



Kihei Community Association

"e malama pono"...dedicated to protecting,
sustaining and enhancing our 'āina, kai and 'ohana

KIHEI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION POSITION STATEMENT
ADDRESSING DISTRICT VOTING
MAY 2016

KCA is concerned about the current method of voting for members of the County Council. Currently, all voters in Maui County vote to elect the Council members for every district. As concerns the South Maui district, there is a concern that the elected member is not representing the diversity of the viewpoints particular to South Maui. Single member districts would have better accountability to the voters, lower electioneering costs, and have a population-proportionate influence on the election of officers. Therefore, KCA supports the following actions:

1. KCA supports the concept of District Voting for Members of the County Council.
2. KCA support the concept of equally proportionate electoral districts. Each voter shall have the same rights and same weighted votes as every other voter. There should be no voters that have more influence on Council elections that any other voter.
3. KCA supports the concept of redistricting the County into districts with an equal number of voters.
4. KCA supports the idea that both the Council members representing Molokai and Lanai as well as portions of Maui Island areas should have an increase in weighted votes when voting for items mostly effecting the islands of Molokai and Lanai. (While KCA supports this concept, the weighted vote may not hold up to a legal challenge.)

KCA's position is based on the following assumptions and facts:

1. Since the South Maui County Council member is elected by the entire county and not South Maui alone, there is little incentive for that member to be responsible to South Maui issues and problems. This system lacks accountability of the elected position.
2. Each voter should have the same weighted vote for members of the Council. A Council member representing a smaller number of voters should not have the same voting percentage as one representing a very large population in votes affecting the County.
3. The island of Molokai and Lanai need to have a spokesperson when it affects their island with more power than other Council members. A weighted vote would compensate for serving more than just these two islands.
4. KCA understands but is not in accord with the opposing view as follows:
Not in favor of district voting as it has nothing to do with getting out the entrenched politicians and the other 8 Council Members would feel little responsibility to South Maui as we can't vote them in or out and one voice in 9 is weak. If all members of the Council need our vote, they may be responsive to our requests and needs.