

## Revision History

The County Charter provides three means for proposing charter amendments: ordinance; petition; and by mandatory commission review every ten years. Since 1969, fifty-eight proposals to amend the Charter have been put before the voters, who have approved fifty-two amendments.

The commission review process has produced forty-seven proposals which resulted in forty-one changes approved by the voters. The first mandatory charter review was conducted in 1979 and it was culminated by a special election held on November 3, 1979, at which ten of the thirteen proposed amendments were approved. The second mandatory charter review was conducted in 1990. At the General Election on November 6, 1990, fifteen of the eighteen proposed amendments were approved by the voters. On November 7, 2000, the voters approved all sixteen of the amendments proposed by the 2000 Charter Commission.

It should be noted that the two other means for proposing charter amendments have been employed with mixed success. The County Council has passed fifteen ordinances and submitted them to electorate, ten of which were approved. In one instance, a provision was deleted pursuant to an amendment proposed via a citizens' petition.

January 2, 1969	County Charter became effective
November 5, 1974	Ord. 56, establishing Salary Commission, approved Ord. 57, relating to budget submission dates, approved Ord. 58, protecting news gather's sources, approved Ord. 59, relating to elected officials vacancies, approved
November 2, 1976	Ord. 182, lowering age requirement for office, rejected <sup>1</sup>
November 3, 1979	Charter Commission proposed thirteen changes: Prop. 1, relating to Council composition and terms, rejected Prop. 2, relating to Council attorney, rejected Prop. 3, initiation of General Plan amendments, approved Prop. 4, requiring mandatory program review, approved Prop. 5, redefining authority of planning director, approved Prop. 6, relating to Department of Water Supply, rejected Prop. 7, creating of Board of Appeals, approved Prop. 8, providing for centralized purchasing, approved Prop. 9, providing for recall of elected officials, approved Prop. 10, providing definition of "vacancy" in office, approved Prop. 11, removing restrictions on occupation for board membership, approved Prop. 12, providing for Council confirmation of appointees, approved Prop. 13, "minor and miscellaneous" amendments
November 2, 1982	Haw. County Taxpayers Association proposed by petition deletion of section 11-2, "Limitations to Powers," relating to initiative and referendum, approved
November 6, 1984	County Council ordinance proposing single member council districts and the creation of a reapportionment commission to redistrict every eight years, rejected
November 6, 1990	Charter Commission proposed eighteen changes: Prop. 1, providing single member council districts; reduced terms, approved Prop. 2, providing changes to initiative and referendum, rejected Prop. 3, expanding powers of Police Commission and other changes, approved Prop. 4, changing budget process, approved Prop. 5, Council confirmation of Salary Commission, expanding power, approved Prop. 6, setting minimum qualifications for appointed positions, approved Prop. 7, providing procedures to fill vacancies, approved Prop. 8, relating to holdover board and commission members, approved Prop. 9, imposing time limit for confirmation of appointees, approved Prop. 10, requiring publication of notices in two daily newspapers, approved Prop. 11, funding for Dep. Managing Dir. and Dep. Finance Dir., rejected

-continued-

November 6, 1990 (continued)	Prop. 12, relating to voting requirement for signers of recall petitions, approved Prop. 13, clarifying quorum requirements for boards, approved Prop. 14, providing for gender neutral language Prop. 15, preparation of ballot format by Charter Commission, approved Prop. 16, providing consistency with State law, approved Prop. 17, deletion of certain powers of Plan. Comm., approved
November 3, 1992	Prop. A, relating to contracts for services by County Council, rejected County Council ordinance proposing longer Council terms, not co-terminous with mayor, and term limit, rejected
November 8, 1994	County Council ordinances proposing: Prop. 1, increasing Police Comm. membership, district representation, approved Prop. 2, changing centralized purchasing provisions, approved Prop. 3, changing from annual to biennium budget, rejected
November 5, 1996	County Council ordinances proposing: <b>Prop. 1, providing Council term with term limit, approved</b> <b>Prop. 2, changing “resign to run” provision, approved</b>
November 3, 1998	County Council ordinances proposing : Prop. 2, establishing Data Systems Department, approved Prop. 3, providing longer Council terms, rejected Prop. 4, providing changes relating to Plan. Comm. and Plan. Dir., approved
November 7, 2000 <sup>2</sup>	Charter Commission proposed sixteen changes: Prop. 1, establishing nonpartisan elections, approved Prop. 2, expanding duties of Managing Dir., departmental reorganization, approved Prop. 3, establishing Fire Commission, approved Prop. 4, establishing Dept. of Environmental Management, approved Prop. 5, relating to holdover board and commission members, approved Prop. 6, eliminating Safety Coordinator, approved Prop. 7, providing stronger qualifications for department heads, approved Prop. 8, statement of policy, other changes for Police Comm., approved Prop. 9, renaming Water Comm. and expanding membership, approved Prop. 10, expanding authority of Salary Commission, approved Prop. 11, establishing Cost of Government Commission, approved Prop. 12, eliminating Hawaii Redevelopment Agency, approved Prop. 13, requiring quarterly Council meetings in Kona, approved Prop. 14, expanding Liquor Commission membership, approved Prop. 15, adding statement of purpose to code of ethics, approved Prop. 16, residency of board members after redistricting, approved

<sup>1</sup> When it was approved in 1969, the Charter required that a person must have been a voter in the County for at least two years in order to win elected office. At that time, voting age in Hawaii was 20. In 1980, the residency requirement was reduced to one year.

<sup>2</sup> The sixteen 2000 Charter amendments took effect on three dates:

November 7, 2000  
Charter Amendments 1, 5, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16

December 4, 2000  
Charter Amendments 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 14

January 1, 2001  
Charter Amendments 12, 13