

Resolution 21-23
Testimony

MISC. COM. 415

ZP

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2021 12:35 PM
Subject: Zoning and Planning Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Elizabeth Nelson
Phone 808 483 0762
Email hawaiilizzie@gmail.com
Meeting Date 07-13-2021
Council/PH Committee Zoning and Planning
Agenda Item General plan
Your position on the matter Comment
Representing Self
Organization

I would like to see the General Plan set goals to actually meet the affordable housing needs, particularly for low-income members of our community.

Written Testimony They have been left out of the discussion too many times. And we continue to have one of the highest numbers of houseless persons in the nation. We are capable of finding solutions. Thank you so much.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 5:45 PM
Subject: Zoning and Planning Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Ritabelle Fernandes
Phone 8089464121
Email fernandes.ritabele@gmail.com
Meeting Date 07-13-2021
Council/PH Committee Zoning and Planning
Agenda Item Resolution 21-23 Revised Oahu General Plan
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Organization Self

Dear Chair Elefante and Committee Members,

The Revised Oahu General Plan has many excellent goals, objectives, and policies in regards to the 11 areas of concern: population, economy, environment, housing, transportation, energy, development, public safety, health, culture and government. I commend the council members on their efforts towards preservation and conservation of these beautiful islands!

I am strongly opposed to the proposed objective B, policy #8, in the Economy section. Objective B is to maintain a successful visitor industry that creates meaning employment, enhances quality of life, and celebrate our unique sense of place, natural beauty, Native Hawaiian culture, and multi-cultural heritage. Policy 8 facilitates the development of secondary resort areas at Turtle Bay Resort and La'ie.

Written Testimony We need to keep the country, country. The successful visitor industry visits the North Shore simply for the charm of experiencing country living. It is the main attraction and draw for tourists. Development of secondary resort areas at Turtle Bay Resort and La'ie would create a second Waikiki and destroy the North Shore visitor industry.

Objective B, Policy #8 is contrary to the intent of General Plan Population Objective A, policy #4 which seeks geographic growth boundaries while at the same time protecting valuable agricultural lands, environmental resources, and open spaces. We must keep the past policy of limiting and controlling population growth.

Objective B, Policy #8 is detrimental to protecting and preserving the natural environment. Under the General Plan Natural Environment and Resource Stewardship, Objective A, policy #1 states to protect Oahu's natural environment, especially the shorelines, ridges, valleys, and watersheds from incompatible development. Presently the two-lane Kamehameha Highway is the only thru road for 40 miles and faces heavy traffic. It is suffering erosions, rock slides,

tree falls, leading to residents being trapped in their homes for lack of a detour road. This highway is congested to the point of being impassible to emergency vehicles during emergencies. The limited natural resources of an island population must be considered for a livable future for our next generation.

In addition, the creation of secondary resort areas will only lead to inflation of housing prices on the North Shore. It would defeat the objective A under Housing – to ensure a balanced mix of housing opportunities and choices for all residents at prices they can afford and objective B - to minimize speculation in land and housing.

I would like to remind the committee members the famous words of Chief Seattle – We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children. I vehemently oppose the zoning change which would forever destroy the character of our beautiful North Shore.

Testimony
Attachment
Accept Terms
and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 12:48 PM
To: Uehara, Gail
Cc: lkmcelheny@gmail.com; Myers, Jessica; Otto, Pearlene
Subject: Zoning and Planning Testimony
Attachments: 20210712124738_mission_doc.docx

Written Testimony

Name Larry McElheny
Phone 808 237-9354
Email lkmcelheny@gmail.com
Meeting Date 07-13-2021
Council/PH Committee Zoning and Planning
Agenda Item CC-269 (2021)
Your position on the matter Comment
Representing Organization Self

