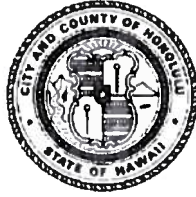


2015-2016
CHARTER COMMISSION
City and County of Honolulu

Honolulu Hale
530 South King Street, Room 501
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: 768-5093
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MEMBERS

David W. Rae, Chair
Kevin Mulligan, Vice Chair
Judge Michael F. Broderick (Ret.)
Reginald V. Castanares, Jr.
Guy K. Fujimura
Donna Ikeda
Nathan T. Okubo
Paul T. Oshiro
Cheryl D. Soon
Edlyn S. Taniguchi
R. Brian Tsujimura
Governor John D. Waihee III
Pamela Witty-Oakland

MEETING NOTICE

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2016
3:30 P.M.
COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM
HONOLULU HALE

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call

II. PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP REPORT

Report on the Findings and Recommendations by the Permitted Interaction Group established to review proposals relating to Planning pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes §92-2.5(b).

III. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Deliberation and decision-making on Proposal No. 102 to establish a Youth Commission to, among other things:

- Involve youth in the policymaking process;
- Facilitate pro-youth policies;
- Increase youth voter turnout; and
- Promote leadership development for the next generation.

IV. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Discussion and action relating to the March 31, 2016, letter from Ernest Martin, Chair of the Honolulu City Council, to David Rae, Chair of the Honolulu Charter

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Commission, regarding a proposed Charter amendment to allocate general fund revenue to support zoo operations. See Attachment.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next meeting date.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

WHERE TO FIND CHARTER PROPOSALS

All proposals are posted in PDF format on the Charter Commission website at <http://www.honolulu charter commission.org/submitted-proposals>. Hard copies are available for review at the Charter Commission office.

TESTIFIER REGISTRATION

Persons wishing to testify are requested to register as follows:

- a. By 12:00 noon of the day of the meeting, emailing to cclcharter@honolulu.gov your name, phone number, and the agenda item; or
- b. By filling out the registration form in person.

Persons who have not registered to testify will be given an opportunity to testify on an item following oral testimonies by the registered testers.

Each tester shall not have anyone else read the tester's statement. Each tester is limited to three minutes per agenda item.

WRITTEN STATEMENT

Written testimony may be emailed by 12:00 noon of the day of the meeting to cclcharter@honolulu.gov for distribution at the meeting to the members of the Charter Commission.

If submitted, written testimony, including the tester's address, email address, and phone number, may be posted and available to the public on the Honolulu Charter Commission website <http://www.honolulu charter commission.org>

ASSISTANCE

If you require auxiliary aids or services (i.e., ASL or foreign language interpreter, or wheelchair accessibility) to participate in the Charter Commission meetings, please call 768-5093 or send an email to cclcharter@honolulu.gov at least three working days prior to the meeting for arrangements. Prompt requests will help ensure the availability of services and reasonable accommodations.

ATTACHMENT



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March 31, 2016

Mr. David Rae, Chair
City Charter Commission
530 South King St., Room 501
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Rae, *ALLEN DOLE,*

It is with the utmost urgency that I write to propose an amendment to the Honolulu City Charter regarding the Honolulu Zoo. I sincerely apologize for the lateness of this request, but the announcement that the zoo has lost its accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) occurred on Tuesday, March 28. The stated reason was a lack of a consistent and adequate source of funding.

Regrettably, the inability of the City Administration to develop and implement a long-term plan has led to this result, despite warnings from previous Zoo Director Manuel Mollinedo that a lack of funding commitment by the City threatened the zoo's accreditation before his departure in 2015.

The zoo consistently ranks as among the top five most visited places by both residents and visitors each year. This is a serious setback to the zoo's reputation and frankly is an embarrassment to the people of the City and County of Honolulu. The attraction would become far less attractive if it results in the return of a number of exotic animals because they cannot be loaned to an unaccredited zoo.

The AZA is correct in that the City has an unfortunate track record of boosting the zoo's budget when accreditation is at stake, but returning to meager funding once the threat subsides. Neither the administration nor the nonprofit Honolulu Zoo Society has publicly recognized the problem and taken steps for a long-term plan of action.

There was a time during the tenure of former Mayor Mufi Hannemann when the zoo embarked on a path of improvement. In collaboration with the City Council, there was the establishment of the Keiki Zoo, a veterinary clinic and learning center and construction began on a new elephant exhibit. It was never easy to find the money, but both the Administration and Council agreed that maintaining and improving the zoo was a necessary function of the City.

Subsequent Administrations have placed the zoo on a lower priority. This Council recently passed an ordinance, sponsored by Councilmembers Trevor Ozawa and Kimberly Pine,

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David Rae, Chair
Charter Commission
Honolulu Zoo Amendment (Proposed)
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to create a Zoo Sponsorship Program designed to raise more private sector support for the zoo. They urged the Administration to expedite implementation of the program to demonstrate the City's commitment to the future of the zoo. It may have helped stave off a loss of accreditation.

It must fall to the voters of the City and County of Honolulu to decide the zoo's future. I propose to amend the Honolulu City Charter to dedicate 0.75 of 1 percent of the City's general fund revenues annually to support zoo operations. If a majority of voters approve, this would clearly show that the people believe the zoo to be a core function of the City and provide the means for a consistent source of funding.

The current dysfunctional leadership – five directors in six years – unstable funding, and ineffective private support must undergo an overhaul. The Honolulu Zoo is too important to the community as an educational facility, a revenue-generating attraction, and 42-acre expanse of much-needed open space in congested Waikiki.

Again, I apologize for the lateness of this request but I am hopeful that this letter arrives in time for discussion at the Charter Commission's meeting on April 1.

My deepest mahalo for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,



Ernest Y. Martin, Chair and Presiding Officer
Honolulu City Council