

RES23-017
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 67

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Feb 22, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 8

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Virginia Pressler	Email: vpressler@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 17, 2023 @ 08:34 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am writing in very strong support for the appointment of Dr. Libby Char to the Honolulu Police Commission. I have known Dr. Char for 30 years. Dr. Char is uniquely qualified to serve on this commission. She has years of experience as a staff physician at Straub Hospital and The Queen's Medical Center Emergency Departments and has served as Medical Director for the Honolulu and Kauai Fire Departments, American Medical Response and Director of Emergency Services Department of the City & County of Honolulu. Dr. Char's experience with and as a first responder has given her extensive appreciation of the needs and challenges of marginalized and homeless individuals. Dr. Char is a critical thinker and fully appreciates the responsibilities of HPD commissioner to address the conduct of the department, charges against it and the role of rules and regulations of the Honolulu Police Department. Please approve her appointment.</p>		
Name: Daniel Fischberg	Email: dfischberg@mac.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 18, 2023 @ 04:25 PM
Name: Cherylee Chang	Email: cherylee.chang@duke.edu	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 19, 2023 @ 07:19 AM
Name: Danette Tomiyasu	Email: dtomiyasu@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 20, 2023 @ 12:38 PM
Name: Cathy Ross	Email: crhomehi@gmail.com	Zip: 96837
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 20, 2023 @ 01:43 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Chair Waters and City Council Members,</p> <p>I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of Resolution 23-17 – Confirming the appointment of Dr. Elizabeth Char to serve on the Police Commission of the City and County of Honolulu. Dr. Char's expertise and experience in emergency medicine, first responders, and public health will provide a valuable perspective to the multifaceted issues impacting the Honolulu Police Department (HPD). This includes the understanding of and appreciation for people experiencing a variety of behavioral health issues and or houselessness, as well the interconnectedness between seemingly disjointed systems. Furthermore, Dr. Char's leadership experience with the City and County of Honolulu's Emergency Services Department and the Hawaii State Department of Health further qualifies her to assess and make recommendations on the administrative aspect of the HPD.</p> <p>Dr. Char joined the Department of Health (DOH) at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when information about the virus and its mitigation measures were rapidly evolving and while the public demand for information was high. She provided sound and steady leadership, often making difficult decisions based on the best available (and ever-changing) data and science around COVID-19, and artfully articulated those decisions to various audiences. The pandemic also required collaboration with new agencies and partners as well as coordination across all levels of government and with various community groups, and Dr. Char skillfully worked with these entities. I was fortunate to see first-hand how she navigated complex issues and managed competing priorities with the utmost professionalism and grace. Dr. Char is a demonstrated leader and collaborator with a track record of working together to achieve common goals and these skills will greatly benefit the Honolulu Police Commission.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for this nomination and I respectfully request your committee confirm the appointment of Dr. Char.</p>		

Name: Marian Tsuji	Email: Mariantsuji@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 21, 2023 @ 11:50 AM

Name: Jeannette Kojane	Email: jkoijane@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 21, 2023 @ 02:52 PM

Testimony:

I am writing today in support of Dr. Libby Char to serve on the Honolulu Police Commission. I have worked with Dr. Char for over 10 years in various capacities in healthcare. I have found Dr. Char to be very committed to projects, smart and interested in finding solutions with a range of participants. She believes in helping people especially those who are underserved and whose voice may not be heard traditionally. She is committed to helping Hawaii be a better place and addressing key issues in our community including homelessness. Dr. Char's experience with first responders, including Honolulu fire and EMS, as well as her time as head of Department of Health means she brings crucial skills and experiences to this position. She is also honest about challenges and issues that must be addressed, crucial characteristics to come to productive solutions instead of just talking. We would be very lucky to have Dr. Char serve on Honolulu Police Commission and I enthusiastically endorse her.

Please contact me with any further questions.

Name: Katie Arita-Chang	Email: kaitlin.arita.chang@gmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 21, 2023 @ 10:33 PM

February 18, 2023

Honorable Chair Waters and Esteemed City Council Members,

I am writing, as an individual, in strong support of Resolution 23-017, confirming the appointment of Dr. Elizabeth Char to serve on the Police Commission of the City and County of Honolulu.