Written Testimony

Aloha Council Members

I envision an updated O'ahu General Plan that recognizes residents and future generations as the highest priority in planning for our extraordinary and unique Pacific island home. We strive to holomua – move forward – a revised General Plan that: promotes sustainable, inclusive, self-reliant communities; is rooted in Hawai'i's indigenous wisdom and ahupua'a practices; acknowledges the carrying capacity and limits of our infrastructure and natural resources; protects and enhances a clean and healthful environment, and promotes environmental and social justice; acts immediately on the climate emergency; advances neighborhood food security; supports housing that is attainable for local families and working residents; promotes a diversified economy that substantially reduces reliance on tourism; ensures effective implementation, accountability, and alignment with O'ahu's eight sustainable and development plans; and enforces strict adherence to City and County ordinances and rules. Sustainability focuses on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainability implies equilibrium and limits. Never ending growth is not sustainable, especially on an island.

Testimony Attachment 20210712124738_mission_doc.docx

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

We envision an updated O‘ahu General Plan that recognizes residents and future generations as the highest priority in planning for our extraordinary and unique Pacific island home. We strive to holomua – move forward – a revised General Plan that: promotes sustainable, inclusive, self-reliant communities; is rooted in Hawai‘i’s indigenous wisdom and ahupua‘a practices; acknowledges the carrying capacity and limits of our infrastructure and natural resources; protects and enhances a clean and healthful environment, and promotes environmental and social justice; acts immediately on the climate emergency; advances neighborhood food security; supports housing that is attainable for local families and working residents; promotes a diversified economy that substantially reduces reliance on tourism; ensures effective implementation, accountability, and alignment with O‘ahu’s eight sustainable and development plans; and enforces strict adherence to City and County ordinances and rules. Sustainability focuses on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainability implies equilibrium and limits. Never ending growth is not sustainable, especially on an island.

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 1:48 PM
Subject: Zoning and Planning Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Dyson Chee
Phone 8084627570
Email cheedyson@gmail.com
Meeting Date 07-13-2021
Council/PH Committee Zoning and Planning
Agenda Item Resolution 21-023
Your position on the matter Comment
Representing Organization Self

Aloha Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and honorable members of the Zoning and Planning Committee,

My name is Dyson Chee, I am a 19-year-old resident of Ala Moana, and I would like to provide brief comments on Resolution 21-023, concerning the O'ahu General Plan.

Written Testimony

I believe that the current plan does not adequately address climate change, which, by necessity, is a critically pressing issue that any future-looking plan must address as deeply as possible. Because of this, I do support Council Member Elefante's proposed amendments, and I also greatly appreciate the equity language included in Council Member Elefante's proposed amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,
Dyson Chee

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 1:49 PM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Devon Dailey
Phone 8087387656
Email hawaiiipolo@gmail.com
Meeting Date 04-13-2021
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item 21-23
Your position on the matter Comment
Representing Organization Self

Written
Testimony

The issue of the overall population or carrying capacity of the island of Oahu appears to be absent from the general plan. Limiting tourism will solve some of our problems but without recognizing the need for and establishing a total population target for the island much of this planning will do little good. The majority of our traffic and housing issues have little to do with tourists. There are very few rental cars on the H-1 during rush hour yet traffic is considerably worse every year. The population is increasing at an unsustainable rate, and realistically it needs to stop increasing altogether. Only when we have a handle on the total number of people can we provide adequate services to our residents. You cannot widen roads and add houses forever, we will run out of space, we are arguably well beyond a reasonable capacity for the island now. Developers have turned to building on the little farmland that we have left. This needs to stop. The crowding everywhere that people are attributing to tourists is often just a convenient bogeyman. It will be much harder to address the real problem of too many people moving to the island and pushing out local people. A good place to start would be to rid our neighborhoods of illegal hotel rooms operated by AirBnb the second move would be to help local people compete on an even playing field with wealthy transplants by creating tax incentives for landowners to rent or sell housing to local people. It's not a fair market otherwise and much of our people and culture will be lost to cheaper options in Vegas if we do nothing. Building more houses is not the answer, we need to help local people compete.

