

**RES22-185  
Testimony**

**MISC. COMM. 368**

COUNCIL

## **COUNCIL Meeting**

Meeting Date: Sep 7, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 3

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: lois crozer	Email: lbc@hawaiiantel.net	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 2, 2022 @ 01:29 PM
Testimony: I love this idea. When I lived in Hong Kong I enjoyed seeing the older people doing their morning Tai Chi exercises in the parks. Also, there could be Bocce ball or other things. Let's use our parks for gathering people. Too many people live alone in their houses. Let's make it easier for them to socialize at a safe, shady place.		
Name: Audrey SugaNakagawa	Email: asuganakagawa@aarp.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: AARP Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 6, 2022 @ 02:58 PM
Name: Christy Nishita	Email: cnishita@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96826
Representing: Age-Friendly Honolulu	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 6, 2022 @ 06:03 PM



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Honolulu City Council  
September 7, 2022  
10:00 a.m.

**TO: The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chairperson**  
**RE: Resolution 22-185, CD 1 – Urging the Dept of Parks and Recreation to consider installing Senior Playground Equipment at City Parks**

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the Council:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a social impact organization advocating for people age fifty and over, with nearly 140,000 members in Hawai'i. AARP Hawai'i strongly supports Resolution 22-185, CD1 which urges the Dept of Parks and Recreation to consider installing senior playground equipment at City parks.

AARP has a deep commitment to healthy aging and strongly supports an age-friendly community that include fitness parks with exercise equipment that can be adapted to meet a wide range of fitness levels and abilities. Having existing parks or public spaces include such fitness apparatus allow kupuna and anyone else in the community the opportunity to play and improve their health. Throughout the country including Hawai'i, AARP has sponsored outdoor fitness parks organized by FitLot, a 501c3 organization dedicated to helping communities plan, build and program outdoor fitness parks through existing parks. These initiatives foster healthy habits and address health disparities and creates public spaces that can be enjoyed by residents of all ages. Resolution 22-185, CD1 aligns with AARP's commitment to promoting better places for people of all ages to live and age healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Resolution 11-185, CD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keali'i S. Lopez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keali'i Lopez, State Director



September 6, 2022

RE: Strong Support for Resolution 22-185, Urging the Department of Parks and Recreation to Consider Installing Senior Playground Equipment at City Parks.

Aloha City Council Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of Resolution 22-185**, Urging the Department of Parks and Recreation to Consider Installing Senior Playground Equipment at City Parks. This resolution is well-aligned with Age-Friendly Honolulu's (AFH) vision and goals.

AFH is a joint City and County of Honolulu and community effort to create an inclusive city that encourages citizens to actively participate in community activities, keep socially engaged, and maintain health even at the most advanced ages. A significant milestone was achieved with the passage of Bill 54 (2018), which collects data and information about the age-friendliness of programs, projects, and facilities. With this proposed resolution, the Department of Parks and Recreation has an opportunity to create accessible and intergenerational recreation spaces in city parks. As a wonderful complement to existing play structures for children, the resolution will create more intergenerational spaces that enable older adults to exercise, gather, and enjoy with their grandchildren. We believe these spaces can become thriving community hubs for persons of all ages to benefit.

The resolution will further enhance the visibility of the City and County of Honolulu's age-friendly efforts and build on its successes. For example, during the pandemic, the Elderly Affairs Division, Age-Friendly Honolulu, Hawaii Public Health Institute, and AARP Hawaii have closely partnered and leveraged community partnerships to successfully address kupuna food security and vaccine outreach needs. As we learn to adapt and live with COVID-19, we look to create stronger social connections and more resilient communities. This resolution will create intergenerational recreation spaces to improve health and social connections across generations.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Resolution 22-185.

Christy Nishita, Ph.D.  
Gerontologist, UH Center on Aging  
Coordinator, Age-Friendly Honolulu  
[www.agefriendlyhonolulu.com](http://www.agefriendlyhonolulu.com)