

**APPENDIX**  
**Charter Background & Talking Points**

## CHARTER BACKGROUND & TALKING POINTS

Updated August 2006

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### EARLY CHARTERS (1950s-1970s)

In 1958-59, a new modern charter for Honolulu was proposed by a commission and the Board of Supervisors, approved by the voters, and then amended and ratified by the State Legislature. In the 1960's, changes to the State Constitution gave counties the right to adopt their own "home rule" charters without the legislature's approval. The first "home rule" charter for Honolulu was approved by the voters in 1972, and is the basis for the charter that we have today.

### CHARTER REVISION PROCESS

The charter's Article XV requires a Charter Commission to be convened every 10 years in order to review the charter and propose changes. These Commissions provide an opportunity for comprehensive study, public input, and open deliberation over the course of many months.

Alternatively, the charter may also be amended by:

- City Council – Council passes a resolution, and then the proposal is put on the ballot for voter approval.
- Citizen Initiative – Ten percent of registered voters sign a petition, and then the proposal is put on the ballot for voter approval.
- Mayor's Reorganization – Mayor proposes a reorganization of departments, and then Council approves or disapproves the reorganization.

### PREVIOUS CHARTER COMMISSIONS

**1971-72:** A Charter Commission presented a revised charter (package of 62 amendments) to the voters. The new charter was adopted. Major revisions included strengthening the legislative branch, improving comprehensive planning, and increasing citizen participation.

**1981-82:** A Charter Commission presented a package of 50 amendments to the voters. There was substantial controversy, and the package was rejected.

**1991-92:** A Charter Commission presented 32 separate amendments to the voters. 27 amendments were approved. Notable revisions included term limits for Mayor and City Council, nonpartisan elections, and numerous planning/zoning reforms.

**1998:** The Charter Commission presented 8 amendments to the voters, and 7 were approved. Notable changes included reorganizing city departments, a five-year term for police chief, and staggered Council terms.

## **OTHER CHARTER AMENDMENTS**

***Council-Initiated Amendments.*** Amendments have been proposed via City Council resolution and approved by the voters in the following elections: 1974, 1978, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1994, 1996, 2002, and 2004. Recent examples of Council-initiated changes include the creation of the Office of the City Auditor (2002); an increase in the number of Neighborhood Commissioners who must have neighborhood board experience (2004); and a provision to allow for temporary replacement of City Council members called to active military duty (2004).

***Amendments by Citizen Petition.*** The charter was amended via citizen petition in 1982. Voters approved a citizen-led proposal to allow for ordinances by citizen initiative.

## **CONVENING OF THE 2005-06 CHARTER COMMISSION**

Council-initiated amendments in 2004 also included a provision to convene a Charter Commission in 2005, and then in every year ending in “4.” The 2005-06 Commission is currently at work and will propose amendments to the voters on the 2006 General Election ballot. This is only the fourth Charter Commission convened since the adoption of the charter in 1972. Under existing charter provisions, the next Charter Commission will be appointed in 2014 to propose amendments for the 2016 ballot.

## **PROCESS OF THIS CHARTER COMMISSION**

More than one year ago, the Charter Commission invited proposals from the public for possible changes to the city charter. Over 100 formal proposals and many other comments were received. During the past year, the Commission has engaged in an extensive review process with numerous public meetings, including community meetings around the island. Some of these meetings lasted many hours, with voluminous written and oral testimony from elected officials, city employees, interest groups, and ordinary citizens. The Commissioners have welcomed this testimony, as it has provided important information to help them make decisions.

## **CHARTER AMENDMENTS FOR THE 2006 BALLOT**

The Commissioners have selected 12 proposals to be placed on the General Election ballot in November 2006. Some of the topics are:

- Council term limits and staggered terms
- Funding for land conservation and affordable housing
- Curbside recycling
- Civil fines for ethics violations
- Pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly city
- Duties of the Emergency Services director and Fire Chief
- Exempting Liquor Administrator from civil service
- Making the Salary Commission’s decisions final

Currently, the Commission is finalizing the charter text and the wording of ballot questions.

## HOW CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS CAN HELP

This fall, the Charter Commission will be carrying out a public education program to inform the voters about the proposed amendments. The Commission needs help from organizations and active citizens to help reach the rest of the public.

Please help us by:

- Visiting our website and learning about the proposals – [www.honolulu.gov/chc](http://www.honolulu.gov/chc)
- Reading our brochure (to be mailed to voters in October)
- Talking to your friends and family
- Contacting us to schedule a presentation for your organization
- Going to the polls on November 7 and casting your vote on every proposal!

## CHARTER COMMISSION CONTACT INFO

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Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone 592-8622, Fax 592-8633  
[www.honolulu.gov/chc](http://www.honolulu.gov/chc)  
[charter@honolulu.gov](mailto:charter@honolulu.gov)

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## SOURCES

- 1973 Revised Charter of Honolulu, 2000 edition plus supplements
- “History of the Honolulu Charter” (document by 1992 Charter Commission)
- “Honolulu Charter Commissions in the Modern Era” (document by Corporation Counsel)

**APPENDIX**  
**Chronology of the 2005-2006 Charter Commission process**

## CHRONOLOGY OF THE 2005-2006 CHARTER COMMISSION

**November 2, 2004.** General Election. Voters passed a charter amendment to specify that a Charter Commission be appointed every year ending in a “4.”

**Late 2004.** Twelve members of the Commission appointed, six by City Council, six by then-Mayor Harris. Thirteenth member later appointed by Mayor Hannemann and approved by Council.

**December 20, 2004.** First meeting of the Commission. Chair pro tempore elected. Budget Committee assignment made.

**January 31, 2005.** Commission meeting. Committees assigned.

**February 8, 2005.** Commission meeting. Budget Committee report adopted.

**March 8, 2005.** Commission meeting. Officers elected.

**April 12, 2005.** Commission meeting. Initial discussion on calendar.

**April 26, 2005.** Commission meeting. Executive Administrator hired.

**May 2, 2005.** Executive Administrator begins work.

**May 10, 2005.** Commission meeting. Further discussion on calendar.

**May 16, 2005.** Personnel Committee meeting to interview applicants for Secretary position.

**May 24, 2005.** Personnel Committee meeting to interview applicants for Researcher position.

**June 1, 2005.** Secretary and Researcher hired.

**June 6, 2005.** Commission moves into office at 711 Kapiolani Boulevard. Secretary starts work.

**June 14, 2005.** Commission meeting. Calendar adopted.

**June 27, 2005.** Researcher starts work.

**June 30, 2005.** Charter Commission website officially launched.

**July 1, 2005.** Open submissions period for proposed charter amendments begins.

**July 5, 2005.** Press conference held with Managing Director, City Council Chair, and Commission Chair. Articles appear later in the Honolulu Advertiser and Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

**July 12, 2005.** Commission meeting. Commission adopts “supermajority” procedure for considering proposed charter amendments after the open submissions period, upon approval of nine or more Commissioners.

**August 1, 2005.** Commission sends letters to all City department heads and Council members to invite input and submissions.

**August 17-September 2, 2005.** Publicity campaign for open submissions period – advertisements run in newspapers and on radio

**September 13, 2005.** Commission meeting. Commission adopts mission statement and rule regarding commissioner-sponsored amendments.

**September 15, 2005.** Flyer advertising the Commission’s work and seeking input from City employees is disseminated.

**October 11, 2005.** Commission meeting. Proposals received to date are distributed and the calendar and upcoming events discussed.

**October 31, 2005.** End of open submissions period. Nearly 100 formal proposals received before the deadline.

**November 2-3, 2005.** Letters sent to all submitters, acknowledging and thanking them for their proposals.

**November 8, 2005.** Copies of all proposals and list of issues posted on Commission website.

**November 14, 2005.** Commission meeting. Commissioners discuss handling and review of proposals, adopt mission statement, and adopt rule on commissioner-sponsored proposals.

**November 18, 2005.** Commission staff disseminates tentative list of proposals to be considered at December 13, 2005 meeting (23 of 99 proposals).

**November 21, 2005.** Commission staff sends letters to submitters that have proposals slated to be considered at next meeting.

**Late November-December 2005.** Executive Administrator responds to various requests for briefings on procedure for proposal review.

**December 13, 2005.** Commission meeting. The Commission conducts first review and voting of the first batch of 23 proposals. Meeting runs from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m. with oral and written testimony from many interested parties. 16 of 23 proposals pass on for further consideration.

**December 15, 2005.** Commission posts flow chart of process and results of voting from December 13 meeting on the website.

**December 21, 2005.** Commission staff disseminates tentative list of proposals for January 10, 2006 meeting (25 of 99 proposals). Commission staff meets with City Clerk’s office to discuss election deadlines and requirements.

**December 28, 2005.** Commission staff disseminates tentative list of proposals for January 24, 2006 meeting (26 of 99 proposals).

**January 6, 2006.** Commission sends press release regarding next meeting.

**January 10, 2006.** Commission meeting. Commission discusses and votes on the second group of proposals; meeting runs from 2:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Newspapers and TV news cover the meeting. 9 of 25 proposals pass on for further review.

**January 11, 2006.** Commission staff sends out list of proposals for January 31, 2006 meeting and letters to submitters notifying them of hearing date. Commission also begins work on budget request for FY 06-07.