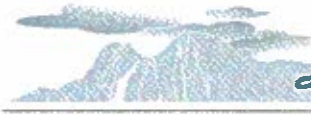
Testimony
Attachment

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 2:51 PM
Subject: Zoning and Planning Testimony
Attachments: 20210712145129_Reso_21-23_HTF_testimony_ZP_713.21.pdf

Written Testimony

Name	Hawaii's Thousand Friends
Phone	808-262-0682
Email	htf3000@gmail.com
Meeting Date	07-13-2021
Council/PH Committee	Zoning and Planning
Agenda Item	Resolution 21-23
Your position on the matter	Comment
Representing	Organization
Organization	Hawaii's Thousand Friends
Written Testimony	
Testimony Attachment	20210712145129_Reso_21-23_HTF_testimony_ZP_713.21.pdf
Accept Terms and Agreement 1	

IP: 192.168.200.67



July 13, 2021

COMMITTEE ON ZONING AND PLANNING

Brandon Elefante, Chair
Esther Kia`aina, vice Chair
Radiant Cordero
Calvin Say

RESOLUTION 21-23 O`ahu General Plan

While there are many changes to the General Plan in Resolution 21-23 one stands out as the most substantial change. That is Section 1. POPULATION.

The 1978 General Plan and subsequent General Plans call for the “control” of growth in both the resident and visitor populations until now.

Resolution 21-23 changes Section 1. Population from controlled growth to anticipated growth. *Italic is existing wording, underlined is proposed wording.*

Objective A

To control the growth of Oahu's resident and visitor population in order to avoid social, economic, and environmental disruptions

To plan for anticipated population growth in a manner that acknowledges the limits of O`ahu's natural resources, that protects the environment, and that minimizes social, cultural, and economic disruptions.

Objective B

To plan for future growth

To establish a pattern of population distribution that will allow the people of O`ahu to live, work and play in harmony.

The 1978 O`ahu General Plan recognized that there would be impacts and pressure from outside Hawai`i with findings *There is no denying the need for long-range, comprehensive planning. Since Oahu has limited land area and the thrust from both East and West will be so great that serious mistakes can be made without adequate control.*

In preparation for the 1978 General Plan the Council Committee on Planning and Zoning, chaired by George Akahane created a comprehensive 1977 report that was adopted by the Council and signed by then Chair Marilyn Bornhorst.

Findings, below, in the Population section of that report are still relevant and should be included in the population section of Resolution 21-23.

The City and County government affirms its responsibility to do whatever it can to control population growth on the island of Oahu. An island municipality of only 593 square miles, Honolulu must begin immediately to face the major questions of population growth. How much growth should be encouraged—or allowed—during the remaining quarter of the century? What rate of population growth would be the most desirable? And what kind of population is needed to maintain the social harmony and economic productivity of the island?

In order to control population growth, however, the City and County must perform a strenuous and perhaps impossible balancing act. On the one hand, population growth has to be maintained so that the residents of Oahu can continue to be members of a dynamic and prosperous community, not a stagnant one. But on the other hand, population growth cannot be allowed to take place in quantities and at rates that would result in social, economic or environmental disruptions.

A 1972 Temporary Commission on Population Stabilization wrote: Population growth threatens conservation land not only through urbanization, but also by increasing the demand and pressure for recreational use . . . There are limits to the number of people who can make use of a particular park or beach without producing a deterioration in the enjoyment experience of the uses.

The physical limit of the island of O`ahu is impossible to ignore. Controlling growth, both resident and visitor, on an island is not just a fancy notion but also a necessity.

Planning for the future is not trivial but in fact a commitment to plan for future population growth is central to all of the City and County's planning responsibilities.

