

The political season is picking up steam

THE CHAMBER VIEW

by Pamela Tumpap



The election season fast approaches as the July 20 filing deadline to run for office nears. It is going to be a

hot election year. Many choices are currently before us, and there is still time for other candidates to enter the race.

According to the Federal/State/County Applicants 2010 Primary Election Report as of July 1 at 4:50 p.m., here is the current lineup:

On a national level, there are seven possible candidates for Sen. Daniel Inouye's Senate seat, with two filing, one being

Sen. Inouye. There are six probable candidates for the U.S. House District 1 and 2 seats, with neither seat holder, Charles Djou or Mazie Hirono, filing papers.

On the state level, seven of 17 likely candidates have filed papers for the governor's race, including former Congressman Neil Abernethy; with two confirmed candidates, Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona and Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hanneman, shown as not having filed their papers yet. The lieutenant governor's race also has a large number of potential contenders, with 12 who have pulled papers and three filings.

Sen. Shan Tsutsui is the only who has pulled papers for Senate District 4.

More are challenging House

incumbents. Three have pulled papers for District 8, Rep. Joseph Souki has not filed his papers yet, although challengers Justin Hughey and Natalie Tasha Kama have. Two possible District 9 candidates are Rep. Gilbert Keith-Agaran and challenger Jeffrey Hoylemann, but neither has filed. For District 10, Rep. Angus McKeelvey, Ramon Madden and Chayne Marten all have pulled, but not filed, their papers. Four may run for the District 11 seat, with incumbent Rep. Joseph Bertram, George Fontaine and Susan Halperin filing, and Johanna Amorin pulling papers. Two would-be challengers for state Rep. Kyle Yamashita's District 12 seat are Raymond Bashkingy and Laurie Rinaldi, yet none has

filed. Rep. Mele Carroll of District 13 is unopposed but has not filed her papers yet.

On a county level, it is really heating up. There are 12 potential mayoral candidates, not including Mayor Charmaine Tavares, who has not pulled papers as of this date. Those who filed include former Mayor Alan Arakawa, Council Member Sol Kaho'ohalahala, Orion Kopleman, Peter Milbourn and Randy Piltz.

For the East Maui council seat, former Council Member Robert Carroll is coming out of retirement to run against Council Member William Medeiros, who has pulled papers only.

In West Maui, six — Eve Clute, Eleanora Cochran, Alan Fukuyama, Ezekiel Kalua, Jonah Kapu and Paul Laub —

have filed to run for the seat of Council Member Jo Anne Johnson, who has reached the term limit.

Elisabeth Gaspero announced she will run for the Wailuku-Waihee-Waikapu seat held by Council Member Michael Victorino, but neither has filed.

At present, Council Member Joseph Pontanilla's Kahului seat is uncontested.

Council Member Wayne Nishiki has not pulled papers yet to run for the South Maui seat, but Donald Couch and Edward Tamura have.

The Makawao-Haiku-Paia seat, open as Council Member Michael Molina has reached the term limit, has five likely contenders, with Mary Cochran, Leona Nomura and

Michael White having filed their papers.

Council Member Gladys Baisa may be challenged by Richard Pohle, who has pulled, but not filed, papers for the Upcountry seat.

Former Council Member Riki Hokama and Mathew Mano both have filed and will face off for the Lanai seat.

Council Chairman Danny Mateo is the only one to pull papers for the Molokai seat.

It is still early, and more filings may come; so stay tuned, encourage others to register to vote, look for our "business friendly" endorsements coming soon and hang on tight because this political season will be exciting.

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Chamber of Commerce.