**January 20, 2006.** Commission staff sends out press release regarding next meeting.

**January 24, 2006.** Commission meeting. Commission considers third batch of proposals (26 of 99 proposals), including Neighborhood Board and Neighborhood Commission matters. 7 of 26 proposals pass on for further review.

**January 27, 2006.** Commission staff sends out press release regarding next meeting.

**January 30, 2006.** Commission submits proposed budget for next fiscal year to Council Chair.

**January 31, 2006.** Commission meeting. Commission considers fourth batch of proposals and nine “supermajority” proposals, on reorganization and City Council procedures. 7 of 19 proposals pass on for further review.

**February 3, 2006.** Commission staff sends out press release regarding February 7, 2006 meeting.

**February 6, 2006.** Front page story in Honolulu Star-Bulletin regarding Commission’s consideration of term limit issues.

**February 7, 2006.** Commission meeting. Commission considers last batch of proposals (15 proposals) on term limits and governance. 3 of 15 proposals pass forward for further review. After initial review, Commission has completed testimony and discussion of a total of 108 proposals, and passed 42 on for further review.

**February 9, 2006.** Commission Chair gives presentation at a breakfast meeting of the Business Roundtable, at their request, to discuss the charter amendment process.

**February 10, 2006.** Executive Administrator meets with Council Chair to go over budget request.

**February 21, 2006.** Commission submits revised budget request figures to Council Chair.

**February 28, 2006:** Commission finalizes schedule for community outreach meetings, notifies email list, and updates website. Meetings scheduled for March 21 at Kailua High School; March 28 at Kapolei Hale; and April 4 at Hahaione Elementary School.

**March 14, 2006:** Commission issues press release for March 21 meeting at Kailua High School.

**March 15, 2006:** Commission staff and Vice-Chair Mikulina attend Council Budget Committee meeting to answer questions about budget request.

**March 17, 2006:** Ads in both daily newspapers publicize the three community meetings.

**March 20, 2006.** Commission issues second press release for tomorrow's meeting at Kailua High School; Two Commissioners and Executive Administrator interviewed for Hawaii Public Radio news spot aired on March 20-21.

**March 21, 2006:** Commission holds community briefing at Kailua High School. Meeting runs from approximately 6:00-8:30 p.m., with 25-30 in attendance.

**March 24, 2006:** Commission issues press release for March 28 meeting; ads appear in both daily newspapers for next two meetings.

**March 28, 2006:** Commission community meeting at Kapolei Hale. Meeting goes from 6:15 p.m. until about 8:00 p.m., with 15 people in attendance.

**March 31, 2006:** Commission issues press release for April 4 meeting; ads appear in both daily papers regarding the meeting.

**April 4, 2006:** Community meeting in Hawaii Kai, Hahaione Elementary School. The meeting runs from 6:00 p.m. until after 10:00 p.m., approximately 100 people in attendance.

**April 9, 2006:** The Honolulu Advertiser features two articles on its editorial front page, entitled "Turf War Over City Charter."

**April 14, 2006:** Commission issues press release for April 18 meeting.

**April 18, 2006:** Commission meeting. Commission discusses and acts on amendments to various proposals. Meeting lasts from approximately 2:00 p.m. until approximately 7:00 p.m. Amendments are made to 14 proposals.

**April 28, 2006:** Commission issues press release for May 2, 2006 meeting.

**May 2, 2006:** Commission voting meeting. Commission accepts testimony, discusses, and votes on 23 proposals. Meeting lasts from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eleven proposals are tentatively placed on the General Election ballot, ten are defeated, and one is deferred for the next meeting.

**May 8, 2006.** Commission issues press release for May 10, 2006 meeting.

**May 10, 2006.** Commission voting meeting. Commission accepts testimony, discusses, and votes on 20 remaining proposals. Meeting lasts from 2:00 until after 10:30 p.m. Seven additional proposals are tentatively placed on the General Election ballot, and 13 are defeated. A total of 18 proposals are approved for the ballot, subject to work by the Committee on Style and legal/agency review.

**May 12, 2006.** Commission issues press release recapping results of voting meetings and listing the 18 tentative ballot items.

**May 22, 2006.** First meeting of the Committee on Style. Committee goes through language for the 18 proposed amendments approved for the ballot. Report of the Committee is issued shortly thereafter for review and discussion at next full Commission meeting.

**June 7, 2006.** Commission meeting. Commission reviews and approves report from the Committee on Style and refers the proposed amendments for agency and legal review. Additional members are

appointed to the Committee on Submission and Information. At City Council meeting, Legislative budget (including Charter Commission budget) passes Third Reading.

**June 2006.** Commission receives comments from various agencies and from Corporation Counsel in advance of the July meeting.

**July 11, 2006.** Commission meeting. Commission reviews comments and results from agency and legal review. Committee work is updated and committee meetings planned.

**July 17, 2006.** Commission issues press release regarding upcoming Committee on Style meeting and tasks.

**July 19, 2006.** Committee on Style meeting. Committee considers agency and legal comments, and reviews proposed changes to language for several proposals. Committee makes revisions and approves the final language for all eighteen charter amendment proposals for presentation to the full Commission. After approximately two hours, meeting is recessed until July 25.

**July 20, 2006.** Committee on Submission and Information meeting. Committee approves a public education plan for presentation to the full Commission and delegates the preparation of drafts for the digest and brochure to the staff.

**July 25, 2006.** Committee on Style meeting. Committee reconvenes from recess, and continues its review of ballot language and other issues. Committee votes to recommend combination of additional proposals for the ballot and approves some ballot language. Committee adjourns to allow for further review of certain ballot items and agrees to reconvene before the next full Commission meeting.

**August 8, 2006.** Commission Chair makes presentation to Japanese Chamber of Commerce; Executive Administrator makes presentation to Ala Moana Lions Club on charter amendment process and status of proposed amendments.

**August 21, 2006.** Committee on Style Meeting. Committee makes final recommendations on ballot questions and reference phrases, and decides on a recommended order of ballot questions.

**August 25, 2006.** Committee on Submission and Information meeting. Committee makes decisions on final recommendations for the public information plan, language for the format and digest, and vendors for printing, mailing services, and media consulting. Commission staff issues press release regarding the August 28, 2006 full commission meeting.

**August 28, 2006.** Commission meeting. Commission votes to place 18 proposed charter amendments, comprised of 12 ballot questions, on the November ballot. Digest language and other recommendations of the Committee on Style and Committee on Submission and Information are also approved.

**August 30, 2006.** Commission staff finalizes ballot questions and full text of proposals, and submits them to City Clerk's office per the deadline established by charter.

**September 2006.** Website revamped to provide voter information, including charter questions, digest, full text of amendments, translations, and advertisements.

**September 1, 2006.** Commission staff issues press release on final ballot questions and proposed charter amendments.

**September 17, 2006.** Full-page ads containing the digest and notice that copies of the full text of the proposed amendments are available appear in the Advertiser and Star-Bulletin.

**September 22-23, 2006.** Full-page ads containing the digest and notice are published in Ilocano, Japanese, and Chinese language newspapers.

**September 26, 2006.** Commission Vice-Chair and Researcher give presentation to Pearl City Neighborhood Board at the Board's request, on proposed charter amendments.

**October – November 2006.** Coverage of charter questions appears on TV, radio, newspapers, and online news sources. Major newspapers publish endorsements on all charter questions. Various advocacy groups carry out their own publicity efforts. Some Neighborhood Boards and other groups take positions on certain amendments.

**October 5, 2006.** Commission Vice-Chair and Researcher give presentation to McCully Neighborhood Board at the Board's request, on proposed charter amendments.

**October 9, 2006.** Commission Vice-Chair gives presentation to Liliha Neighborhood Board at the Board's request, on proposed charter amendments. Commission Treasurer and Researcher give presentation to Aiea Neighborhood Board at the Board's request, on proposed charter amendments.

**October 11, 2006.** Commission Vice-Chair gives presentation to Palolo Neighborhood Board at the Board's request, on proposed charter amendments. Commission Researcher gives presentation to Kalihi Valley Neighborhood Board at the Board's request, on proposed charter amendments. Commission Executive Administrator gives presentation to Kahaluu Neighborhood Board at the Board's request, on proposed charter amendments.

**Mid-October 2006.** Charter digest brochure mailed to all voter households (over 250,000).

**October 15, 2006.** Full-page ads containing digest appear in Advertiser and Star Bulletin. Advertiser runs opinion piece authored by Commission Chair on importance of learning about and voting on proposed amendments.

**October 16, 2006.** Honolulu Advertiser begins a two-week series of short articles on the pros/cons of proposed charter amendments..

**October 18, 2006.** Commission Chair gives presentation on proposed charter amendments to Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization, at OMPO's request.

**October 23, 2006.** Charter digest brochures distributed to all public libraries.

**October 23 – November 7, 2006.** Commission's commercial appear on network and cable television stations; two versions of radio spots air on radio stations. Commission Chair interviewed on TV news, AM 940 morning show, and Hawaii Public Radio.

**October 25, 2006.** Charter digest brochures distributed to satellite city halls. Executive Administrator and Researcher give presentation at Mililani Candidates Forum, at Neighborhood Boards' request.

**October 31, 2006.** Executive Administrator gives presentation and answers questions on the proposed charter amendments to the City Council Executive Matters Committee, at the Committee's request.