We urge the committee to keep the directed growth objectives and policies in Section 1 Population of the O`ahu General Plan

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 3:14 PM
Subject: Zoning and Planning Testimony
Attachments: 20210712151425_Reso_21-23_OGP_Testimony_7.12.21.docx

Written Testimony

Name	Kathleen M Pahinui
Phone	808-637-8545
Email	pahinuik001@hawaii.rr.com
Meeting Date	07-13-2021
Council/PH Committee	Zoning and Planning
Agenda Item	Reso 21-23
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing	Self
Organization	
Written Testimony	Please see attached testimony.
Testimony Attachment	20210712151425_Reso_21-23_OGP_Testimony_7.12.21.docx
Accept Terms and Agreement 1	

IP: 192.168.200.67

**Kathleen M. Pahinui
67-237 Kauai St
Waialua, HI 96791
(808) 637-8545**

July 12, 2021

RE: CC 21-23 Oahu General Plan

Aloha Committee Chair Elefante and Committee Members:

I am pleased to see that there is movement on the Oahu General Plan and am very pleased to see the many positive revisions put forth by Committee Chair Elefante. This is a great start to a very important document. Just some initial comments in advance of the Tuesday, July 13, 2021 meeting:

- By making clear and strengthening public policy, especially with regard to the development and use of land, the City and County will be able to ensure if activities and proposals are consistent with the General Plan.
- Overall would like to see stronger language supporting the implementation and enforcement of the General Growth Plan.
- In order to maintain the efficacy of the General Plan, a sincere effort must be made to implement it, and where it cannot be implemented, the Plan should be revised, based on extensive discussion and the best knowledge available at the time.
- With the LUO also being reviewed, need to verify that both the LUO and the OGP are in sync. For example, in CC 21-23 in Housing and Communities, Objective B, Policy 2 – wants to reduce the use of residential dwelling units for short term vacation rentals. The Draft LUO (5.24.21) shows TVUs permitted in A1 and A2. For many that live in Honolulu (and other areas of the island) apartments provide relatively affordable rentals. Is there a way to bring these two ideas into better alignment so apartments in non-resort areas are not being turned into TVUs without concern for the impact on rentals.
- Quality of life for residents should take priority over any policy aimed at visitors. Policies that increase the quality of life for residents will ultimately benefit visitors as well. For example, infrastructure improvements are necessary for our community now, not just in relation to the visitor industry and to accommodate the number of visitors on island at any given time.

Mahalo for your time and consideration of my comments.

Kathleen M. Pahinui
Waialua Resident



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON ZONING AND PLANNING
Tuesday, July 13, 2021 — 4:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports Resolution 21-23, Adopting the 2017 Edition of the General Plan of the City and County of Honolulu (The O'ahu General Plan).

Dear Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

Ulupono supports Resolution 21-23, which adopts the 2017 Edition of the O'ahu General Plan. By adopting this plan, the City and County of Honolulu is committing to local agricultural producers, multimodal and accessible transportation, clean and renewable energy generation, responsible use of water resources, and better waste management. With objectives and policies dedicated toward many critical, sustainable efforts across O'ahu, this plan highlights the importance of establishing a resilient foundation for our community's future.

We applaud the City for adopting this general plan and we look forward to working with both the Administration and the Council to implement these important community policies.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

***Note: Ulupono Initiative values this measure before the Council today and appreciates the opportunity to testify; however, we are unable to attend in person due to concerns around COVID-19. Thank you for your understanding.**

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

999 Bishop Street, Suite 1202 | Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 ☎ 808.544.8960 📠 808.432.9695 | www.ulupono.com

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 12:26 AM
Subject: Zoning and Planning Testimony
Attachments: 20210713002624_07132021_Testimony_on_OGP.pdf

Written Testimony

Name Sharlene Chun-Lum
Phone 8083542434
Email sharstocks@yahoo.com
Meeting Date 07-13-2021
Council/PH Committee Zoning and Planning
Agenda Item 1. Review of Res. 21-23
Your position on the matter Comment
Representing Organization
Organization Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment 20210713002624_07132021_Testimony_on_OGP.pdf
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

