

# Charter Commission

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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



COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING  
JUNE 27, 2016  
6:00 PM  
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM  
HONOLULU HALE

## MINUTES

### Charter Commission Members Present:

John D. Waihee III, Governor, Acting Chair  
David W. Rae, Chair  
Kevin Mulligan, Vice Chair  
Judge Michael F. Broderick  
Guy K. Fujimura  
Donna Ikeda  
Nathan T. Okubo  
Paul T. Oshiro  
Cheryl D. Soon  
Edlyn S. Taniguchi  
Pamela Witty-Oakland

### Charter Commission Members Excused/Absent:

Reginald V. Castanares, Jr.  
R. Brian Tsujimura

### Others Present:

Don Kitaoka, Deputy Corporation Counsel  
Dawn Spurlin, Deputy Corporation Counsel  
Linda Luli Nakasone Oamilda, Executive Administrator, Honolulu Charter Commission  
Norma Reyes, Secretary, Honolulu Charter Commission

Testifiers:

Colleen Hanabusa, Chair, Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transit Board  
Mike Formby, Director, Department of Transportation Services  
Leah Hong, Hawaiian Islands State Director, Trust for Public Land  
Lewis Scheck  
Blake McElheny  
Barbara Wong, SHOPO representative  
Richard Kawano  
Helen Carol

I. CALL TO ORDER

Governor Waihee explained the purpose of the meeting, citing the Charter provision mandating a Charter review every 10 years to improve the structure of government. He noted that this meeting was not for decision-making but strictly an opportunity for the Commission to hear from the public on proposals under consideration.

*Roll Call: Edlyn Taniguchi, Kevin Mulligan, Pam Witty-Oakland, John Waihee, Cheryl Soon, Michael Broderick, Paul Oshiro, Donna Ikeda, Dave Rae, Guy Fujimura.*

With a quorum present, Chair Waihee called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

At this time, Governor Waihee wanted to the public to have an opportunity to hear from the establishment.

Colleen Hanabusa, Chair of the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART), testified to reiterate HART's position and clarify that certain parts of the proposal had not occurred to HART at the time because HART was not aware of the November deadline to submit proposals.

Mike Formby, Director, Department of Transportation Services (DTS), testified on Proposal 76A regarding an intermodal agency within the City and County of Honolulu to clarify that the amendment would not fold HART into DTS. He noted that the Administration supports the proposal.

Mr. Formby then testified regarding the importance of fare-setting in creating transportation equity for a major segment of the community whose lives depend on public transportation. He felt that it is important that elected officials have a role in fare-setting because they represent their communities, and hold public meetings to involve the community in the process.

HART Chair Hanabusa then commented on the transparency, accountability and disclosure to the public and elected officials and why it requires a Charter amendment. She explained that the HART Board passed a resolution to clarify that a HART representative can only speak for HART when there was an actual action taken by the Board in order not to mislead the public. She testified that the Board agrees that the whole system must become an intermodal system and that one entity must govern it, however, they could not agree on how that would happen. She agrees with Director Formby that the elected officials should take the action on fare-setting, because it will require a subsidy.

HART Chair Hanabusa also testified in support of the Commission's proposal to delete the section of the Charter restricting the Board's oversight of HART's administrative affairs. She cited the issue with Ansaldo as an example and how it should be critical to everyone because of its immensity and implications for the project. She concurs with the Commission in separating the operations from the construction and planning functions, and the need to be accountable so it can be transparent to the public and the City Council.

## II. TESTIMONY

Leah Hong, Hawaiian Islands State Director, Trust for Public Land, testified in support of the revised version Proposal 116,.

Lewis Scheck, testified in opposition to Proposal 44 regarding term limits for the neighborhood board and that he sent in written testimony, and Proposal 40 regarding sunset for boards every five years.

Blake McElheny testified in opposition to Proposal C-5 and in support of Proposal 76A. He felt that many of the provisions in C-5 are included in 76A. Commissioner Soon clarified the purpose of Proposal 76A and its necessity, and objected to Mr. McElheny's inflammatory methods of advocating his thoughts and ideas on the proposals. She explained the Commission's fact-finding on the issue which led to the proposals but took issue with Mr. McElheny's assumption about the Commission's motivations in drafting proposals.

Mr. McElheny clarified that his concern is the sale or use of public land for commercial purposes, including park land, but he agrees with the need for the coordination of transit oriented development. He also raised the issue of processes and mechanisms already in place which were are not considered by the permitted interaction group.

Vice Chair Mulligan clarified that the real impetus was on transit oriented development and developing revenue streams to help pay for the rail project; disposal of open space and parkland was never discussed.

Barbara Wong, SHOPO, testified and suggested amendments on Proposal C-1 regarding the Police Chief, to change the position from an at-will appointment. SHOPO members feel that an at-will position will reduce the applicant pool and discourage candidates that are not close to 25 years from applying and risking being fired the next day, losing their retirement.

Richard Kawano, a member of the Makiki Punchbowl Neighborhood Board testified in opposition to the 5-year sunset provision for all boards in Proposal 40. Commissioner Fujimura clarified that the intent was not any specific timetable or procedure but that at some point, certain boards would be under review for justification about its effectiveness. Governor Waihee added that the City currently does not have a review process that allows for the sunset of boards. Mr. Kawano expressed his concern that some of the issues being proposed may be too complex for the voters and that it may be the City Council's job to address these issues.

Helen Carol, Waikiki Neighborhood Board, testified in opposition to the sunset provision and the proposal on term limits.

### III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Governor Waihee announced that the next meeting is on June 29, 2016, in Mililani.

### IV. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Governor Waihee adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.