

THE CIVIL BEAT
LAW CENTER FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST

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1. **Please provide a brief description of: The Proposed Charter amendment, the purpose of the proposed Charter amendment, the issue or problem to be addressed by the proposal, and how the proposal would address the issue or problem.**

The Proposed Amendment requires City boards and commissions to maintain an Internet presence and use electronic communications to distribute board information. As reflected for example in the 2005–2006 Charter Commission proposal 12(g), modern society relies on electronic communications, including the Internet, to obtain timely information. *See* RCH Supp. §§ 13-106, 13-124 (public hearing notices must be distributed by an electronic medium). City boards and commissions, however, do not consistently nor effectively use technology to communicate with the public.

- a. Some boards have websites with information useful to the public. *E.g.*, Salary Commission at <http://www.honolulu.gov/council/bc/ccl-salary-commission.html> (posting Charter description of commission, identifying commissioners, posting agendas and minutes, and providing contact information). Other boards have no Internet presence at all, *e.g.*, the Planning Commission.
- b. Agendas for boards without websites may be accessible through other sources, such as the City Clerk’s unwieldy PDFs of meeting notices. *See* <http://www4.honolulu.gov/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection-1873> (compiling, for example, City meeting notices for all City boards and commissions from January–April 2015 in a single 200+ MB file with over 1100 pages that required more than 10 minutes to access). But burying information in obscure or difficult to access locations discourages public participation in government. Basic information about a specific board or commission, including contact information, agendas, and minutes, should not be hard to find.
- c. Some boards maintain e-mail distribution lists to notify interested members of the public regarding upcoming meetings. But the Police Commission for example insists on sending meeting notices by postal mail. *See* November 10, 2014 Letter from G. Gilmartin to D. Purcell.
- d. Providing ready access to information regarding a board (*e.g.*, contact information, agendas, minutes) reduces barriers to and encourages public engagement with and trust in government. Boards serve a critical role in developing City policy, but must remain accountable to the public. There is no accountability – and consequently less trust in the policies – if the public cannot learn basic information about boards without substantial investment of time and effort.

- e. Electronic distribution also minimizes resources needed to respond to common requests for such basic information and further encourages paperless government.

2. If applicable, list the Charter provision(s) affected by the proposal:

The Charter Proposal would be an addition to Section 13-103.

3. If the proposal is based on a provision or provisions in the charter or laws of another jurisdiction (e.g., another county, city, or municipality), name the jurisdiction and, if possible, attach a copy of each provision or law.

This proposal is not based on specific language from other jurisdictions, but other jurisdictions do require that boards use the Internet and electronic communications.

4. If the proposal is based on any written materials you have, please attach a copy of each with a citation to its source.

November 10, 2014 Letter from G. Gilmartin to D. Purcell

5. Attach the text of the proposed Charter amendment in Ramseyer format (see instructions below).

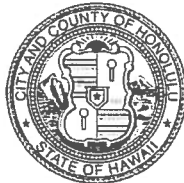
New subsection for Section 13-103

“() All boards and commissions shall maintain a publicly accessible electronic site, such as an Internet website, with agendas, minutes, and information about the board and shall distribute meeting notices via electronic medium, on request, when the notices are filed with the city clerk.”

POLICE COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALI'I PLACE
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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



OUR REFERENCE

November 10, 2014



RONALD I. TAKETA
Chair

CHA THOMPSON
Vice-Chair

LUELLA T. COSTALES
EDDIE FLORES
HELEN H. HAMADA
MAX J. SWORD
MARC C. TILKER

SENT VIA EMAIL

Mr. Dan Purcell
lavaland@outlook.com

Dear Mr. Purcell:

Thank you for your request of November 5, 2014, to be included on the Honolulu Police Commission (HPC) electronic mailing (email) list.

The HPC does not routinely utilize the electronic mailings to distribute documents relative to its business. Upon furnishing your physical mailing address to the HPC you will be included to receive the documents the HPC regularly disseminates.

Should you have any questions on this matter, please contact me at 723-7581.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory J. Gilmartin".

GREGORY J. GILMARTIN
Executive Officer

GJG:ey
1045

c: Members of the Honolulu Police Commission