Testimony on Res. 21-23
For Special City Council Zoning and Planning Meeting
Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Aloha Chair Elefante and members of the City Council,

My name is Shar Chun-Lum, a founding member of Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui and a core member of the O`ahu General Plan Hui. Mahalo for scheduling this special meeting to allow concerned citizens to give input to the Proposed 2017 O`ahu General Plan before it is adopted via Resolution 21-23. Please take the input of the citizens into consideration as you review this charter. It is the citizens who live in the communities that are affected by zoning decisions and unenforced rules. It is the residents who through their property and other taxes provide the majority of funds to run the city.

By City Charter, various Departments' budget must align with the objectives and policies of the O`ahu General Plan. Now is the time to use of the finite City dollars to take action to promote sustainable and self-reliant communities with actions that protect our natural resources and promote a clean and healthful environment.

Our island and world conditions have significantly changed in the past 4 years, not just from the economic, social and emotional effects of COVID-19 and potential threats of future pandemics—but with the acceleration of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise. You have the rare opportunity and responsibility to hit the “reset” button, recognizing residents and future generations as the highest priority in planning for our extraordinary and unique Pacific island home.

Amendments by Chair Elefante in The Economy, Objective B. 1 are a step in the right direction—“Ensure that the visitor industry supports the quality of the visitor experience, the economic and social well-being and communities, and the quality of life of residents by promoting a regenerative tourism model that protects natural resources while minimizing visitor impact.” We further suggest *programs that teach Responsible tourism and limit the number of visitors to O`ahu using our finite resources at any given time.*

We need a diversified economy that provides meaningful employment, safe working conditions and a livable wage for our residents--that substantially reduces our reliance on tourism and accelerates opportunities to produce food and needed goods and services. We propose the plan *ensure the availability of land, in every district, to provide for the long-term viability and continued productivity of agriculture and farming on O`ahu.* (The Economy, Objective C)

We need safe and affordable housing for our present and future generations. The current proliferation of high rises in Kaka`ako are beyond the reach of most of local people, even those units labeled affordable. We applaud Chair Elefante’s amendment to Housing and

Communities, Obj. A, Policy 1: "Support programs, policies, and strategies that will provide affordable and sustainable housing options for local residents, especially those in the lowest income brackets." We suggest further action to *develop second-home market controls that will provide attainable residential homes for local residents at the least possible cost.*

The Oahu General Plan Hui has offered many more suggested amendments in a Matrix found in testimony previously submitted.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share just a bit of our mana`o tonight. We hope there will be more opportunity to work with the Council see where the Chair Elefante's CD1 and our suggestions might align and be adopted.

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 7:09 PM
Subject: Zoning and Planning Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Marvin Heskett
Phone (808) 728-4617
Email mhesketts@mac.com
Meeting Date 07-13-2021
Council/PH Committee Zoning and Planning
Agenda Item Resolution 21-023
Your position on the matter Comment
Representing Organization Organization
Surfrider Foundation Oahu
Aloha Councilpersons,

Written
Testimony

The Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed revisions to the Oahu General Plan. We support the amendments CC-269 (2021) Submitted by Councilmember Elefante but feel there is even more at stake when it comes to the long term vision and future management of our resources, especially in terms of their impact to our coastal zones. We envision an updated O'ahu General Plan that acknowledges the carrying capacity and limits of our infrastructure and natural resources; protects and enhances a clean and healthful environment, and promotes environmental and social justice; acts immediately on the climate emergency; advances neighborhood food security; supports housing that is attainable for local families and working residents; promotes a diversified economy that substantially reduces reliance on tourism; ensures effective implementation, accountability, and alignment with O'ahu's eight sustainable and development plans; and enforces strict adherence to City and County ordinances and rules.

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Oahu Foundation Oahu Chapter

Testimony
Attachment

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and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67



Comment RES 21-23

Aloha Committee on Zoning and Planning,

Faith Action HousingNOW! provides the following comment on Honolulu City Council Resolution 21-23 regarding the adoption of the 2017 O'ahu General Plan Update.

