STATE OF HAWAII
ELECTIONS COMMISSION

WILLIAM B. MARSTON
ELECTIONS COMMISSION CHAIR

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ELECTIONS COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 16, 2015 @ 10:00 AM
STATE OFFICE TOWER
235 SO. BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 203
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Commissioners in Attendance:

Mr. William Marston, Chair
Ms. Patricia Berg
Mr. Kenneth Hiraki
Mr. Charles King
Ms. Carol Kitaoka
Ms. Terry Lynn Moore
Mr. Warren Orikasa
Mr. Victor Vierra
Mr. Danny Young

Technical Support Staff in Attendance:

Ms. Valri Kunimoto, Department of the Attorney General
Mr. Scott Nago, Chief Election Officer
Ms. Ruthie Ah Hee, Office of Elections
Ms. Judy Gold, Office of Elections
Ms. Jaime Kataoka, Office of Elections
Ms. Shirley Magarifuji, County of Maui
Mr. Danny Mateo, County of Maui
Mr. Josiah Nishita, County of Maui
Mr. Rex Quidilla, Office of Elections
Mr. David Rosenbrock, Office of Elections
Mr. Rhowell Ruiz, Office of Elections
Mr. Aaron Schulaner, Office of Elections
Ms. 'Auli'i Tenn, Office of Elections
Ms. Jamee-Lee Toro-Lopes, Office of Elections
Ms. Kristen Uyeda, Office of Elections
Mr. Lyndon Yoshioka, County of Kauai

Guests in Attendance:

Ms. Janet Mason, League of Women Voters
Mr. Kendrick Settsu
Sen. Sam Slom
Mr. Timothy Sutton, Senate Minority

PROCEEDINGS

I. Call to Order

Chair Marston called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on September 16, 2015 at the State Office Tower, Room 203.

II. Swearing in of new Commissioner Kenneth T. Hiraki

III. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Judy Gold (Office of Elections) conducted roll call. All Commissioners were in attendance.

IV. Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of July 9, 2015

Commissioner King provided a correction to the minutes, under Agenda Item No. V, Page 5 in that he was referring to banner "ads" rather than banner "apps."

Commissioner Berg moved that the minutes be approved; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Vierra and approved unanimously by the Commissioners.

V. Public Testimony – Any interested person may submit comments or testimony on any agenda item

No public testimony was given.

VI. Status of Operations Report from the Chief Election Officer, discussion and action, if appropriate

Chief Election Officer (CEO) Nago reported that the Office of Elections (OE) has launched the online voter registration on August 3, 2015. The total number of transactions in approximately 43 days is 1008, which is about a 9% increase

from the week before. The transaction totals are broken down by county in the Status of Operations Report. OE prepared a media release when the website was launched, and will increase media campaign when the election draws nearer.

Commissioner King asked if CEO Nago plans to start running the ads when the filing deadline approaches. CEO Nago replied that the phase of the election cycle will determine the type of ads that OE will run (e.g., registration ads will run near the filing and registration deadlines, single party ads will run near the primary election, etc.).

In preparation for the 2016 elections, CEO Nago stated that OE is going through their normal evaluation process, and will be meeting with the counties over the next two months to discuss changes and improvements to the procedures.

CEO Nago said that OE continues to provide voter outreach services at community events to assist the disabled, senior citizens, students, and new citizens. OE has recently offered registration and voter education services at "Welcome Back" orientations for college students.

Commissioner Orikasa commented that he had heard a report on the radio regarding a couple of stations in the Midwest that were denied additional funding by the Legislature to upgrade their voting equipment. He asked CEO Nago if Hawaii's voting equipment is up to speed on technology. CEO Nago replied that the election equipment is certified and meets the necessary requirements, but realistically machines are only reliable to a certain extent. Thus, the machine count is backed up by OE's election auditing process. Commissioner Berg mentioned that the story regarding the unreliability of voting equipment was in reference to older machines (i.e., 10+ years), whereas Hawaii's equipment is not that old. CEO Nago confirmed that Hawaii's voting machines are about five or six years old and that OE maintains its equipment with regular upkeep.

Commissioner Berg stated that she was impressed with the online voter registration page which was easy to use on a mobile device. She wanted to confirm that Hawaii will not be conducting all vote-by-mail for the next election. CEO Nago verified that the law was not changed to allow for all vote-by-mail.

Commissioner King asked CEO Nago if he thinks it would be appropriate to encourage candidates to include the OE website address at the bottom of their ads to increase visibility. CEO Nago replied that he would need to check if that would be ethical or not.

Commissioner King inquired whether CEO Nago has done the Senate briefing. CEO Nago answered that the Senate briefing has not been scheduled yet, and that he will inform the Elections Commission (EC) when it is scheduled.

Commissioner Orikasa asked CEO Nago about his staffing changes, to which CEO Nago replied that OE has selected Ms. Jaime Kataoka to fill the OE Secretary position.

VII. Open Forum: Public comments on issues for the Commission's consideration for the next Commission meeting and action, if appropriate. Presentations limited to three minutes.

No public comments were made.

With no further comments, Chair Marston asked for a motion to go into executive session to interview the applicant for the EC Chair position.

The motion was made by Commissioner Vierra, seconded by Commissioner Berg, and approved unanimously by the Commissioners.

The Commission dissolved into Executive Session at 10:11 a.m.

VIII. Executive Session

Pursuant to Section 92-5(a)(2), HRS, the Commission will interview the applicant for the anticipated Elections Commission Chair vacancy, and take action, if appropriate.

The Commission resolved into open meeting at 12:13 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

Chair Marston reported that the applicant did not receive the necessary two-thirds vote of Commissioners and the EC will continue its search for a Commission Chair. A vacancy announcement will be posted on the OE website and shared by word of mouth via the Commissioners. Applications of potential candidates must be received by October 23, 2015 in order to be considered and interviewed by the next meeting on Wednesday, November 4, 2015, at the State Office Tower.

With no further business before the Commission, Chair Marston asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner King, and approved unanimously by the Commissioners.

Elections Commission meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime N. Kataoka
Elections Commission Secretary