broderick, Paul Oshiro, Rick Tsujimura*

With a quorum present, Chair Rae called the meeting to order at 3:32 P.M.

II. FOR APPROVAL

*Minutes of the meetings of the Charter Commission of:*

- *April 29, 2016*
- *May 16, 2016*
- *June 2, 2016*
- *June 9, 2016*
- *June 17, 2016*
- *June 23, 2016*
- *June 27, 2016*
- *June 29, 2016*
- *June 30, 2016*
- *July 1, 2016*
- *July 6, 2016*
- *July 7, 2016*
- *July 12, 2016*
- *July 13, 2016*
- *July 22, 2016*
- *August 4, 2016*

*Copies of the minutes to be approved can be found on the Honolulu Charter Commission website under the heading "Draft Meeting Minutes."*

A motion to approve the minutes as may be amended by staff was made and seconded. The minutes were approved.

III. FOR DISCUSSION

- *Election Results*  
*Presentation by the City Clerk.*
- *Legal Requirements*  
*Presentation by the Department of the Corporation Counsel.*
- *Public Education*  
*Presentation by Stryker Weiner & Yokota Public Relations, Inc., on its media and public relations program to educate the public about the proposed Charter amendments.*
- *Draft Final Report of the 2015-2016 Charter Commission*

The City Clerk presented information about the results of the election similar to that he presented to the previous meeting of the Submissions and Information Committee. He discussed the numbers of registered voters, 498,598, and the number of those that voted, 291,446, explaining that 58.5% of those that registered actually voted which was slightly less than the previous presidential elections but higher than for the last election which included Charter questions. Even with the rather lengthy ballot, the lines to vote moved quickly, the longest wait being around half an hour.

The Clerk noted that many took advantage of early voting with approximately 153,000 voting early compared to approximately 138,000 voting on election day. He presented a copy of the final election results dated November 16, 2016, which will be certified on November 29, 2016, unless there is a challenge by the deadline of November 28, 2016.

There was some discussion about the fact that there were more blank votes for the last two questions which were placed on the reverse side of the second ballot and perhaps missed by voters. This only happened on the paper ballots since the electronic voting machines presented each question to the voters.

Commissioner Soon noted the excellent assistance of the City Clerk and his office. With their assistance, Chair Rae stated that the Commission had a great savings of funding.

Governor Waihee noted that the Corporation Counsel was unavailable to make the Department's presentation and so made a request that the meeting be recessed to the following Monday at 3:00 P.M. when she will be available.

Dawn Hirai of Stryker Weiner & Yokota (SWAY, a public relations firm) gave a presentation about their public education efforts. She thanked the Commissioners for their involvement and availability to help get the information out to the public. She explained that the firm was hired with three objectives: to increase public awareness of the 2016 Charter amendments; encourage residents to exercise their right to vote; and educate the voters on what the Charter amendments are and how they would impact the City if passed.

Julie Kaneko, also from SWAY, discussed the practices the firm used to accomplish these objectives. She reviewed all of the steps they took such as publications, advertisements, media coverage and interviews, speaking engagements with power point presentation, social media and use of email and the extent of each of these.

Natalie Iwasa presented testimony about the draft final report. She mentioned the article she wrote that was published in the StarAdvertiser. She had three main concerns: education (emphasizing the use of Facebook), the cost to implement, and the resources needed for the Commission noting that at least one additional staff person would have helped to provide clarity and information to the public. She mentioned the importance of making the actual language for the changes to the Charter available to the voting public.

There was a discussion about the availability of the exact language at the polls; Commissioner Soon and Governor Waihee assured her that the Commission had included that information for distribution at the polling places. Natalie Iwasa thanked the Commissioners for their work.

Governor Waihee noted that staff has been working on the final report and a rough draft was passed out. He also asked that any Commissioner that had an item they want to include in the report, to give it to the Executive Administrator as soon as possible. The Governor commented on the lack of time to get all of the work done, suggesting considering expanding the time to work on the amendments and provide public education. He also mentioned that perhaps there might be a way to work with the Sunshine Law so that it wasn't such a hindrance to the process while still providing public access. He pointed out that much of the delay and duplication of effort was because of the requirements of notice, etc. He also wanted to consider the ethics provision in the Charter and whether that could be improved or if an exception to allow the work to be done in an expeditious manner could be created.

Chair Rae emphasized that there is no intent to bypass the public process. The consideration is how can the Sunshine Law work best for a commission that meets several times a week with the notice and minutes requirements. He said that the Office of Information Practices is looking at that and the Commissioners can help. He noted that this is not just a report for the next commission but that the Council can make Charter changes in the meantime – changes that could be recommended in this Commission's Final Report.

Commissioner Soon suggested the next Commission could consider inviting ideas by subject areas and noted that this Commission spent a lot of time in briefings in the beginning. Chair Rae considered it might help to look at the rules and suggesting amendments to them to improve the process.

#### IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### *Next meeting date*

Chair Rae told the Commissioners that the City Council Chair and City Council have requested their presence on December 1 at 8:45 A.M. for acknowledgement and photograph.

#### V. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no objections, Chair Rae recessed the meeting at 4:14 P.M. to Monday, 3:00 P.M., November 28.