A persisting need of our island community is the need for affordable housing, defined as housing in which any household pays no more than 30 percent of their annual income to reside including the cost of utilities. This term is a sliding scale and dependent on household size and income, but "affordable housing" is often written into policies to the benefit of households earning up to 120 percent of the area median income (AMI). This is an unacceptable definition because it confuses the public and sows mistrust in decision-making by setting a standard that allows for housing branded "affordable" to be priced at levels not realistically attainable to low-income households. Faith Action HousingNOW! contends a two-bedroom housing unit that costs no more than \$1,500/month is affordable, which would equate to 30 percent of an annual income of \$60,000.

Our municipal government should make concerted efforts in terms of the general plan and policies informed by its objectives that address the needs of the low-income members of our community. According to the *Housing Planning Study*, published by the Hawai'i Housing Finance & Development Corporation (2019), O'ahu needs 22,168 units of housing by 2025 to address growth and pent-up demand. Table 32 of the *Housing Planning Study* breaks the need into U.S. Housing and Urban Development AMI classifications. Over half of this total need is for households earning up to 80 percent of the AMI, which includes low-income, very low-income, and extremely low-income populations. The data of that state agency report is what should be used to inform policies that affect the future of our built environment.

While the General Plan is not a document that will explicitly quantify how many units of housing should be planned for specific areas of our island community, it should set a general goal to meet the total housing demand for each income classification determined by an official government report such as the *Housing Planning Study*. The general statements of "increasing" without any educated targets allows our government to not be accountable. An increase of 2,000 units by 2025 would still leave our community short by 20,000 units, and that would be no reason to celebrate or imply that the General Plan is satisfied.

Furthermore, housing affordability will be a realized goal when our City Council Members prioritizes the use of existing urbanized land for density increases that can address our housing needs, which can preserve our agricultural and conservation lands. Most of the density increases can be done along the rail corridor. However, in order to increase the likelihood of car-first households making a free decision to reduce or eliminate car usage, our community must have enough housing and job opportunities conveniently located and accessible via transit. Therefore, there should be goals to increase frequencies and otherwise improve the utility of TheBus as well as transit-oriented development plans for high-frequency bus lines.

While the City and County may desire a reduction of personal automobile usage by formulating policies and programs that attract car users to public transit, it should first be prioritizing our mobility-limited and transit-dependent populations. Transit-dependent community members are more likely to be low-income and should be the first households for whom housing is constructed within transit-oriented development areas. One of the complaints of the privileged among our community is that housing density increases automobile traffic congestion; an easy way to get the low-cost housing needed for people who are already dependent on public transportation is to deliberately build housing to make their lives easier. Transit-oriented development will be more successful if we start proving the concept to this community with those who already depend on transit; developing transit-oriented housing for the privileged who are more likely to still keep automobiles may ultimately defeat the purpose of transit-oriented development, eroding public trust in the concept much like the maligned image of the rail.

Conclusively, Faith Action HousingNOW! wishes to remind our City Council that documents such as the General Plan need to set goals regarding the construction and maintenance of our built environment that makes this community one in which our low-income neighbors will thrive. It is incumbent on our leaders to stand up to the all too frequent oppositional cries of the privileged against the needs of our poor and vulnerable. Our government should plan and hold itself accountable for setting goals that address the well-studied and well-reasoned needs for new housing development, housing density increases, and low-income housing.