**November 5, 2006.** Full-page ads containing digest appear for the third time in Advertiser and Star Bulletin.

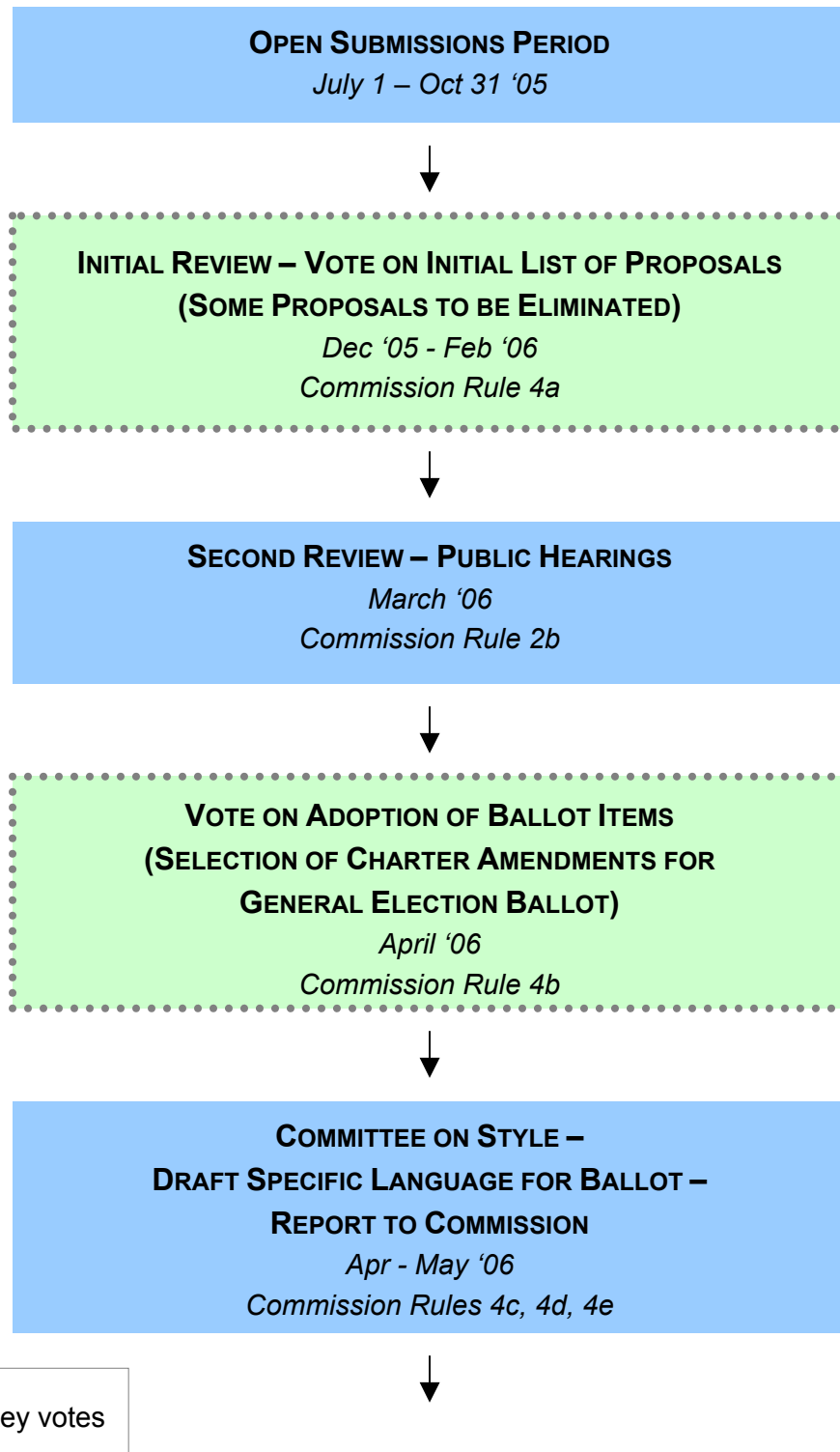
**November 7, 2006.** Election Day. Voters approve 8 of the 12 charter questions.

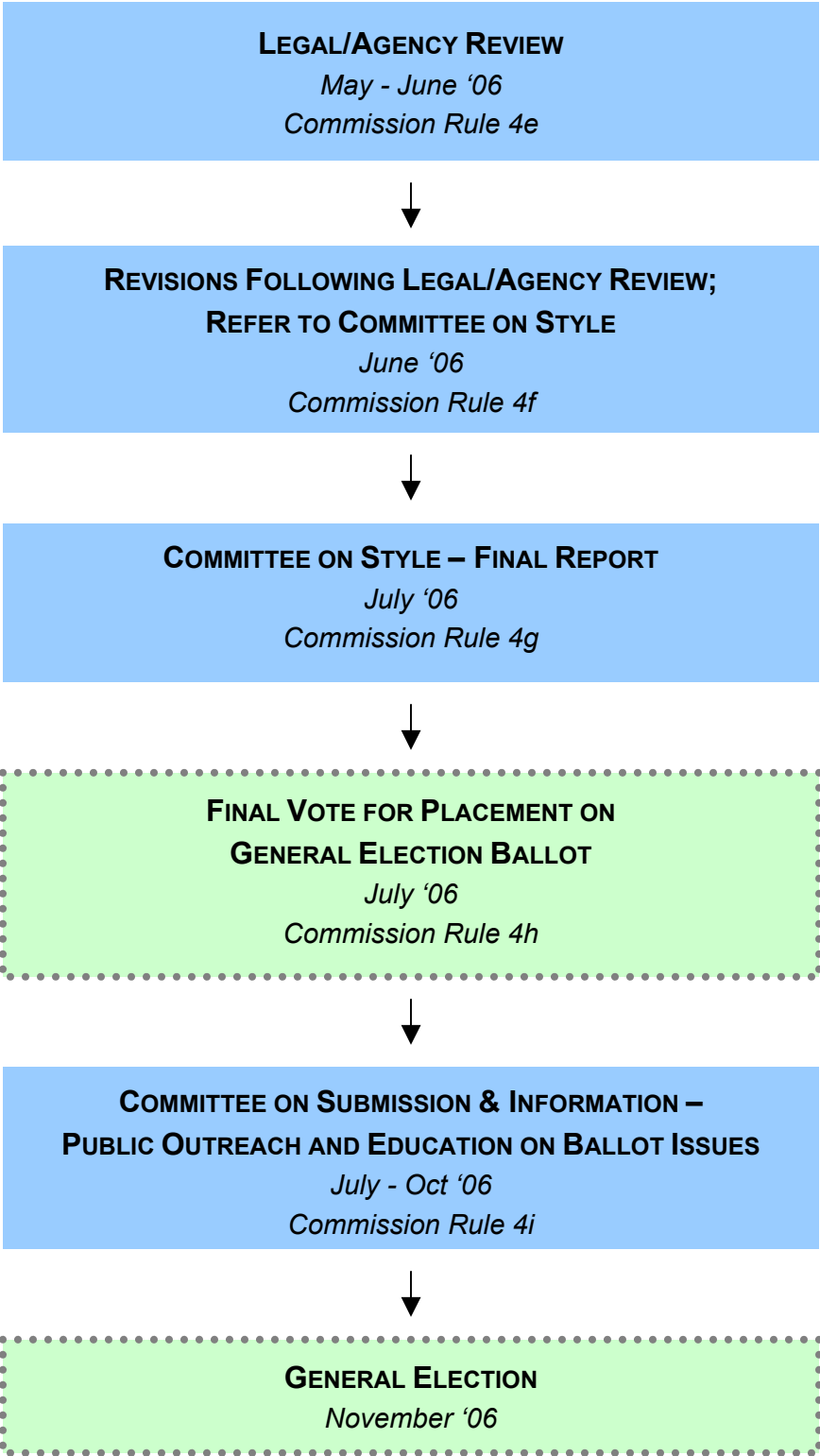
**APPENDIX**  
**Flow chart of the Commission's review process**


## 2005-06 Honolulu City Charter Commission - Process/Timeline

The following provides a general outline of the 2005-06 Charter Commission process and is subject to change. This outline summarizes the Commission's current rules and procedures; it does not incorporate all details of the Commission's rules and calendar.

Please refer to the Commission's rules and meeting minutes for details; visit <http://www.honolulu.gov/chc> for more information and updates.