For background, I am a physician leader here in Hawaii in the medical specialties of Pain Medicine and Palliative Medicine. I lead a hospital-based team in Honolulu where I also play a leadership role in the education of medical trainees. I have known and collaborated on projects with Dr. Char for most of the nearly twenty years that I have lived and practiced medicine in Hawaii.

My major professional collaborations with Dr. Char have been in the development, implementation, and monitoring of the Hawaii state Provider Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatments (POLST) program. In bringing this national program to Hawaii, it was essential to have the involvement of a thoughtful and respected leader from the first responder community and Dr. Char, in her role at that time as head of Honolulu EMS, was the natural choice. Dr. Char has brought invaluable skills to the POLST program which could never have succeeded without her input and leadership.

The attributes that Dr. Char brings to any project are manifold. In a working group, she is an active listener who will respectfully consider all viewpoints. Dr. Char has extensive real-world experience that then allows her to always provide the most practical and logical perspective in any situation. In our POLST work, her input always led to more practical and successful solutions to any challenge. And when it comes to implementation of any group decision, Dr. Char is a strong supporter of the group decision and works tirelessly towards successful implementation. Dr. Char is also constantly vigilant for opportunities for quality improvement and will bring valuable ideas back to the group.

From the years of collaboration, I was profoundly grateful when Dr. Char agreed to lead the Department of Health during a crisis the likes of which none of us have experienced in our lifetimes. I was, of course, completely unsurprised when Dr. Char lead the DOH with great intelligence, grace, and equanimity.

In summary, I recommend my colleague, Dr. Elizabeth Char, to you in the strongest terms possible and without hesitation whatsoever. Her skills as a highly intelligent, critical thinker, active listener, leader, and team-player will serve the Commission and the people of Honolulu well. Thousands of people have literally had their lives in Dr. Char's hands as an Emergency Medicine physician. Like them, she has my complete unwavering trust and respect.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input.

Respectfully,

Daniel Fischberg, MD, PhD, FAAHPM

Board-certified in Hospice & Palliative Medicine, Pain Medicine, Addiction Medicine, Internal Medicine

February 17, 2023

Re: Resolution 23-17 SUPPORTING the appointment of Dr. Elizabeth Char to serve on the Police Commission of the City and County of Honolulu

To: Chair Waters and City Council Members

I am testifying IN SUPPORT of Resolution 23-17 confirming the appointment of Dr. Elizabeth Char to serve on the Police Commission of the City and County of Honolulu.

As introduction, until 2020 when I relocated to Durham, North Carolina to establish a new Division of Neurocritical Care at the Duke University, I worked at The Queen's Medical Center for 23 years where I co-founded the Neuroscience Institute and Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit and established the Comprehensive Stroke Center. During the time that I directed these programs, I have had the privilege to work with Dr. Libby Char, first in her role as an emergency medicine physician, while she was the Medical Director for the Emergency Medical Services and during her various other public service roles since then.

Dr. Char has a wide depth of expertise in emergency care and incident response and has always been an advocate for improvement in care and processes. She demonstrated this early in our work together when a new acute stroke treatment emerged, changing the paradigm that stroke became a medical emergency. She helped educate the ED staff and worked with EMS to change protocols and give stroke patients the best chance for stroke reversal and better outcomes.

She has always worked as a collaborative team member to support and advocate for patients and the groups she represents. For example, while she served as a member and later president of the Oahu American Heart Association and an EMS liaison to the Hawaii State Stroke Coalition, she constantly sought others' expert input to make sure the protocols utilized were up-to-date and feasible to implement. She has always made sure that the EMS providers in the field were included and their input heard when changes were being made that impacted their delivery of care.

I have also worked with Dr. Char to help establish the Providers Orders for Life-Sustaining Therapy (POLST) in the State of Hawaii. Dr. Char shared her emergency medicine and pre-hospital provider expertise, and with representatives of palliative care, hospice, critical care, and the Hawaii State Department of Health, supported changes in state legislation to improve the awareness of patients' wishes and support a patient's autonomy in pre-hospital health care decisions. It is widely used in our State today.

During these activities, I have seen that Dr. Char's leadership skills include other's opinions and knowledge so that she can consider all options. She is able to make decisions and work well with others to operationalize strategies and plans. She is thoughtful and accountable. This has been evident when she was tapped to lead the Department of Health through the COVID-19 pandemic and deal with other acute health issues threatening the State.

