CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 21-214

RESOLUTION

RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF ARUSHI KUMAR AS THE CITY AUDITOR.

WHEREAS, Section 3-501, Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu (Amended 2017 Edition), as amended ("Charter"), establishes within the City's legislative branch an Office of the City Auditor ("Office"), headed by a City Auditor who is exempt from civil service and is appointed by the City Council ("Council") to serve a six-year term; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 3-501 requires that the City Auditor "possess adequate professional proficiency for the [O]ffice, demonstrated by relevant certification, such as certification as a certified internal auditor or certified public accountant, or have an advanced degree in a relevant field with at least five years experience in the field of government auditing, evaluation, or analysis"; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 3-501 additionally requires the City Auditor to have a bachelor's degree in "accounting, business administration, or public administration or related field" and expresses a preference for a certified internal auditor or a certified public accountant; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 3-501 also requires that, if financial statement audits are conducted, the City Auditor "shall be a certified public accountant"; and

WHEREAS, the previous City Auditor was appointed by the Council by Resolution 10-75 for a six-year term commencing on May 1, 2010, and expiring on April 30, 2016, and was reappointed by the Council by Resolution 16-98 for a second six-year term commencing on May 1, 2016, and expiring on April 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the previous City Auditor stepped down from the position on January 31, 2019, which required the Council to appoint a new City Auditor, and the Office has since been directed and managed by an Acting Auditor; and

WHEREAS, although a 2019 special auditor search committee, established by the Council through Resolution 19-17, recommended the current Acting City Auditor for the position of City Auditor, the recommendation was conditioned upon the Acting City Auditor obtaining a certificate as a Certified Internal Auditor or a Certified Public Accountant by a certain deadline, which was later extended; and

WHEREAS, because a certificate was not obtained by the extended deadline, the Council established a new special auditor search committee ("2021 Search

Committee") via Resolution 21-52, composed of Councilmember Calvin Say, Councilmember Radiant Cordero, Ms. Patricia Mau-Shimizu, and Ms. Natalie Iwasa; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 Search Committee was charged with:

(1) Soliciting or recruiting qualified applicants for the position of City Auditor;

(2) Investigating the qualifications of and interviewing the applicants; and

(3) Making findings and recommendations based on the investigation to the Council; and

WHEREAS, in April and May of 2021, the 2021 Search Committee advertised the vacancy for the City Auditor position in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, on Monster.com, and on relevant websites, including websites for the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners Hawaii Chapter, the Association of Government Accountants Hawaii Chapter, the Association of Internal Auditors Hawaii Chapter, the Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants, and the Hawaii Association of Professional Accountants; and

WHEREAS, 19 applications were received for the City Auditor position by the application deadline of June 4, 2021, and all applicant submissions were forwarded to the 2021 Search Committee members for review; and

WHEREAS, between July 19, 2021 and July 26, 2021, the 2021 Search Committee interviewed the top 13 candidates for the City Auditor position; and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2021, using scoring criteria established to ensure consistency and fairness, the 2021 Search Committee narrowed down the list of candidates to the top five finalists for a second round of interviews; and

WHEREAS, on August 9, 2021, the 2021 Search Committee conducted a second round of interviews with three of the finalists, after two finalists withdrew from consideration; and

WHEREAS, following the interviews, the 2021 Search Committee discussed the qualifications, background, experience, and personal strengths of the three finalists and narrowed the field to one recommended applicant, Ms. Arushi Kumar, pending a review of her references; and

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WHEREAS, a copy of Ms. Kumar's resume is attached as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, based upon the qualifications for the City Auditor established by Charter, and following a thorough evaluation of the educational background and work experience of the applicants, the 2021 Search Committee recommended Ms. Kumar for the position of City Auditor for a term to commence on December 1, 2021; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that Arushi Kumar be and hereby is appointed to serve as the City Auditor for a six-year term commencing December 1, 2021; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Arushi Kumar.

INTRODUCED BY:

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

SEP 15 2021
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

Arushi Kumar

https://www.linkedin.com/in/arushikumar

EMPLOYMENT

City of Seattle **Seattle, WA**
Fiscal & Policy Analyst *2019-Present*

- Manage budget, accounting, and contracting portfolio of five City departments totaling $350M, including human resources, health care funds, intergovernmental relations, and labor standards
- Oversee development and evaluation of sensitive, data-driven policy proposals during a global pandemic and economic recession, and regularly present to City leadership, including Mayor and City Council staff

United States Government Accountability Office **Washington, D.C. / Seattle, WA**
Senior Federal Auditor, Health Care *2014-2019*

- Adhered to government auditing standards for numerous federal health program audits and testimonies
- Employed a range of team-based research methodologies, including risk assessments, state surveys, and in-person site visits, to collect comprehensive, high-quality quantitative and qualitative data
- Developed actionable, nonpartisan recommendations for agencies to improve efficiency and operations
- Oversaw audit skills training and professional development for several agency interns
- Distilled complex, multifaceted policy issues into readable reports and concise presentations for Hill clients
- Coordinated and executed logistics for the 2019 Pacific Northwest Intergovernmental Audit Forum

Safe Kids Worldwide **Washington, D.C.**
Public Policy and Advocacy Intern *Summer 2013*

- Developed an online state tracker for child safety legislation and regulation, and drafted memos & issue briefs on behalf of the Congressional Kids' Safety Caucus
- Collaboratively developed logistics for the 2013 Childhood Injury Prevention Conference, and individually oversaw smooth operation of numerous plenary sessions

University of Virginia Residence Life Program **Charlottesville, VA**
Resident Advisor *2011-2013*

- Advised and mentored 40+ college women in their first year, supporting their transition into the university
- Effectively collaborated with peers and administrators to foster community of academic and personal growth

EDUCATION

University of Virginia **Charlottesville, VA**
Master of Public Policy *May 2014*

Thesis: Improving Access to Behavioral Healthcare Services in Rural Virginia
[Independent analysis prepared for the Virginia Rural Health Association]

Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Minor in English *May 2013*

COMMUNITY

U.Va. Senior Class Council **Charlottesville, VA**
Trustee *2012-2018*

- Managed 15-person committee in planning social and philanthropic initiatives to foster class cohesion
- Engaged alumni in university fundraising efforts during graduation year and through 5-year class reunion

Sustained Dialogue Campus Network **Charlottesville, VA**
Dialogue Moderator *2010-2013*

- Facilitated weekly 90-minute dialogues between 20 students each semester, with focus on social issues
- Promoted respectful communication and provided effective conflict resolution

DISTINCTIONS

- **Pilot Award Recipient (2014)**: For outstanding performance and contributions to the Batten School community
- **Languages:** English (Native), Hindi (Full professional proficiency), American Sign Language (Elementary)
- **Interests:** Classical piano, Baking, Tennis, Historical nonfiction literature

Exhibit A