Chapter 16 - Police Department Revised Charter of Honolulu

Honolulu Police Department Chief Louis M. Kealoha (As of February 20, 2001)

Section 6-1604. Powers, Duties and Functions --

The chief of police shall:

- (a) Be responsible for the preservation of the public peace: the protection of the rights of persons and property: the prevention of crime: the detection and arrest of offenders against the law and the enforcement and prevention of violations of all laws of the state and city ordinances and all rules and regulations made in accordance therewith.
 - (b) Train, equip, maintain and supervise the force of police officers.
 - (c) Serve process and notices both in civil and criminal proceedings.
- (d) Promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the organization and internal administration of the department.
- (e) Prepare and, when deemed necessary, update a five-year plan of goals and objectives for the police department. The chief shall submit the plan and each update to the commission for review and recommendations.
- (f) Appoint the deputy chiefs of police. A deputy chief shall have the right of reinstatement to a previously occupied civil service position in the police department when (1) the deputy chief had held a permanent appointment to the position immediately before appointment to the office of deputy chief; and (2) the deputy chief's tenure in the office has not been terminated for cause. If exercising the right, the deputy chief shall be reinstated, without necessity of examination, to the former civil service position immediately following termination of tenure as deputy chief.
- (g) Perform such other duties as may be required by this charter or by law. (1998 General Election Charter Amendment Question No. 6(II))

Powers, Duties, and Functions

The chief of police shall: (Summarized)

- (a) Be responsible for the preservation of the public peace; the protection of the rights of persons and property; the prevention of crime; the detection and arrest of offenders; and the enforcement and prevention of all laws, ordinances, and rules.
- (b) Train, equip, maintain, and supervise the police department.

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- (c) Serve process and notices in civil and criminal proceedings.
- (d) Create rules and regulations for the organization and internal administration of the department.
- (e) Prepare a five-year plan of goals and objectives for the police department. Submit the plan to the commission for review and recommendations.
- (f) Appoint the deputy chiefs of police.
- (g) Perform other duties as may be required.

What Works Well

- The chief of police is appointed by the police commission (Section 6-1603)
- The chief's ability to appoint the deputy chiefs (Section 6-1604)
- The autonomy given the police department in its administrative affairs (Section 6-1606)

Recommended Changes

- Allow the chief of police to also appoint the assistant chiefs (in addition to the deputy chiefs)
- Change being proposed, to wit: (Section 6-1604)
 - (f) Appoint the deputy and assistant chiefs of police.
- To ensure trust, teamwork, and a shared vision is maintained
- A formal Charter Amendment Proposal Form is being submitted