I believe that Dr. Char, as a member of the Police Commission, will bring a wealth of experience of working with many individuals and groups as well as her own extensive knowledge-base, and provide objective, thoughtful insight to the commission's deliberations and decisions. I am in whole-hearted support of her appointment to the Police Commission.

Respectfully and with warm regards,



Cherylee W. J. Chang, MD, FACP, FCCM, FCNS
Division Chief, Neurocritical Care
Professor, Neurology
Duke University
Past-President, Neurocritical Care Society
Executive Committee member, Society of Critical Care Medicine

February 22, 2023

The Honorable Tommy Waters and
Members of the City Council
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: RESOLUTION 23-017: CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. ELIZABETH CHAR
TO SERVE ON THE POLICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

Dear Chair Waters and City Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony IN SUPPORT of the confirmation of Dr. Elizabeth “Libby” Char to serve on the Honolulu Police Commission.

I have had the pleasure and privilege of working closely with Dr. Char when she served as the Director of the Department of Health and during some of our most challenging times in recent history. She is extraordinarily committed to public service and to improving the health and well-being of all of Hawaii’s residents. She stepped in to serve our community during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and brought strong, collaborative leadership along with her extensive experience in emergency medicine and emergency management. Under her leadership, Hawaii was ranked first in the nation for health system performance during the COVID-19 pandemic by The Commonwealth Fund (2022). The scorecard ranks every state’s health care system performance on how well it provides high-quality, accessible, and equitable health care.

Her years of front line and hands on work with first responders, homeless, and vulnerable individuals and communities emphasized the Department’s priorities in promoting equity, ensuring active community engagement, and proactive communication. Dr. Char exemplifies honesty, integrity, fairness, and respect. She sets high standards for transparency and accountability for herself and for others in serving the public.

I am confident that Dr. Char will be a tremendous asset to the Honolulu Police Commission, to the Honolulu Police Department and the community. I respectfully urge you to support the confirmation of Dr. Libby Char as a member of the Honolulu Police Commission.

Sincerely,

Danette Wong Tomiyasu

February 21, 2023

Honolulu City Council
Honolulu Hale
530 S. King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Resolution 23-17 Confirming Dr. Elizabeth Char to serve on the Honolulu Police Commission

Dear Council Chair Waters and Members,

It my honor to submit this testimony in support of Dr. Elizabeth Char's appointment to the Honolulu Police Commission. After having had the opportunity to work with Dr. Char at the Department of Health during one of its most trying times and seeing her in action, I have no doubt she will serve the Commission with the same level of commitment and attention.

Dr. Char has the ability to quickly sort out facts and bring them to a logical conclusion. She won't hesitate to ask questions when more information is needed. Her demeanor is calm, measured and logical. She has the background as an emergency department doctor and first responder. This gives her the insight to understand the split-second decisions that HPD makes at times.

Dr. Char is a benefit to any organization she is associated with. She is highly recommended for this important role in our community.

Sincerely,

Marian Tsuji
Mariantsuji@hawaii.rr.com

February 22, 2023

The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair
and Members of the Honolulu City Council
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: RESOLUTION 23-017: CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. ELIZABETH CHAR TO SERVE
ON THE POLICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the Council:

I am writing in **strong support** of Resolution 23-017, confirming the appointment of Dr. Elizabeth Char to serve on the Honolulu Police Commission.

I had the privilege of working for Dr. Char in her previous role as Director of the Hawaii State Department of Health. Her work ethic and commitment to our communities will serve the Police Commission well.

As an emergency room physician and leader in the first responder community, Dr. Char honed the ability to make decisions after quickly and thoroughly assessing issues from all angles.

Dr. Char was appointed Director of Health at a critical time for our state. She would often work late into the night to analyze challenging and unprecedented public and environmental health issues and make informed decisions. She is unafraid to dig into an issue and ask difficult questions.

Dr. Char brought stakeholders together to ensure that COVID-19 resources were equitably distributed, including to underserved communities. She understands the importance of elevating all voices in places of power.

Dr. Char is a servant leader who has dedicated her life and work to others. I have complete faith that she will ensure that the Police Commission continues to fulfill its responsibility of considering and conducting oversight over important matters facing the Honolulu Police Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Resolution 23-017, confirming the appointment of Dr. Elizabeth Char to serve on the Police Commission of the City and County of Honolulu.

Sincerely,
Katie Arita-Chang