

2015-2016 HONOLULU CHARTER COMMISSION
CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSAL FORM

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.

Increase the number of members on the city council from 9 to 11 or 13.

Honolulu is about the 11th largest metropolitan area in the nation. Having only nine members on the city council has increasingly created difficulties of adequate representation of the respective districts (population and geographic diversity issues; continued increase in workload), accessibility of the council members to their constituents, and ability of the nine members to fully and competently perform their legislative branch responsibilities.

The present nine districts have also created significant challenges to the Reapportionment Commission and strong criticism from the electorate, especially due to perceived violations of RCH Section 3-103(3) regarding the placement of district lines and division of neighborhoods. See the 2001 Reapportionment Commission Final Report and its recommendations regarding increasing the number of council members.

The number must remain odd, and may be 11 or 13. This would serve to decrease the number of residents each council member would represent, improve accessibility opportunities for the district constituents, allow for more contiguous and compact districts, and distribute the committee and other workload assignments among more members.

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

RCH Section 3-102, et al. A new transition section in Article XVI would be necessary to supersede RCH Section 16-122.

3. If the proposal is based on a provision or provisions in the charter or laws of another jurisdiction, name the jurisdiction and, if possible, attach a copy of each provision or law.

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

5. Attach the text of the proposed Charter amendment in Ramseyer format.

RCH Section 3-102. Number, Election and Terms of Office of Councilmembers –

The council shall consist of [nine] eleven *or* thirteen members. One member shall be elected from each of the [nine] eleven *or* thirteen districts hereinafter provided. Except as provided in Section [16-122] 16-___, the regular terms of office of councilmembers shall be four years beginning at twelve o'clock meridian on the second day of January following their election. The terms shall be staggered in accordance with Section [16-122] 16-___. No person shall be elected to the office of councilmember for more than two consecutive four-year terms.