Mahalo for accepting our input,

Foo Pham
Faith Action
HousingNOW! Chair

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 9:42 AM
Subject: Zoning and Planning Testimony
Attachments: 20210713094157_LHKH_General_Plan_Special_Meeting_July_13_2021.pdf

Written Testimony

Name Elizabeth Reilly
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Meeting Date 07-13-2021
Council/PH Committee Zoning and Planning
Agenda Item General Plan Reso 21-23
Your position on the matter Comment
Representing Organization
Organization LIVABLE HAWAII KAI HUI
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment 20210713094157_LHKH_General_Plan_Special_Meeting_July_13_2021.pdf
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

Livable Hawaii Kai Hui

Sensible Growth, Respect for the land

July 12, 2021

Website

www.hawaii kaihui.org

www.kaiwicoast.org

Like us on Face Book

Livable Hawaii Kai Hui
Aloha Aina O Kamilo Nui
Ka Iwi Coast

Like us on Instagram

@livablehawaii kaihui

Like us on Twitter

@hawaii kaihui

COMMITTEE ON ZONING AND PLANNING

Brandon Elefante, Chair
Esther Kia'aina, vice Chair
Radiant Cordero
Calvin Say

Aloha,

Livable Hawaii Kai Hui extends appreciation for recognizing the need to reapproach the 2017 General Plan. We also recognize your level of commitment to include community input as demonstrated via your press release announcement and the time set for this special meeting. Mahalo.

For this meeting, we ask you consider two things:

1. Pause on any new LUO request / decisions until the General Plan (GP) is completed.
(NOTE: The GP is a comprehensive statement of objectives and policies that sets forth the long-range aspirations of O'ahu residents and the strategies to achieve them thus new additions/changes to the LUO should follow the GP.)
2. Consider adopting early strategies of climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness that provide for "community self-reliance" through integrating planning principles of "sustainability, resiliency and agricultural" that ensure food producing ag lands in every district (and documented in the respective Development or Sustainable Communities Plans).
(NOTE: Make the City a leading example in planning and preparing its people for the impacts of climate changes on the communities and the natural environment -- designate food producing agricultural land in every district.)

Lastly, the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan was adopted a few months ago. We are currently overlaying the two plans and hope not to identify conflict. We will continue to participate in the review of GP and thank you again for your time and consideration of our two requests.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Reilly, Founder/ President

Livable Hawaii Kai Hui is a 501c(3) non-profit, community organization serving East Honolulu since 2004. We strive to promote sensible growth, respect for and preservation of cultural & natural resources and upholding the integrity of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan.



Ka Iwi Coalition

Mauka to Makai



From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 1:11 PM
Subject: Zoning and Planning Testimony
Attachments: 20210713131110_City_Council_General_Plan_Testimony_2021-07-13.docx.pdf

Written Testimony

Name Stanley Chang
Phone 8085868420
Email senchang@capitol.hawaii.gov
Meeting Date 07-13-2021
Council/PH Committee Zoning and Planning
Agenda Item RESOLUTION 21-23 – O'AHU GENERAL PLAN
Your position on the matter Comment
Representing Self
Organization
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment 20210713131110_City_Council_General_Plan_Testimony_2021-07-13.docx.pdf
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

July 13, 2021

Aloha Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and members of the Committee on Zoning and Planning,

My name is Stanley Chang, and I am chair of the State Senate's Committee on Housing. I am writing today with comments on the adoption of the revised general plan of the City and County of Honolulu. I would like to focus my testimony today specifically on section IV of the plan: Housing and Communities.

The housing shortage is the most urgent crisis of our time. For generations, Hawaii has undersupplied the housing market. Every year in Hawaii, about 18,000 babies are born, and 10,000 people die. This means that every year, there are 8,000 new, local people in Hawaii. We're lucky to get 2,000 new housing units. The current rate of home construction in Hawaii falls grossly short of the demand of local population growth alone, and as a result, thousands of local people are forced to leave the state annually.

This has caused a truly appalling statewide residential real estate market. If I had suggested just one year ago that during the worst economic crisis in generations, in which Hawaii had the highest unemployment rate in the country, housing prices would increase to record levels in all four counties, you would have thought I was insane. Yet that is exactly what has happened. Last month's median home prices of \$1.12 million in Maui County, \$1.1 million in Kauai County, \$978,000 here in the City and County of Honolulu, and \$465,000 in Hawaii County are all records. As someone looking to buy my first home and start a family in the near future, I can assure you that these prices are out of reach for all but the wealthiest in our community.

