

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

June 13, 2000

Council Chamber

CONVENE: 1:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Dain P. Kane, Chair
Councilmember Patrick S. Kawano, Vice Chair
Councilmember Michael P. Davis, Member
Councilmember John Wayne Enriques, Member
Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, Member
Councilmember Dennis Y. Nakamura, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember J. Kalani English, Member
Councilmember Wayne K. Nishiki, Member
Councilmember Charmaine Tavares, Member

STAFF: David Raatz, Legislative Attorney
Yvette Bantilan, Committee Secretary

Jock Yamaguchi, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kane

ADMIN.: Clayton Ishikawa, Jr., Fire Chief
Thomas Phillips, Chief of Police
Kekuhaupio Akana, Deputy Chief of Police
John Min, Planning Director
Wesley Lo, Director of Finance
Agnus Hayashi, Deputy Director of Finance
Roz Baker, Economic Development Coordinator
Michele Yoshimura, Budget Director
Ray Kokubun, Director of Personnel Services
Guy Archer, First Deputy Corporation Counsel
James Takayesu, Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Walter Enomoto, Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee; Athan Adachi, Maui District, State Dept. of Transportation; Julia Tsumoto, Statewide Transportation Planning, State Dept. of Transportation; Vincent Llorin, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, State Dept. of Transportation; and 15 others

PRESS: Brian Perry, The Maui News

CHAIR KANE: Good afternoon. Meeting for the Committee of the Whole come to order. This time I'd like to acknowledge the presence of our Chairman and the Vice Chairman of this committee, Pat Kawano, as well as members Davis, Enriques, Hokama and Nakamura. Excused from this meeting is Councilmember . . . excuse me, committee member English as well as Nishiki and Tavares. Good afternoon, members.

COUNCILMEMBER DAVIS: Good afternoon, Chairman.

COUNCILMEMBER ENRIQUES: Good afternoon.

CHAIR KANE: Thank you for being here. We have on our agenda today I believe four items that we'll be dealing with today and I'd like to take 'em in order that they are shown on our agenda. We do have with us for the record Corp. Counsel, Mr. Archer. Good afternoon, sir.

MR. ARCHER: Good afternoon.

CHAIR KANE: And as well as our staff for the Committee of the Whole, our secretary Yvette Bantilan and our legal analyst David Raatz, and my executive assistant Mr. Jock Yamaguchi.

Members, we have before us on our agenda item number 47, Cost of Government Commission Report of Findings and Recommendations. I will give an introductory statement and then I will allow for public testimony before we actually get into any type of discussion on these items.

This item relates to a recommendation of the Cost of Government Commission in its annual report for the year ending March 30, 1996. Specifically, the Cost of Government Commission recommended the creation of a system of neighborhood boards similar to what now exist in the City and County of Honolulu. Under this, under the proposal neighborhood boards would be formed for each designated community (pause) excuse me . . . and be comprised of elected representatives. The neighborhood board would be part of County government, but would perform only an advisory role for the County Council and the Administration. At the time this proposal was, uh, proposal was first submitted, Mayor Linda Lingle and the Planning Director both expressed their opposition. The primary arguments in opposition to neighborhood boards appear to be, number one, they would be too costly to administer, and number two, they would create impediments to development. The arguments advanced by the Cost of Government Commission in favor of neighborhood boards include the following: Number one, neighborhood boards would provide more direct representation to local communities than either community associations which by the way are not part of County government, or citizen advisory committees which

are not elected and are only formed every ten years. Number two, neighborhood boards would be able to provide timely feedback to developers on proposed projects. I would note that there are currently no County officials who are elected to represent particular interest of local communities. Both the Mayor and all nine Council members are elected to represent the interest of the entire County. I would also note that the Charter amendment would be required to create the neighborhood board system and that the Charter Commission will be convened by early next year. So there are a couple of options. We have the options of referring this proposal to the Charter Commission for its consideration. And with that I first like to again solicit anybody coming up for public testimony. Okay, seeing none, I'd like to open it up for discussion at this time. Members, any comments or questions, uh, concerns? Issues that you'd like to bring forward? Mr. Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIR KANE: Good afternoon.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: I would at this time, Mr. Chairman, support your . . . if it's your position, I would be able to support your committee's recommendation that this item be part of a transmittal to the future Charter Commission. I believe we have various items already from this Council or various Council's of issues and concerns that the Charter Commission would be, as I believe, the more appropriate body. I think this needs to be taken in a total context and to be approached from a big picture point of view. So at this time I would be supportive if you wish to send this as a recommendation to the Charter Commission.