 = key votes

**APPENDIX**  
**Calendar approved by Commission on June 14, 2005**

**HONOLULU CHARTER COMMISSION  
CALENDAR APPROVED AT JUNE 14, 2005, COMMISSION MEETING**

APRIL 2005	MAY 2005	JUNE 2005
	<p>Exec. Administrator hired</p> <p>Hire staff, establish office, public website</p>	<p>*6/14 Vote on initial calendar</p>
JULY 2005	AUGUST 2005	SEPTEMBER 2005
<p>7/1 - Publish and publicize notice of timetable and calendar, including public notice to request public agency input on potential charter review topics; Submit timetable/calendar to Mayor and City Council; Beginning of period for acceptance of charter amendment proposals.</p>	<p>(Staff review of topics)</p>	<p>(Staff review of topics)</p>
OCTOBER 2005	NOVEMBER 2005	DECEMBER 2005
<p>(Staff review of topics)</p> <p>10/31 – Deadline for submission of charter amendment proposals</p>	<p>(Staff review of topics)</p>	<p>Determination of initial priority list of topics for further review.</p> <p>*Vote on initial list</p>

**HONOLULU CHARTER COMMISSION  
CALENDAR APPROVED AT JUNE 14, 2005, COMMISSION MEETING**

JANUARY 2006	FEBRUARY 2006	MARCH 2006
<p>(Staff analysis)</p> <p>Exec. Admin. interim report on status and issues</p>	<p>(Staff analysis)</p> <p>Propose FY07 budget for commission</p> <p>Exec. Admin. interim report on status and issues</p> <p>Possible dates for public hearings and/or workshops; possible sites include (1) Ewa, (2) Windward, (3) Downtown</p>	<p>Exec. Admin. interim report on status and issues</p> <p>Possible dates for public hearings and/or workshops</p>
APRIL 2006	MAY 2006	JUNE 2006
<p>*Vote on tentative approval of charter amendments and refer to Committee on Style</p>	<p>Report from Committee on Style; adoption or approval of Report of Committee on Style</p> <p>Submission of proposals to legal counsel and appropriate agencies, organizations or persons for recommendations</p>	<p>Receipt and consideration of recommendations from legal counsel and/or appropriate agencies or individuals</p> <p>Further referral to Committee on Style</p>
JULY 2006	AUGUST 2006	SEPTEMBER 2006
<p>Final report of Committee on Style</p> <p>*Final review and vote on amendments and language</p> <p>(note: 8/31 is actual hard stop deadline to transmit to city clerk and publish)</p> <p>Submission of approved proposals to Committee on Submission and Information</p>		<p>Publish in newspaper (required 45 days prior to 11/2)</p> <p>Public education campaign</p> <p>9/28 Deadline to mail out general election ballots to overseas voters</p>
OCTOBER 2006	NOVEMBER 2006	DECEMBER 2006
<p>Public education campaign</p>	<p>11/7 election day</p>	<p>*Adopt and submit final commission report to city clerk</p> <p>Termination date for Exec. Admin. And commission staff</p>

**APPENDIX**  
**Calendar approved by Commission on April 4, 2006**

**2005-2006 Charter Commission**  
**Revised Calendar approved at April 4, 2006 meeting**

<u>TASK</u>	<u>DATES</u>
<b>Full Commission: Community informational meetings</b>	<b>Tues Mar 21 Tues Mar 28 Tues Apr 4</b>
<b>Full Commission: Discussion and vote on amendments to proposals; establish Committee on Style</b>	<b>Tues Apr 18</b>
<b>Full Commission: Vote on tentative approval of Ballot Proposals and refer to Committee on Style</b>	<b>Tues May 2 and Wed May 10</b>
<b>Committee on Style:</b> Prepare report on ballot questions and text changes (with staff and Corp Counsel assistance)	May-June 2006
<b>Full Commission: Approve report from Committee on Style; refer out for legal and agency review</b>	<b>June 2006</b>
Legal/agency review	June 2006
<b>Full Commission: Review agency and legal comments; further referral to Committee on Style; assign tasks to Committee on Submission and Information</b>	<b>July 2006</b>
<b>Committee on Style:</b> Prepare final report, including deciding order of ballot questions	July 2006
<b>Committee on Submission and Information</b> (Sullivan, Hirano, Grau): prepare public education plan; prepare digests/brochure	July-August 2006
<b>Full Commission: Adopt final report of Committee on Style; final review and vote of amendments and language; approve order of ballot questions; approve digests/brochure; submit approved proposals to Committee on Submission and Information; presentation and approval of public education program</b>	<b>August 2006</b>

Extra meetings if needed Staff prepares to submit to Clerk	August 2006
<b>DEADLINE – City Clerk:</b> Per charter section 15-105, proposed amendments “shall be submitted to the city clerk at any time prior to September 1”	<b>Fri Sept 1</b>
<b>DEADLINE – State Office of Elections:</b> Submit charter amendment questions	<b>Fri Sept 8</b>
<b>DEADLINE – Publish:</b> Per charter section 15-105, Commission must “publish, not less than 45 days before any election at which charter amendments are submitted, at least once in a daily newspaper of general circulation within the city, a brief digest of the amendments or revised charter and a notice to the electorate that copies of the amendments or revised charter are available at the office of the City Clerk”	<b>Sat Sept 23</b>
<b>Public education program</b>	<b>October</b>
<b>City Clerk begins mailing out absentee ballots</b>	<b>Early October</b>
<b>Voter registration deadline</b>	<b>Mon Oct 9</b>
<b>Walk-in absentee voting</b>	<b>Tues Oct 24 - Sat Nov 4</b>
<b>General Election</b>	<b>Tues Nov 7</b>

**APPENDIX**  
**Rules as amended by Commission on January 10, 2006**

RULES OF THE 2005 CHARTER COMMISSION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

RULE 1. QUORUM

The quorum required for the Commission to hold meetings shall be fixed at seven members, the majority of the entire Commission.

RULE 2. VOTING: RULE OF THE MAJORITY

- a. Procedural matters, requests for information, and internal Commission matters shall require the approval of a majority vote of those present at any meeting. Voting on the initial review of proposed charter amendments for further consideration shall be considered a procedural matter under this Rule.
- b. Matters of substance, including all votes other than the initial vote on any proposed charter amendments, shall require the approval of seven members of the Commission. Proposed charter changes require a minimum of two reviews, adoption and/or approvals of the Commission as set forth in Rule 4 before inclusion on the general election ballot.
- c. Each member shall have one vote. No votes by proxy shall be permitted.
- d. Any member can vote on a pending motion and participate in discussion on every debatable motion before it is finally acted upon. The holding of an office on the Commission shall not disqualify the member from making motions, participating in debate, or voting.
- e. Voting shall be by voice or by show of hands. A roll call vote shall be required when requested by at least three members.

*[Rule 2 revised at Commission meeting held on 1/10/06]*

RULE 3. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER; FORM;  
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

A charter amendment proposal shall be prepared on the attached form and shall include the following information:

- a) A brief description of the purpose of the proposal and of the problem being addressed by the proposal;
- b) If applicable, the citation of the charter provision(s) proposed to be deleted or amended;
- c) If the proposal is based on a provision or provisions in the charter or laws of another jurisdiction, the name of the jurisdiction and, if possible, a copy of the relevant provision(s) attached to the proposal;
- d) Copies of other written materials supporting the proposal, if relevant; and
- e) The text of the proposed charter amendment in the Ramseyer format.

**RULE 3a. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER; TIMING OF ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSALS**

The Commission wishes to obtain input and ideas from the public and all interested parties, and therefore shall establish an open period for acceptance of proposed amendments from the general public, agencies and any other parties, in the form set forth in Rule 3 above. In order to ensure ample time to consider all proposed amendments, proposed amendments must be submitted to the Commission by October 31, 2005. Any proposed amendments submitted after October 31, 2005, may be considered by the Commission only upon approval by a “supermajority” of nine or more Commissioners. However, notwithstanding the foregoing, the Commission will not consider any proposed amendments submitted within 30 days of the Commission's first scheduled public hearing on the proposed charter amendments, or any other deadline which may be set by the Commission, whichever is earlier.

*[Rule 3a adopted at Commission meeting held on 7/12/05]*

**RULE 3b. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER; PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY COMMISSIONERS**

Charter amendment proposals submitted by Commissioners shall include the name of the Commissioner submitting the proposal. Commissioners who have submitted charter amendment proposals prior to the adoption of this Rule 3b without the inclusion of their name, shall disclose their

identity as the submitter of the proposal at or before the first Commission meeting when their proposal is on the meeting agenda of the Commission.

*[Rule 3b adopted at Commission meeting held on 11/14/05]*

**RULE 4. PROCEDURES FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OR APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER**

The following procedures shall be followed in the consideration and adoption or approval of the proposals for the amendment of the charter:

- a. Introduction of the proposal(s) for the amendment of the charter for consideration by the Commission;
- b. Upon adoption or approval of the proposal(s) by the Commission, the proposal(s) shall be referred to the Committee on Style;
- c. Consideration and report on the proposal(s) by the Committee on Style to the Commission;
- d. Consideration of the report of the Committee on Style by the Commission;
- e. Upon adoption or approval of the report of the Committee on Style, the Commission shall refer the proposal(s) to legal counsel for recommendations regarding the legality and compliance with statutes and superior laws and may refer the proposal(s) to appropriate agencies, organizations or persons for their recommendations regarding the proposed amendment;
- f. Upon receipt of the recommendations of legal counsel and/or the appropriate agencies, organizations or persons to which the proposal(s) have been referred, the Commission may reconsider the proposal(s) and make such substantive and/or legal changes to the proposal(s) as it may deem necessary;
- g. Upon reconsideration and/or adoption or approval of substantive and/or legal changes to the proposal(s) by the Commission, the proposal(s) shall be referred to the Committee on Style for further consideration and/or report on the final and proper arrangement and order of the proposed amendments; and
- h. After all proposals to amend the Charter have been disposed of, the Commission will review all proposals that have been tentatively approved. The Commission will consider each proposal on its

merits paying attention to the manner in which each proposal relates to the Charter as a whole.

- i. After all proposals have been finally reviewed, those that are approved shall be submitted to the Committee on Submission and Information. The Committee on Submission and Information shall be responsible for proposing the form in which the proposed amendments are submitted to the electorate, provided that the Committee shall not be authorized to propose that the electorate must approve the amendments as one package. The Committee shall also be responsible for proposing and implementing a public education program to acquaint the electorate with the proposed amendments.