Here on Oahu, we have a special obligation to the entire state. We have by far the largest housing stock of the four counties, and we are currently building a rail project that will enable large scale, car-free transportation for future generations of local people. Oahu has the responsibility to construct the housing that our state needs.

Therefore, while I support all of the proposed policies outlined in section IV of the general plan, I offer one more:

- **Ensure that housing production meets demand.**

The only real, tangible, lasting solution to Hawaii's housing shortage is the large-scale construction of high density housing. Encouraging and promoting band aids will not reverse the housing shortage. It will simply perpetuate the housing shortage and force thousands more local people per year to leave the state. We will continue to see homelessness grow. We will continue to see housing prices soar. And we will watch as our community evolves into two polarized groups: the very wealthy, and their servants.

Similar solutions have been executed to great success in cities like Singapore, which houses five times Oahu's population in less than half the land area. If they can solve their housing issues with large scale density, then so can we. I urge the Committee to amend the General Plan by adopting one more policy clearly requiring enough housing production to meet demand.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on the General Plan.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stanley Chang', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stanley Chang
Senator, District 9
Chair, Committee on Housing

**Testimony Presented Before the
Honolulu City Council
for
July 13, 2021 Zoning and Planning Special Committee Meeting**

City Council Committee on Zoning and Planning

Aloha Chair Elefante, Vice-Chair Kia‘āina, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Cameron Deptula. I am a Policy Analyst at the Hawai‘i Institute for Public Affairs (HIPA) and current university student, and I am offering comments in my individual capacity on Resolution 21-23, which would adopt the Revised General Plan of the City and County of Honolulu (The Oahu General Plan).

It is clear that Honolulu is at important crossroads on many issues. However, I would like to highlight an issue area which I have experience in through my professional and volunteer work, and also my experiences as a lifelong resident on Oahu from a family that owns and operates a local small business: the economy. This is an area which, if improved, would have a dramatic, positive impact on the quality of life of our residents and our City’s resilience, and really must be better addressed in the Oahu General Plan. **It is my view that further, specifying amendments should be made to the Economy section of the Oahu General Plan.**

The Economy:

Historically, despite our goals to support local businesses and opportunities for residents, Honolulu has not been very successful in promoting a healthy economy—this is clear given the number of local residents who opt to move away due to a lack of opportunities at home. As it stands, many of the policies present under this section, especially under Objective A, which covers small business affairs, are broad and general statements. They are not clear policies or concrete goals, which can provide guidance to City departments, City employees, or Councilmembers who wish to operate under this plan—this is to the detriment of the City. **Attempts should be made to further specify general actions the City should be taking to achieve our objectives.**

One example: “Objective A, Policy 2: Encourage the viability of businesses and industries, including support for small businesses, which contribute to the economic and social well-being of O’ahu residents.”

Improved policy example: “Encourage the viability of businesses and industries, including support for small businesses, which contribute to the economic and social well-being of O’ahu residents by offering business resources such as training and grants to business owners to grow or improve their business.”

Additionally, language should be included which states the need for the City to, wherever possible, harness the power of community-based solutions to our economy. There are a number of private, non-profit, and grassroots efforts to support entrepreneurship and economic development aligned with Objectives A-F—the City plan should include language which recognizes the need to support and mobilize the resources and efforts of community members through creative solutions like volunteerism or public-private partnerships.

Improved policy example: “Objective A, Policy 2: Support entrepreneurship and innovation through creative efforts such as partnerships with businesses, non-profits, and local community members.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on this resolution. I urge you to consider further amendments to the Oahu General Plan to support a vibrant, diverse local economy and support and align City strategies with existing community-based efforts.

Sincerely,



Cameron Deptula