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Fellow citizens, please read below the mayor's remarks taken from his recent Viewpoint in the Maui News, then return here for response.

Many people on Maui are simply unhappy with the quality and performance of our local government. Hundreds of reasons exist for this.

- Some have been upset with appointment of people to head departments who lack the background, experience and knowledge to be effective in their roles. We pay for that.
- Some object to apparent cronyism in the way the county goes about things where those with connections do better than those without. We lose confidence because of that.
- Then there are those who believe, correctly, that the county does not process permits timely, does not update our community plans as required by law, does not track conditions imposed on numerous developments thus allowing developers to do things without accountability or enforcement. We pay twice for this, once through the internal cost of inefficiency then again as a community because everything takes longer and costs more money.
- Some don't like the fact that our wastewater treatment plants are spoiling our nearshore waters and reefs as the county pursues expensive (losing) litigation where time and energy could be better spent addressing the root cause of the problem. We all pay for this.
- Some are displeased with the ever-expanding urban sprawl of our communities, forcing us to be auto-centric and denying us real community centers. Take a look at what is happening to Kahului right now with classic urban big box stores sprawling into fields zoned for light industrial uses and killing any prospects of a walkable, livable community in its older town center.
- Then there is the illegal Kihei Mega Mall case that the county backed which would have destroyed south Maui's community plan designed to corral commercial and retail development to the makai side of Pi'ilani Highway. At great personal expense citizens had to hire an attorney to stop this illegal development. Again, the county lost and the people are out the fees - just to make things right and enforce the law. The aroma of cronyism was ever-present.
- Some don't like to see "termed out" or defeated council members "sitting on the bench" in the mayor's office on the people's tab - until they can run for office once again. We pay the price.

So you see, ***many of us are just tired of all this and want to see a local government that is responsive, fair, effective, and efficient, and that is why there is a managing director proposal on the ballot on November 3*** and not for any of the

reasons represented by the mayor. ***Forget the finger wagging at the council. We the voters want better government!***

This primal reason beside, every criticism leveled by the mayor at the managing director proposal in his Viewpoint is baseless.

First, what the 2020 council has done, finally, is give Maui ***voters the opportunity to decide*** whether the charter should be amended to provide for a hired managing director. Since adoption of the Countywide Policy Plan in 2010 calling for exploration of ways to make Maui County government perform better, ***the entire effort leading up to the proposal on the November ballot has been citizen-driven, not driven by the council. If anything, the county council has been in the way for the past 5 years.***

Second, if the proposal passes there would be ***no erasure of the charter's line of accountability*** and the fact that the mayor would even question this is a reflection of his misunderstanding of the proposal and the basic concept of "chain of command."

Third, there will be ***no new layer of bureaucracy***. We already have a department of management and a managing director. He should know this for Heaven's sake. ***See the county's own organizational chart.*** The only change is that the managing director will no longer be appointed by the mayor and will instead be hired by the mayor to uncouple the position from politics and base candidate selection on qualifications to do the work - which is implementing the mayor's vision and objectives. Continuity of management will be achieved from one administration to the next, too. No more downtime and learning the job with each new mayoral administration. Get to work!

Fourth, the proposal makes it perfectly clear that ***the mayor will continue as the chief executive of the county***, will hire and direct the managing director. Any suggestion to the contrary is smoke.

Fifth, the suggestion that the proposal "is not an accountable or transparent way to approach" governing is absurd when ***it explicitly creates and requires new transparency into local government for the people.*** For the first time the mayor will be required to give the managing director explicit goals and objectives annually and post them to the county website within 15 days of delivery. Additionally, the mayor will be required to assess the managing director's performance annually and post that to the website as well. We, the people, will now know exactly what the mayor's key goals are and how well they are being implemented. ***No where for a mayor to run or hide. How about basing future mayoral elections on performance instead of who can raise the most money or has the best name recognition.***

Sixth, because the people will continue to elect the mayor as our chief executive we ***will continue to choose the county's leader, pure and simple.*** The search committee referenced is a common way for key leadership roles to be recruited and vetted. Once that is done, the mayor chooses the finalist. What this does is take the process out from the shadows and involves other key stakeholders in the search process, which will ferret

out any attempts at crony appointment and base the search on candidates qualified to do this important management work.

Finally, the council can only veto a mayor's intention to fire the managing director if exercised within 30 days of notice and only by a supermajority vote of the council. This is a form of balance of power. If a mayor wants to get rid of a managing director and appoint a crony instead, ***we the people have some protection!***

Partnering an elected mayor with a well-qualified, hired professional managing director will produce ***better government for us.*** It's as simple as that. No smoke required.

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