RULE 5. COMMITTEES OF THE CHARTER COMMISSION; APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

- a. The standing committees of the Commission shall be the:
  - 1) Committee on Rules;
  - 2) Committee on Style;
  - 3) Committee on Submission and Information;
  - 4) Committee on Budget; and
  - 5) Committee on Personnel.

The members of the standing committees shall be appointed by the Chair.

- b. The Commission may create such special committees as it deems necessary. The members of the special committees shall be appointed by the Chair.

RULE 6. FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. The Committee on Rules shall consider and report on such changes in the rules of the Commission and changes in its organization as shall be referred to it by the Commission from time to time.
- b. The Committee on Style shall:
  - Examine and correct the proposals which are referred to it and the statement of intent or purpose accompanying each

proposal for the purpose of avoiding inaccuracies, repetitions and inconsistencies;

- Draft in the same style as required for specifically worded proposals (Ramseyer drafting style), the correct and appropriate charter language for ideas or conceptual proposals which are referred to it;
- Arrange the proposed amendments in the proper order in the charter; and
- Report thereon to the Commission.

The Committee on Style shall have the authority to rephrase or reword, but shall have no authority to change the sense or purpose of any proposal or any statement of intent or purpose referred to it.

Where a proposal referred to the Committee on Style appears inconsistent with or in conflict with a proposal already acted upon favorably by the Commission, the Committee shall so notify the Commission and wait upon its instruction.

c. The Committee on Submission and Information shall:

- Consider and report to the Commission for its approval the method and manner of submitting the proposed amendments to the Charter to the people;
- Prepare and present to the Commission for its approval the plan or method of informing the people of the proposed amendments;
- Prepare and present to the Commission for its approval a report to the people outlining the results of the Commission's work;
- Make recommendations to the Commission on the Commission's calendar; and
- Perform such other duties and prepare such other reports as may be required by the instructions of the Commission.

d. The Committee on Budget shall:

- Prepare and present to the Commission for its approval a budget for the Commission for each fiscal year;

- Provide advice on fiscal matters, as requested, to the Chair, the Treasurer and the Commission;
- Review the reports prepared by the Treasurer pursuant to these rules; and
- Perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by the Commission.

e. The Committee on Personnel shall:

- Make recommendations to the Commission regarding the staffing needs of the Commission, including the recommended salary ranges for staff positions, subject to appropriation;
- Assist the Commission, to the extent requested, in the solicitation of qualified applicants for, and in the review of qualifications of applicants for, Commission staff positions;
- Provide, as requested by the Commission, evaluations of Commission staff, and recommendations on any personnel actions, including salary adjustments, proposed to be taken by the Commission regarding its staff; and
- Perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by the Commission.

#### RULE 7. FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEES

A special committee of the Commission shall perform such functions and duties as may be required by the instructions of the Commission.

#### RULE 8. TESTIMONY BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Members of the public may address comments to the Commission at any public meeting of the Commission on matters relevant to the Commission's review of the Charter. Whether comments are relevant shall be determined by the Chair.

At the Commission's regular meetings, comments from members of the public shall be limited to five minutes but such time limit shall not include pertinent responses by the speaker to questions posed by the members of the Commission. Speakers shall be requested to submit two copies of their testimony to the Commission but the failure to provide testimony

shall not bar a person from speaking. A speaker's time may be limited to three minutes if, in the discretion of the Chair, such limitation is necessary to accommodate all persons desiring to address the Commission at that meeting.

Notwithstanding the above, at the Commission's public outreach meetings, testimony may be limited at the Chair's discretion to two minutes.

Those members of the public desiring to address comments to the Commission shall register with the secretary at the beginning of the meeting.

*[Rule 8 revised at Commission meeting held on 1/10/06]*

#### RULE 9. OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION

- a. The officers of the Commission shall be a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer who shall be elected by the Commission.
- b. It shall be the duty of the Chair of the Commission:
  - 1) To preside at all meetings of the Commission;
  - 2) To receive all communications and present them promptly to the Commission;
  - 3) To authenticate by signature all acts of the Commission as may be required by law and to sign all instruments requiring execution or agreement by the Commission;
  - 4) To promptly refer all charter amendment proposals and other matters to the full Commission or to the appropriate committee or committees, subject to appeal. A list of all referrals and any subsequent changes in referrals shall be filed with the Secretary and be available for public review;
  - 5) To appoint members of committees in accordance with Rule 5;
  - 6) To preside at all permitted executive sessions of the Commission;
  - 7) To direct the preparation of the agenda for meetings of the Commission and to have the agenda posted and filed with

the Office of the City Clerk in accordance with Section 92-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes;

- 8) To supervise the staff of the Commission and preside over staff meetings;
- 9) To provide for the coordination of all administrative activities of the Commission and to see that they are honestly, efficiently, and lawfully conducted;
- 10) To serve as the chief spokesperson for the Commission before the public, the media, the State and federal governments, the City Council and the City Administration;
- 11) To appoint the Commission's Parliamentarian; and
- 12) To perform such other duties as may be required by law or as may properly pertain to the office.

c. It shall be the duty of the Vice Chair of the Commission:

- 1) To exercise all the duties and powers of the Chair in the Chair's absence;
- 2) To assist the Chair as needed; and
- 3) To perform such other duties as are prescribed by law or assigned by the Commission.

d. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Commission to:

- 1) Prepare the agenda for meetings of the Commission at the direction of the Chair and transmit the agenda to the Office of the City Clerk for posting in accordance with Section 92-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 2) Maintain a record of the agendas of the Commission and of its Committees;
- 3) Prepare accurate minutes of the meetings of the Commission and the Commission's various committees, and maintain files thereof, all in accordance with Section 92-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes;

- 4) Maintain a file of written disclosures made by Commission members pursuant to Rule 12 and file said disclosures with the Office of the City Clerk;
- 5) To number and maintain a record of all written charter amendment proposals, communications, testimonies and petitions brought before the Commission;
- 6) To maintain a current copy of the Rules of the Commission;
- 7) To maintain files containing all other written records of the Commission, including any personnel records and contracts of the Commission;
- 8) To receive and draft correspondence on behalf of the Commission;
- 9) To transmit the records of the Commission kept by the Secretary to the Municipal Reference and Records Center or other archive designated by the Corporation Counsel after the work of the Commission has been completed; and
- 10) To perform such other duties as are prescribed by law or assigned by the Commission.

e. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer of the Commission:

- 1) To maintain a record of all expenditures made on behalf of the Commission in order to ensure that all expenditures and financial obligations of the Commission are within appropriations made therefor;
- 2) To assist the Budget Committee;
- 3) To prepare a semi-annual report to the Commission;
- 4) To act as the Commission's liaison to the City Council on budgetary matters;
- 5) To transmit the records of the Commission kept by the Treasurer to the Municipal Reference and Records Center or other archive designated by the Corporation Counsel after the work of the Commission has been completed; and

6) To perform such other duties prescribed by law or assigned by the Commission.

f. Any officer may delegate, by administrative directive, any of the administrative duties assigned to the officer under these rules to another Commission member or to a member of the Commission staff, provided that the officer shall take reasonable measures to ensure that any delegated duties are being faithfully performed.

RULE 10. PARLIAMENTARIAN

The Chair of the Commission shall appoint a Parliamentarian. A member serving as Parliamentarian retains all Charter Commission debate and voting privileges. It shall be the duty of the Parliamentarian:

- a. To advise the Chair on matters of parliamentary procedures and the Commission's Rules; and
- b. To perform any other duties assigned to him or her by the Chair or the Chair Pro Tempore.

RULE 11. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures established in these Rules. On all matters of procedure not addressed in these Rules, the Commission may refer to *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (10<sup>th</sup> Edition)*, for guidance in developing procedures for the conduct of Commission meetings.

RULE 12. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Written Disclosure. Whenever a member of the Commission possesses or acquires such interests as might reasonably tend to create a conflict with the public interest, the member shall make full disclosure in writing to the Commission. Such disclosures shall be a matter of public record and filed with the Secretary and the Office of the City Clerk.

RULE 13. SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

Unless superseded or prohibited by state or city law, these Rules may be suspended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of the Commission.

PROPOSAL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
(for Commission use)

2005-06 HONOLULU CHARTER COMMISSION  
CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSAL FORM

1. Provide a brief description of the purpose of the proposed charter amendment; include a description of the problem the proposal would address and how the proposal would address the problem:
2. If applicable, list the charter provision(s) proposed to be deleted or amended:
3. If the proposal is based on a provision or provisions in the charter or law of another jurisdiction, name the jurisdiction and, if possible, attach a copy of the relevant provision(s).
4. If the proposal is based on any written materials you have, please attach a copy with a citation to its source.

See reverse of this form

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

Ramseyer Format:

If proposing an amendment to existing Charter provisions, indicate, by underscoring, any language being proposed to be added to the Charter and indicate, by bracketing, any language being proposed to be deleted from the Charter.

If proposing to replace existing Charter provisions in their entirety, clearly indicate the article(s), chapter(s) and/or section(s) of the Charter proposed to be deleted, and provide the text of any provisions proposed to replace the deleted material.

If proposing new Charter material only, provide the text of the new provision(s) and, if possible, indicate where in the Charter the new material should be inserted.