CHAIR KANE: Thank you, Mr. Hokama. Any other comments? Mr. Kawano.

VICE CHAIR KAWANO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too would be supporting this Mr. Chairman. Any time we can get input from the community as far as that goes I'll be 100 percent behind it. I think we need more input from the community and I believe a board like this would really help the Council and the Mayor as far as running the, the County. So Mr. Chairman I too would be supporting the recommendation.

CHAIR KANE: Thank you, Mr. Kawano. Any other comments from any of the members? Mr. Nakamura.

COUNCILMEMBER NAKAMURA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know Mr. Chairman I (pause) I would think that this matter would or should be taken up by a Charter Commission. And if, if it's possible this is something that they would recommend or put it on the ballot. However there's some issues that I also like to bring up to the Charter Commission if this matter is gonna be referred. Number one is the cost of operating a (pause) this type of a advisory committee to either the Mayor or to us, because if you noticed, I believe the one's on Oahu, if I'm not mistaken, it's a elected board or advisory board. And the matter is whose . . . how's this

election gonna be run and the other part is on Oahu they are voted by districts. Maui County we are represented by a district, but we are voted at-large and because the island of Molokai and Lanai and the district of Hana represents a very, very small portion of the entire population of Maui County. So we have to look at that whole aspect in total because if I remember correctly when the matter was brought up the way how district voting would be for Council members, it would have to be proportional to the amount of population based on that district. So I would also like them to look at that before . . . as part of this committee's, um, I guess input into this matter so . . . but other than that I think it should be taken up by the Charter Commission. Thank you.

CHAIR KANE: Thank you, Mr. Nakamura. Any other comments from the members? Seeing none. It is my recommendation that we go ahead and forward this agenda item over to the Charter Commission. There has been some information that the Administration is in fact getting the ball rolling regarding the, uh, putting together the Charter Commission although they're not required to do so until later on, but they've already started to look at pursuing that role on, on getting a move on that. So with that my recommendation will be to refer this item to the Charter Commission.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: So move, Mr. Chairman.

VICE CHAIR KAWANO: Second.

CHAIR KANE: Thank you. It's been moved by Mr. Hokama, seconded by Mr. Kawano. For discussion? Mr. Hokama you have the floor first.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you, Chairman. Again, I would just re-emphasize that I believe the Charter Commission is the more appropriate body at this time. I also recognize the comments by Mr. Nakamura regarding costs as well as the differences that we have within certain geographically regions, but I believe a comment by Mr. Kawano, uh, is very pertinent in our consideration this afternoon Mr. Chairman is that (pause) I believe it is time that we try to embrace more of a community-oriented approach to certain issues that come before this Council. And if this is one avenue that helps the participation as well as understanding of an issue that comes before any Council, then I think it is a . . . the right thing to do if I may say it that way, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIR KANE: Thank you, Mr. Hokama. Mr. Kawano.

VICE CHAIR KAWANO: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, the only thing I have to say . . . I'm sure Mr. Nakamura do have a good point, however, I'm sure he'll support this, but I too feel the same way that we, that we represent different district or though we run at-large and I think that district should have representative and I think a neighborhood board like this would be a big asset as far as that goes so I too would be supporting that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIR KANE: Thank you, Mr. Kawano. Mr. Davis.

COUNCILMEMBER DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. Is it the intentions of the Chair to pass COW-47 at the same time file the C.C. 96-292?

CHAIR KANE: Yes, that is.

COUNCILMEMBER DAVIS: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR KANE: Any other comments or discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor of the motion say aye.

COUNCILMEMBER VOICED AYE. (ex. KE, WN, CT)

CHAIR KANE: Opposed? Seeing none. It's passed unanimous onto the full Council.

VOTE: **AYES:** *Councilmember Davis, Enriques, Hokama, Kawano, Nakamura and Chair Kane.*

NOES: *None.*

EXC.: *Councilmember English, Nishiki and Tavares.*

ACTION: *REFERRAL of matter relating to the creation of neighborhood boards in Maui County to the Charter Commission and FILING of communication*