

MINUTES OF THE  
MAUI COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION

DATE: April 21, 1966

PLACE: Board Chambers, Wailuku, Maui

CALL TO ORDER: 1:30 P.M.

PRESIDING: Douglas Sodetani, Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT: Douglas Sodetani, Chairman  
Emil Balthazar  
William F. Crockett, Vice-Chairman  
Nadao Honda  
Shiro Hokama  
Harry Kobayashi  
George Kondo  
Paul Pladera  
Keith Tester  
James Ushijima  
Charles C. Young, Research Assistant

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Cornwell Friel

OTHERS PRESENT: Humio Okimoto, Executive Secretary,  
Transportation Control Committee  
Tatsuo Murayama, Safety Coordinator  
Arthur B. Fernandez, Federal Programs  
Coordinator  
Charles C. Young, Information and  
Complaint Officer

Others:

Robert Johnson, Advertiser Reporter  
Koichi Hamada, Manager and Chief  
Engineer, Board of Water Supply  
Shigeto Murayama, County Treasurer

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ROLL CALL:

There were 10 members present and one excused at the regular meeting of the Maui County Charter Commission on April 21, 1966.



### MINUTES:

The minutes of the regular meetings held on March 24, 25, and 31, 1966 were distributed to the members of the Charter Commission. It was moved by George Kondo and seconded by James Ushijima that the minutes of March 10, 11, and 17, 1966 be accepted as circulated. Said motion was unanimously carried.

### COMMUNICATIONS:

Minutes of the Kauai and Hawaii Charter Commissions were received and are on file for interested members to read.

### LITERATURE:

1. Information gathered by Charles C. Young, Research Assistant:
  - a. Letter from Ray L. Faisst, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, enclosing therewith three reprints from the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin.
  - b. Reprints from the Honolulu Star-Bulletin and Honolulu Advertiser on the activities of the Hawaii and Kauai Charter Commissions and the proposed changes of the Code of Ethics of the City and County of Honolulu Charter.
2. Information for members of the Charter Commission:
  - a. Memo dated September 5, 1963, from the Tax Foundation of Hawaii.
  - b. Excerpts from the 1963 Hawaii State-County Conference (August 7-9, 1963) entitled "Panel on Charter Drafting Constitution and Charters" and "A Charter Can be Working Democracy".

### OLD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Instead of discussing any business, the Chair proceeded with the meeting with the Executive Secretary of the Transportation Control Committee.

### GENERAL DISCUSSION:

#### Transportation Control Committee:

Mr. Humio Okimoto, Executive Secretary of the Transportation Control Committee, read his letter as circulated to the members of the Charter Commission.



During the question and answer period, Mr. Tester asked Mr. Okimoto who he was working under. Mr. Okimoto said that he works under the County Chairman. Mr. Tester stated then eventually he will come under the State Department of Education. To that, Mr. Okimoto answered yes.

Mr. Tester then asked if the Transportation Control Commission is turned over to the State, whether there will be such a commission. Mr. Okimoto stated that he doubts there will be any commission.

In answer to a question by Mr. Tester as to who the members of the commission are, Mr. Okimoto stated that there are five men on the commission. They are Sakae Mukai, from the Department of Education, as Chairman; Houpo Lai, retired Wailuku Sugar employee; Harumi Fujii, Maui County Employees Federal Credit Union Manager; Frank Matsui, Electrician with Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company; and George Ventura, Kula County Park-keeper.

Mr. Balthazar asked what the relationship, if any, with the PUC is. Mr. Okimoto stated there was no relationship at all. He also stated that the PUC has no office on Maui, but the PUC disseminates information to the Transportation Control Committee.

When questioned by Mr. Crockett as to whether there was a taxi ordinance at the present time, Mr. Okimoto said no.

Mr. Sodehani observed that the statement presented by Mr. Okimoto stated that Act 97 will take over most of the duties and functions of the Maui Transportation Control Committee. Mr. Sodehani asked when it will come about. Mr. Okimoto said about 1967 or 1968.

There being no further questions, Mr. Sodehani thanked Mr. Okimoto for appearing before the commission to inform the members as to the functions and relations of his department.

#### Safety Coordinator:

Mr. Tatsuo Murayama, Safety Coordinator, stated that his department, which was created by the Board of Supervisors 10 years ago, is the smallest in the whole County. His position, which is under civil service, is directly under the Chairman. His job is to prevent accidents and injuries and to inspect all county property to eliminate hazards that might result in suits against the County. When employees are hurt, they are covered by the Workmen's Compensation Law.



During the question and answer period, Mr. Tester asked whether he has been the safety coordinator ever since the program was started. To that Mr. Murayama said yes.

Mr. Balthazar asked whether there were any safety inspectors besides himself. Mr. Murayama said no, not within the County. There is a State Inspector for State projects. He also stated that his position is only within the County.

In answer to Mr. Balthazar, Mr. Murayama stated he reports directly to the Chairman.

When questioned by Mr. Balthazar as to whether the various county departments of the County make periodic reports to him, Mr. Murayama stated that all accidents are referred to him. He fills out all forms required for the Labor Board. All accidents are routed to his department.