**APPENDIX**  
**List of Proposed Charter Amendments**  
**submitted during open submission process**

**2005-2006 Honolulu City Charter Commission  
Official Proposals**

<b>#</b>	<b>Issue/Idea</b>	<b>Article(s) Likely To Be Affected</b>	<b>Section(s) Likely To Be Affected</b>
1	Salary Commission; Delete provision re Council rejection of Commission findings	3	3-122
2	Property Assessments; Assessed property values to be capped		
3	Ethics Commission; Allow the Ethics Commission to fine violators of the ethics code	11	11-106, 11-107
4	Department of Community Services; Establish an Advisory Commission on community services and housing	6	
5	Elections; Eliminate the first special election when there are only two candidates for an office	13	13-116
6	Elections; Return to partisan elections for the Mayor and City Council	13	13-116
7	Sustainable Community Plans and Development Plans	6	6-1509
8	Public hearings for proposed ordinances and resolutions	3	3-202
9	Neighborhood Commission; Establish direct relationship between Commission and Executive Secretary (same/similar to #43)	14	14-105
10	Neighborhood Commission; Clarify the policy and policy role of the Neighborhood Commission	14	14-103
11	Powers and Purposes of the City; add "justice" and "equal rights" (same/similar to #40)	2	2-102
12	Neighborhood Boards; Recognize that each neighborhood has its own distinctive character	14	14-101

**2005-2006 Honolulu City Charter Commission  
Official Proposals**

<b>#</b>	<b>Issue/Idea</b>	<b>Article(s) Likely To Be Affected</b>	<b>Section(s) Likely To Be Affected</b>
13	Neighborhood Commission; Revise the Powers, Duties and Functions of the Neighborhood Commission	14	14-103
14	Neighborhood Commission; Give the Executive Secretary non-voting membership on the Commission	14	14-105
15	Neighborhood Commission; Specify the Powers, Duties and Functions of the Executive Secretary	14	
16	Neighborhood Boards and Corporation Counsel; Provide that Corporation Counsel serve as legal counsel to the Neighborhood Boards	14	
17	Neighborhood Commission and Executive Reorganization; Exclude the Neighborhood Commission from the 20-department limitation to the executive reorganization power	4	4-202
18	Ethics Commission - Give the Commission enforcement powers in the way of fines or other punishments	11	
19	Term limits; Eliminate term limits for the City Council	3	
20	Department of Planning and Permitting; Undo the combination of the previously separated department.	6	
21	Urban Growth Boundaries; Establish urban growth boundaries and agricultural protection zones on Oahu (same/similar to #47)	6	6-15__, 6-1503, 6-1506, 6-1509, 6-1514
22	Planning Commission; Restore the position of Executive Secretary	6	6-1505
23	Budget; Revise section re: "Preparation and Submission of the Program and Annual Budget for Executive Branch" to ensure adequate resources for CIP budget	9	9-102

**2005-2006 Honolulu City Charter Commission  
Official Proposals**

<b>#</b>	<b>Issue/Idea</b>	<b>Article(s) Likely To Be Affected</b>	<b>Section(s) Likely To Be Affected</b>
24	Neighborhood Commission; Clarify the Powers, Duties and Functions of the Neighborhood Commission	14	14-103
25	Neighborhood Commission; Clarify and establish the direct relationship of the Neighborhood Commission and Executive Secretary	14	14-105
26	Initiative; Remove the limitation on initiative power re the levy of taxes (same/similar to #65)	3	3-401
27	Liquor Commission and Civil Service; Exempt Liquor Control Administrator and Deputy Administrator from civil service	6	6-207, 6-1103
28	Ethics Commission; Allow the Ethics Commission to impose civil fines	11	11-106, 11-107
29	Ethics Commission; Clarify the independence of the Ethics Commission	11	11-107
30	Ethics, Charter Commission, Reapportionment Commission; Include the members of the Charter and Reapportionment Commissions as City Officers for purposes of the ethics laws.	3, 15	3-102, 15-105
31	Impeachment; Provisions re impeachment of elected officials are invalid; options to correct the charter	12	12-201 to 12-203
32	Planning Commission; Establish deadlines for Mayor and City Council to act on certain Planning Commission recommendations	6	6-1506, 6-1511, 6-1513
33	Department of Emergency Services; Revise the Powers, Duties and Functions of the Director and the Department	6	6-603

**2005-2006 Honolulu City Charter Commission  
Official Proposals**

<b>#</b>	<b>Issue/Idea</b>	<b>Article(s) Likely To Be Affected</b>	<b>Section(s) Likely To Be Affected</b>
34	Budget; Administration and enforcement of the executive capital budget ordinance -- lapse in 12 rather than 6 months	9	9-106
35	Department of Information Technology; Revise the Powers, Duties and Functions of the Director	6	6-1202
36	Fire Chief; Revise the Powers, Duties and Functions of the Fire Chief and the Fire Department	6	6-1004
37	Neighborhood Commission and Neighborhood Boards; Various proposals re Neighborhood Commission and Boards	14	
38	Planning; Various proposals re planning and zoning	6	
39	Charter Amendment Process; Require two-thirds rather than majority voter approval for amendments/revisions to charter	15	15-103
40	Powers and Purposes of the City; add "justice" and "equal rights" (same/similar to #11)	2	2-102
41	Standards of Conduct; Codify within the Charter existing state law and provide, uniform standards of conduct within all City entities (same/similar to #44)	11	
42	Neighborhood Commission; Clarify the policy and policy role of the Neighborhood Commission	14	14-103
43	Neighborhood Commission; Establish direct relationship between Commission and Executive Secretary (same/similar to #9)	14	14-105
44	Standards of Conduct; Codify within the Charter existing state law and provide uniform standards of conduct within all City entities (same/similar to #41)	11	

**2005-2006 Honolulu City Charter Commission  
Official Proposals**

<b>#</b>	<b>Issue/Idea</b>	<b>Article(s) Likely To Be Affected</b>	<b>Section(s) Likely To Be Affected</b>
45	Board of Water Supply; Amend qualifications of Board Members	7	7-104
46	Genetically Modified Organisms; Protect the County's agriculture, environment, economy and private property from genetically modified organisms.	13	
47	Urban Growth Boundaries; Establish urban growth boundaries and agricultural protection zones on Oahu (same/similar to # 21)	6	6-15__
48	Board of Water Supply and Wastewater; merge the City's Wastewater Management functions with the Board of Water Supply; change method of appointment of Board	4, 6	
49	Office of Council Services; To authorize the attorneys in the office of Council Services to serve as legal advisers to and legal representatives of the City Council along with the Department of Corporation Counsel	3, 5	3-107, 5-203
50	Public Hearing Notices; Reduce from ten to six the number of days a notice of public hearing must be publicized prior to such hearing	13	13-106
51	Department of Customer Services; Include the Director of Customer Services as a department head who must be nominated by the Mayor, with the advice and consent of the Council, and may be removed by the Mayor	4	4-104
52	Budget; Require that the Mayor sign a budget bill before exercising line-item veto authority	3	3-203
53	City Council; Allow the Council to designate which Councilmember will serve as Council chair and presiding officer pro tempore when both the chair and vice-chair are absent or disabled	3	3-107

**2005-2006 Honolulu City Charter Commission  
Official Proposals**

<b>#</b>	<b><i>Issue/Idea</i></b>	<b><i>Article(s) Likely To Be Affected</i></b>	<b><i>Section(s) Likely To Be Affected</i></b>
54	Ordinances; Clarify that amendments to existing codified ordinances may be made by the City Council by reference to the codified provisions, rather than by reference to the numbered ordinances that may be enacted	3	3-204
55	Term Limits; Eliminate term limits for Councilmembers	3, 16	3-102, 16-122
56	Fire Chief; Establish a 5-year term of office for the fire chief	6	6-1003
57	Transportation; Establish a new, temporary agency in the city to develop the new public transportation system to be funded by the tax surcharge	4, 6, 16	
58	Department of Budget and Fiscal Services; Divide the functions of the Department of Budget and Fiscal Services into a Department of Budget and a Department of Fiscal Services	4, 6, 16	
59	Department of Planning and Permitting; Divide the functions of the Department of Planning and Permitting into a Department of Planning and a Department of Permitting	4, 6, 16	
60	Department of Design and Construction; Eliminate the Department of Design and Construction and divide its functions and return them to the various subject area departments	4, 6, 16	
61	Councilmember terms; Change the beginning time of the terms of Councilmember	3	3-102, 3-107
62	Council Resolutions; Modify the requirement that resolutions be read in full except by unanimous consent	3	3-202

**2005-2006 Honolulu City Charter Commission  
Official Proposals**

<b>#</b>	<b>Issue/Idea</b>	<b>Article(s) Likely To Be Affected</b>	<b>Section(s) Likely To Be Affected</b>
63	Department of Transportation Services; Revise the Powers, Duties and Functions of the Director; promote a pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly city	6	6-17___, 6-1703
64	Prosecuting Attorney; Establish a two-term limit for the office of Prosecuting Attorney	8	8-102
65	Initiative; Remove the limitation on initiative power re the levy of taxes (same/similar to #26)	3	3-401
66	Transportation; Create a transit authority or board to build a rail system		
67	Permit and Licenses; Ensure the protection of natural and cultural resources and public health in the event of automatic approval of permits/licenses	13	
68	Boards and Commissions: Revise provisions re Conflict of Interest for members of boards and commissions	11, 13	11-102, 13-103
69	Planning and Zoning; Require 2/3rd vote from Planning Commission and City Council before agricultural land can be converted to urban uses	6	6-1511, 6-1514
70	Board of Water Supply; Remove State Transportation Director from automatic membership	7	7-104
71	Department of Environmental Services Require the director to develop and administer a curbside recycling program.	6	6-803
72	Zoning; Shift the burden of demonstrating water availability to those seeking to rezone land for large projects.	6	6-1514
73	Department Budget and Fiscal Services; Require the director to prepare an annual report of long-term obligations of the City	6, 9	6-203, 9-102

