

**MINUTES
OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

SEPTEMBER 26, 2007

10:00 a.m.

**STATE CAPITOL , ROOM 309
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96813**

Commissioners in Attendance:

Mr. John Chan
Mr. Harold Masumoto
Mr. Harold Nelson
Ms. Zale Okazaki
Ms. Susan Russell, Acting Chair
Ms. Donna Soares
Mr. Richard Swift

Technical Support Staff in Attendance:

Ms. Robyn Chun, Department of the Attorney General
Ms. Ciress Cuevo, Office of Elections
Mr. Scott Nago, Office of Elections
Mr. Rex Quidilla, Office of Elections
Ms. Carolyn Roldan, Office of Elections

Guests in Attendance:

Ms. Jean Aoki, League of Women Voters
Mr. Richard Borreca, Honolulu Star Bulletin
Mr. Bart Dame, Democratic Party
Ms. Kim Fassler, House of Representatives
Mr. William Georgi, Chair Applicant
Mr. Jeff Kuwada, Office of the Maui County Clerk
Mr. William Marston, Chair Applicant
Ms. JoAnn Maruoka, League of Women Voters
Ms. Pat Nakamoto, Office of the Hawaii County Clerk
Mr. Walter Nakasato, Election Systems and Software
Mr. Chris Pablo, Goodsill et al
Ms. Cori Saiki, Office of the Hawaii County Clerk
Mr. Ralph Takazawa, Election Systems and Software
Ms. Eliza Talbot, Hawaii Republican Party

PROCEEDINGS

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by acting chair, Ms. Susan Russell at 10:20 a.m. on September 26, 2007 at the State Capitol in room 309.

II. Roll and Quorum Determined

Ms. Ciress Cuevo, Elections Commission Secretary, conducted roll call. Ms. Yuki Lei Sugimura was absent.

III. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of August 9, 2007

Ms. Soares moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 9, 2007. Mr. John Chan seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Public Testimony – Any interested person may submit data, views or arguments on any agenda item at this time

Ms. Jean Aoki, League of Women Voters, provided oral testimony expressing her concerns regarding agenda item VI as an executive session. Ms. Aoki advocated for a transparent process to appoint the Chief Election Officer (CEO). Ms. Aoki emphasized that the decision in selecting the CEO must be made for the best interest of the State.

Chair Russell noted that the Commission formed a committee to lead the selection process. The entire Commission has not been involved thus far. Chair Russell also announced that interviews would be conducted today at 1:15 p.m. Ms. Zale Okazaki added that the committee chose five individuals to interview.

In response to Ms. Aoki's questions whether there were other applicants and how many applied in total, Ms. Okazaki stated that there were 12 individuals that applied and that the committee chose to interview the applicants that met the requirements.

Ms. Aoki inquired whether the names of the applicants will be released. Ms. Donna Soares said no. Chair Russell clarified that the Commission is following strict procedures.

Ms. Aoki asked the Commission to reconsider providing the names of the applicants for the public's best interest.

In response to Ms. Aoki's inquiry whether the final selection would be made today, Chair Russell said no.

Mr. Bart Dame, Democratic Party and Safe Vote Hawaii, provided oral testimony regarding agenda item VII. Mr. Dame expressed his concerns about the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the election system. Mr. Dame recommended that the RFP be open to the public prior to its release and emphasized the need for the process to be transparent. Mr. Dame also suggested that the Office of Elections utilize other resources for input such as bipartisan organizations.

V. Executive Session pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes § (92-5(a)(2) – Interview of chairperson applicants and deliberation and appointment of chairperson

The Commission interviewed Mr. William Marston. Mr. William Georgi was not present at this item.

Ms. Okazaki moved to amend the agenda to discuss item VII. Ms. Soares seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

VII. Update on Acquisition of Voting System

Mr. Rex Quidilla, Interim Chief Election Officer, provided the Commission with an update on the status of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the voting system. Mr. Quidilla stated that the RFP has been released and is available on the State Procurement Office's website. He also noted that proposals are due on October 11, 2007.

In response to Chair Russell's inquiry regarding what the time frame is for the lease of the voting system, Mr. Scott Nago, Office of Elections, stated 10 years. Mr. Nago also clarified that the difference between this RFP and the 2006 RFP is that in 2006, the RFP specifically addressed the disability access unit requirement pursuant to the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The current contract seeks to acquire a full voting system.

In response to Chair Russell's question regarding when the office's deadline is, Mr. Quidilla stated the notice to proceed must be given on November 1, 2007. Mr. Quidilla noted that the Office of Elections is on schedule with the RFP time frame that was provided to the Commission.

Mr. John Chan and Mr. Harold Masumoto inquired whether the criteria for the evaluation committee have been established, Mr. Nago said yes. It is included in the RFP.

Regarding Mr. Richard Swift's question whether the Office of Elections has received a lot of proposals, Mr. Nago stated that not all have been received

because the deadline has not passed. Mr. Nago noted that the Office of Elections has received inquiries from election equipment vendors.

In response to Mr. Harold Masumoto's question whether the Office of Elections conducted a pre-proposal meeting and as a result made changes to the RFP, Mr. Nago said yes.

Mr. Chan inquired whether proposals are open together. Mr. Nago replied that all proposals are open after 2:00 p.m. on the day of the deadline.

Ms. Okazaki moved to amend the agenda to discuss item VI. Mr. Nelson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

VI. Executive Session pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes § 92-5(a)(2) – Sub committee to provide report on the recruitment of the Chief Election Officer

The Commission resolved to executive session at 11:00 a.m. and reconvened in open meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Chair Russell stated that four applicants will be interviewed by the committee today. The names of the applicants chosen to move forward to be interviewed by the entire Commission will be published on the next agenda, providing that there are no objections by the applicants.

Upon Mr. William Georgi's arrival, the Commission reconvened its discussion of item V.

V. Executive Session pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes § 92-5(a)(2) – Interview of chairperson applicants and deliberation and appointment of chairperson

The Commission interviewed Mr. William Georgi.

In response to the Commission's question whether both applicants would have any objections with having their names published on the next agenda, Mr. Georgi and Mr. Marston said no.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Russell adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m. The next meeting of the Elections Commission is scheduled for November 8, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
Ciress Cuevo
Elections Commission Secretary