In reply to Mr. Balthazar as to the prevention of accidents, such as requiring periodic servicing of automobiles, Mr. Murayama stated that the trucks are regulated under PUC law, but his job is to see that the garages conform to the PUC regulations.

Mr. Balthazar inquired whether the PUC sends representatives to check vehicles. To that Mr. Murayama stated that PUC representatives come twice a year.

Mr. Tester asked if a special form had to be filled out when the county does have an accident. Mr. Murayama said the police investigates all accidents. The driver does not make any written report to him and he doesn't receive any report from the department head--only from the police.

Mr. Balthazar questioned his authority or responsibility or whether he acts merely as a mediator. To that Mr. Murayama stated that he makes recommendations to the department head.

Mr. Ushijima stated that the County is fortunate in not having crippling accidents. Mr. Murayama said many county workers have backaches, though.

Mr. Sodemani questioned whether there were any disciplinary actions if some of the employees did not follow the rules and procedures that were connected with his department in the event of accidents. Mr. Murayama stated that he refers them to the department head.



Observing that his department does not have clerical assistance, Mr. Sodemani asked if his department were joined with the Public Works or Finance Department, whether he could do more work and that certain clerical pools could be arranged. Mr. Murayama stated that with Public Works, he cannot.

Mr. Kondo observed that for a one-man department, Mr. Murayama had quite a bit of responsibilities. He stated that if he did have a clerk within the department, then he could go to the outside. Mr. Murayama stated that he is a high-priced clerk.

There was some discussion on sick leave, vacation pay, and workmen's compensation. Mr. Sodemani asked Mr. Young to look into this matter.

When questioned by Mr. Pladera as to whether there was any need for the continuance of his department. Mr. Murayama said look at the money you can save.

Mr. Pladera asked if he had any plan that would definitely cut down costs. Mr. Murayama stated if the Chairman of the County of Maui had a Court where he could listen to these employees complaining of backaches, there probably would be a cut in cost. He felt that the County was too lenient.

Mr. Tester suggested that these employees have a thorough examination.

Mr. Murayama stated that it costs the County \$15,000 at the minimum for backaches.

There being no further questions, Mr. Sodemani called upon Arthur B. Fernandez, Federal Programs Coordinator.

Federal Programs Coordinator:

Mr. Fernandez circulated copies of his report to the members of the Charter Commission and explained briefly some of the functions and recommendations of his department, which are incorporated in the report as circulated.

During the question and answer period, Mr. Tester asked how long his contract was and whether his salary was paid by the County. To that Mr. Fernandez stated that his contract was to the end of this year (1966) and that he was paid by the County.

Mr. Crockett asked whether his salary was matched by federal funds. Mr. Fernandez said no.



Referring to the study of federal grants which Mr. Fernandez had presented, Mr. Pladera asked how much the county had missed before he came into the picture. Mr. Fernandez stated to determine how much the county lost, he had to go to the Public Works Department, look through the projects done in the past two or three years, find out the grants that went into effect those years and the availability of money.

Mr. Sodehani asked what his budget was for the first six months of 1966. Mr. Fernandez stated around \$11,000.00.

When questioned by Mr. Sodehani as to whether an advisory committee or commission would be of assistance to him as well as the County of Maui, Mr. Fernandez said yes, there is one--the Citizens Advisory Committee, which was dissolved in May of last year.

There being no further questions, Mr. Sodehani thanked Mr. Fernandez for his informative presentation.

Mr. Sodehani called upon Charles C. Young, Information and Complaint Officer of the County of Maui.

Information and Complaint Officer:

Charles C. Young, Information and Complaint Officer, circulated copies of his report to the members of the Commission. His report included his accomplishments for the year 1965 and also his recommendations.

Mr. Young stated that he works under the County Chairman under the title of Information and Complaint Officer, which title he would like to recommend be changed to Information-Historian and Research Officer.

He stated that he has kept a scrapbook of all newspaper clippings of the County of Maui, which he felt should be kept up for references.

There being no questions, Mr. Sodehani thanked Mr. Young for his presentation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Sodehani read the last paragraph of the Kauai Charter Commission minutes of April 12, 1966 regarding the idea of a meeting of the three charter commissions.

Mr. Tester suggested that the chairman come over instead of having the members go over and meeting with them.



Mr. Sodetani agreed that if possible he would like to invite the chairmen of the Kauai and Hawaii Charter Commissions to come over.

Mr. Sodetani stated that he has asked Mr. Kase Higa, County Attorney, to write to various people in Honolulu to speak to the members of the Commission.

Mr. Tester questioned the statement made by Charles C. Burnett in the minutes of March 11, 1966. Mr. Sodetani stated that a correction would be made as to whether the statement was made by Mr. Burnett or not.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

April 28, 1966, at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Chambers with the Manager and Chief Engineer of the Board of Water Supply and the Executive Secretary of the Liquor Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ayako Ishikawa*  
Ayako Ishikawa, Secretary