**2005-2006 Honolulu City Charter Commission  
Official Proposals**

<b>#</b>	<b>Issue/Idea</b>	<b>Article(s) Likely To Be Affected</b>	<b>Section(s) Likely To Be Affected</b>
74	Housekeeping - Include reference to the Department of Customer Services in "Appointment, Confirmation and Removal of Officers and Employees"	4	4-104
75	Housekeeping - Include the prohibition against Ethics Commissioners taking an active part in political management or political campaigns set forth in the Hawaii Constitution Article XIV	11	11-107
76	Housekeeping - Delete prohibition of political activities by police department employees (same/similar to #84)	6	6-1608
77	Housekeeping - Delete the reference to Royal Hawaiian Band in "Appointment, Confirmation and Removal of Officers and Employees"	4	4-104
78	Housekeeping - Delete the reference to Civil Defense Agency in "Appointment, Confirmation and Removal of Officers and Employees"	4	4-104
79	Charter Annotation; Technical, non-substantive amendments to provide improved annotation		
80	Neighborhood Commission; Various amendments re Neighborhood Commission and Neighborhood Boards	9, 14	
81	Neighborhood Commission and Civil Service; Place the Neighborhood Commission employee positions, other than the Executive Secretary, within the civil service system	6	6-1103
82	Budget; Change the fiscal year of the city from the period of July 1 to June 30 to the period of October 1 to September 30	9	9-101
83	Prosecuting Attorney; Clarify the term duration of the Prosecuting Attorney	8	8-102

**2005-2006 Honolulu City Charter Commission  
Official Proposals**

<b>#</b>	<b>Issue/Idea</b>	<b>Article(s) Likely To Be Affected</b>	<b>Section(s) Likely To Be Affected</b>
84	Police Department; Repeal prohibition on political activities by members of the Police Department (same/similar to #76)	6	6-1608
85	Elections; Restore partisan elections for the offices of Mayor and Councilmembers	3, 5	3-102, 5-101
86	City Council; Increase the number of members on the City Council from 9 to 11 or 13.	3	3-102
87	Elections; Instant runoff voting for city elections	13	13-116
88	Ethics Commission; Change Ethics Commission member selection process and allow Commission to set executive director salary	11	11-107
89	Neighborhood Commission; Clarify the policy and administrative role of the Neighborhood Commission, require annual report on the performance of the Executive Secretary, and authorize the Commission to terminate upon 2/3rd vote	14	14-103
90	Prosecuting Attorney; Convert the Prosecuting Attorney position from an elected position to a position appointed by the Mayor	4, 8, 12, 13, 16	
91	Property Taxes and New Fund; Set aside one-half percent (1/2%) of Real Property Tax revenues for land and natural resources protection and one-half percent (1/2%) of Real Property Tax revenues for affordable housing	9	9-2__
92	Department of Strategic Initiatives; Establish a new Department of Strategic Initiatives		
93	Youth Commission; Establish a new Youth Commission		

**2005-2006 Honolulu City Charter Commission  
Official Proposals**

<b>#</b>	<b><i>Issue/Idea</i></b>	<b><i>Article(s) Likely To Be Affected</i></b>	<b><i>Section(s) Likely To Be Affected</i></b>
94	Zoning; Require that developments of 100 units or greater install solar water heaters as a condition of rezoning	6	6-1514
95	Information Technology; Amend various sections to clarify city website responsibilities, ensure updates to City websites, post public notices online	3, 4, 6, 13	6-1202, 3-301, 4-105, 13-106
96	Environmental Bill of Rights; Add new article with an "environmental bill of rights" for current and future residents		
97	Commission for the Environment; Add new article to establish a new Commission on the Environment		
98	City Buildings and Department of Design and Construction; require Council to adopt green building standards for city buildings, revise DDC duties to comply with green building standards	6	6-5___
99	Development Plans and Zoning; Require that when an acre of land is converted from agricultural or preservation designations, an acre of land will be converted to those designations, ensuring no net loss of agriculture or preservation lands	6	6-1511, 6-1514

**2005-06 Honolulu City Charter Commission  
Conceptual Proposals**

#	Issue/Idea
Concept 070605	Reinstate Municipal Records and Reference Center as Department
Concept 070705	Unions, Taxes, Etc.
Concept 071105	Referenda, Voting, Excise Tax, Buses, Neighborhood Boards, Etc.
Concept 071405	Referenda on Fiscal Matters
Concept 071805	Fire Department and EMS
Concept 081005	Reinstate Department of Public Works
Concept 082105	Quasi-Public Entities
Concept 082705	Faith-Based Organizations, Community Projects, Etc.
Concept 082905	Bus Stops, Affordable Housing, Etc.
Concept 091505	Free Bus Passes, Brunch on the Beach
Concept 091805	Royal Hawaiian Band
Concept 092005	School Volunteers
Concept 100405	Charter Process, Enforcing Laws
Concept 101205	Non-Bid Contracts, Bulk Pick-Up
Concept 102805	Ethics, Initiative, Property Tax, City Council

<b>Proposals received after 10/31/05 -- for possible supermajority action</b>	
<b>#</b>	<b>Topic</b>
S-1	Merge EMS and Fire
S-2	Privatization
S-3	Biennial budgets
S-4	Merge Corp Counsel with Prosecuting Atty
<i>S-5 withdrawn</i>	<i>Eliminate requirement of SS numbers</i>
S-6	Eliminate requirement of SS numbers
S-7	Department of Environmental Services and Department of Facility Maintenance; Merge DES and DFM to create Department of Public Works
S-8	Permits and Licenses; Protections for natural resources, public health, and native Hawaiian practices
S-9	Department of Transportation Services - Revise Powers, Duties and Functions; Promote pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly city
S-10	Public notices; Distribution of public notices via a widely accessible electronic medium.

**APPENDIX**  
**Scripts for Radio and TV Advertisements**

Client: Honolulu City Charter  
Commission  
Spot ID: "Your City, Our Future"  
Length: :30 TV and Radio  
Writer: Client/Hagiwara/TB  
Airs: 10/23/06

### VIDEO

(Note: Entire spot in letterbox format)

Full-screen pan of print ad featuring  
2006 Charter Amendments

-----  
Chyron: City Elections

-----  
Chyron: City Budget

-----  
Chyron: The Environment

-----  
Feature Brochure

Dissolve into lower black bar of letterbox  
**and freeze thru end of spot:**  
592-8622  
[www.honolulu.gov/chc](http://www.honolulu.gov/chc)

Dissolve from Brochure cover...  
Chyron: *Vote November 7<sup>th</sup>!*

Dissolve to...  
Chyron: *It's Your City...  
And Our Future.*

Disclaimer: Paid for by the City and  
County of Honolulu Charter Commission.

### AUDIO

Male v/o (Music under):

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, the people of Honolulu  
will vote on 12 ballot questions proposing  
changes to the City Charter.

Your vote could impact City Elections...

the City Budget...

and—the environment.

For information about the amendments,  
read the brochure that was mailed to Oahu  
households...

call 592-8622...

or visit [honolulu.gov/chc](http://honolulu.gov/chc).

Vote November 7<sup>th</sup> on the City and County  
of Honolulu Charter Amendments.

It's your city...  
And our future.

Client: Honolulu City Charter Commission  
Spot ID: "Your City, Our Future/ The Conversation"  
Length: :30 Radio  
Writer: Client/Hagiwara/TB  
Airs: 10/23/06

Talent A: Eh, November 7<sup>th</sup> is coming up. You voting on the Honolulu Charter Amendments?

Talent B: You mean those questions at the end of the ballot? Who cares?

Talent A: Hey, the City Charter affects lots of things like City elections, the City Budget, and our environment!

Talent B: So what...how am I supposed to understand all of that?

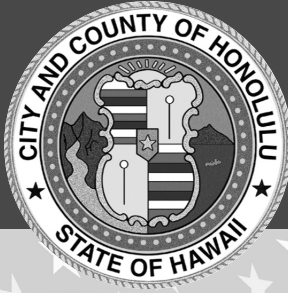
Talent A: Read the brochure you got in the mail. Or call 592-8622. C'mon, your vote can make a difference!

(:21)

Announcer: Vote November 7<sup>th</sup> on the City Charter Amendments.  
It's your city... and our future.  
This message paid for by the City and County of Honolulu  
Charter Commission.

(:08.5) (:29.5)

**APPENDIX**  
**Newspaper Advertisement**



# 2006 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Please vote on November 7, 2006!

## Your VOTE can make a difference!

The future of our City will be determined by YOUR vote on these proposed amendments to the Honolulu City Charter.

Copies of the full text of the amendments are available at the City Clerk's office and the Charter Commission office. For more information, please call 592-8622, e-mail [charter@honolulu.gov](mailto:charter@honolulu.gov), or visit <http://www.honolulu.gov/chc>.



**1. Should City Council term limits be replaced by Alternative A or B below; and, separately, to address concerns relating to election of City Council members caused by reapportionment every ten years, should staggered terms be replaced by Alternative A or B below?**

*Present:* The City Council consists of nine members who are elected to four-year terms. Councilmembers and the Mayor are currently limited to two consecutive four-year terms. Councilmembers' terms are also staggered, so that five of the seats are elected in one election, and the other four seats are elected in the next election two years later.

*If proposal passes:*

- The current system of term limits and staggered terms for the Council would be changed.
- The new system for the Council would be determined by the result of the vote on the next question.
- The term limit for the Mayor would not be changed.

**2. If Charter Question 1 is approved, which proposal relating to Councilmember terms should be adopted?**

**ALTERNATIVE A. Term limits for Councilmembers and the staggering of Councilmembers' terms shall be eliminated. ALTERNATIVE B. Councilmembers shall be limited to serving a maximum of three consecutive four-year terms, and the staggering of Councilmember terms shall be eliminated.**

*Note:* Whether you voted "yes" or "no" on the previous question, you may still cast a vote on this question. If the previous question passes, then the new system will be determined by the result of the vote on this question. If the previous question does NOT pass, then the result of the vote on this question will not take effect.

*Present:* City Council members and the Mayor are currently limited to two consecutive four-year terms. Councilmembers' terms are staggered, so that five of the seats are elected in one election, and the other four seats are elected in the next election two years later.

*If ALTERNATIVE A is selected:*

- Staggering of Councilmember terms would be eliminated, so that all seats would be up for election in the same year.
- Council term limits would be eliminated; Councilmembers may be re-elected without limit on number of terms served.
- The term limit for the Mayor would not be changed.

*If ALTERNATIVE B is selected:*

- Staggering of Councilmember terms would be eliminated, so that all seats would be up for election in the same year.
- Council term limits would be extended, so that Councilmembers may serve up to three consecutive four-year terms.
- Councilmember terms already served would not count toward the limit, so current incumbents would be eligible for an additional three consecutive four-year terms.
- The term limit for the Mayor would not be changed.

**3. Should one percent of annual property tax revenues be appropriated to funds for land conservation and affordable housing?**

*Present:* There are no specially dedicated funds for acquisition of public lands for land conservation or for providing and maintaining affordable housing.

*If proposal passes:*

- A minimum of one percent of real property tax revenues would be placed in two special funds; one fund would be known as the "Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund" and the other would be known as the "Affordable Housing Fund."
- Moneys in the "Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund" would be used to purchase or acquire real estate for land conservation.
- Moneys in the "Affordable Housing Fund" would be used to provide and maintain affordable housing for persons earning less than fifty percent of the median household income in the city.
- Moneys in the funds would not lapse, but shall remain in the funds, accumulating from year to year.

**4. Should the powers, duties, and functions of the Director of Environmental Services include comprehensive curbside recycling?**

*Present:* The powers, duties, and functions of the Director of Environmental Services include the development and administration of solid waste collection, processing, and disposal systems, but do not specifically include curbside recycling.

*If proposal passes:*

- The powers, duties, and functions of the Director of Environmental Services would also include developing and administering a comprehensive curbside recycling system.

**5. Should the Ethics Commission have the authority to impose civil fines on elected officers for ethics violations?**

*Present:* The Ethics Commission can make recommendations for disciplinary action against elected officers, but cannot impose fines or other discipline.

*If proposal passes:*

- Ethics Commission would have the power to impose civil monetary fines against elected officers of the City.
- The amount of the fines would be established by ordinance.

**6. Should races with only two candidates be held in the General Election instead of the Primary Election?**

*Present:* All City elections, even those involving two candidates only, are held during the first special election (on Primary Election day).

*If proposal passes:*

- In any City election in which there are only two candidates for a position, the election would be held at the second special election (on General Election day), rather than at the first special election (on Primary Election day).

**7. Should the City Council's power to reject Salary Commission recommendations be eliminated?**

*Present:* The City Council has the power to reject the Salary Commission's recommendations as to the salaries of elected officials and certain high-ranking City employees.

*If proposal passes:*

- The Salary Commission's decisions on salaries and salary schedules would be final.
- The City Council would not be able to reject the Salary Commission's decisions.

**8. Should one of the priorities of the Department of Transportation Services be to make Honolulu a pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly city, and should the powers, duties, and functions of the Director of Transportation Services include bikeway systems?**

*Present:* The Director of Transportation Services is responsible for transportation systems, public transit, traffic control facilities and devices, traffic safety programs, and other duties.

*If proposal passes:*

- The powers, duties, and functions of the Director of Transportation Services would also include bikeway systems.
- The Charter would state that it shall be one of the priorities of the Department of Transportation Services to make Honolulu a pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly city.

**9. Should the Liquor Administrator, Deputy Administrator, and secretary be exempt from civil service provisions?**

*Present:* The positions of Liquor Administrator and Deputy Liquor Administrator are civil service positions.

*If proposal passes:*

- The Liquor Administrator, Deputy Liquor Administrator and a new secretary position would be exempt from civil service provisions.
- The Liquor Commission would have the power to appoint and remove the Liquor Administrator.
- The Liquor Administrator would have the power to appoint and remove the Deputy Liquor Administrator and a secretary in a new exempt position.

**10. Should the Charter be amended to state the additional services currently being provided by the Director of Emergency Services and by the Fire Chief?**

*Present:* The powers, duties, and functions of the Director of Emergency Services and the Fire Chief are set forth in the Charter, but do not specify certain powers, duties, and functions relating to emergency medical services, ocean safety, hazardous materials, and injury prevention that are already being performed by the departments.

*If proposal passes:*

- The powers, duties, and functions of the Director of Emergency Services would specify that the Director shall be the primary provider of emergency medical care, and that the Director would develop programs related to injury prevention, provide for ocean safety programs, and be the primary responder to emergencies arising on the beach and near shore waters.
- The powers, duties, and functions of the Fire Chief would specify that the Fire Chief shall also provide emergency medical care and specify that the Fire Chief shall respond to hazardous material incidents.

**11. Should capital budget appropriations lapse 12 months after the fiscal year, instead of the current 6 months?**

*Present:* The capital budget includes appropriations for constructing public improvements, acquiring land, and carrying out planning and engineering studies. Appropriations authorized in the capital budget may be spent during that fiscal year and for 6 months thereafter.

*If proposal passes:*

- The time would be extended, so that money appropriated in the capital budget may be spent during the fiscal year and for 12 months thereafter.

**12. Should the Charter be amended to also provide public notice by electronic medium and for housekeeping amendments (i) to conform to current functions and operation, (ii) to conform to legal requirements, (iii) to correct an inadvertent omission, and (iv) for clarity?**

- (a) **Revise the powers, duties, and functions of the Director of Information Technology;**
- (b) **Include the Director of Customer Services in the list of department heads to be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council and may be removed by the Mayor;**
- (c) **Include the reference to the Hawaii Constitution prohibition on Ethics Commission members from taking active part in political campaigns;**
- (d) **Delete the unconstitutional prohibition on political campaigning by Police Department employees;**
- (e) **Delete the Civil Defense Administrator from the list of department heads to be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council and who may be removed by the Mayor;**
- (f) **Delete the requirement of Social Security numbers on petitions for recall, ordinances by initiative, and charter amendments;**
- (g) **Require public notices to also be distributed via electronic medium.**

This ballot question combines seven items. One item is to also provide public notice by electronic medium and the remaining items are housekeeping amendments to conform to current functions and operations, to conform to legal requirements, to correct an inadvertent omission and for clarity. If the proposal passes:

- (a) Language regarding the Department of Information Technology would be modernized to use terms such as "information technology" and "telecommunications" instead of "data processing."
- (b) To correct an inadvertent omission, the Director of Customer Services will be included in the list of department heads to be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council and may be removed by the Mayor.
- (c) For clarification, the Charter would include a reference to the Hawaii State Constitution prohibition on Ethics Commission members from taking an active part in political campaigns.
- (d) To conform to a court decision, the unconstitutional prohibition on political campaigning by Police Department employees would be deleted from the Charter.
- (e) To conform to legal requirements, the Civil Defense Administrator would be deleted from the list of department heads who are appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council and may be removed by the Mayor.
- (f) To conform to federal law, the requirement of Social Security numbers on petitions for recall, ordinances by initiative, and charter amendments would be deleted.
- (g) In addition to the requirement that public notice be published in a newspaper of general circulation, public notices would be required to be distributed via an electronic medium.

### 2005-2006 Charter Commission

Donn M. Takaki, <i>Chair</i>	Darolyn H. Lendio
Jeffrey T. Mikulina, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Stephen E. Meder, <i>Arch.D.</i>
James C. Pacopac, <i>Secretary</i>	Jan N. Sullivan
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Gerald L. Coffee	Loretta Ho, <i>Secretary</i>
E. Gordon Grau, <i>Ph.D.</i>	Nikki Love, <i>Researcher</i>
Amy H. Hirano	
Jared N. Kawashima	

**APPENDIX**  
**Brochure**



**APPENDIX**  
**Website Example and Record of Hits**



**APPENDIX**  
**Budget Spreadsheet**

