

**RES23-109
Testimony**

MISC. COMM. 289

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Jun 7, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 1

Oppose: 7

I wish to comment: 2

Name: Betty Char	Email: beeps@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Citizens' Caucus	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 2, 2023 @ 10:37 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Resolution 23-109 is merely a distraction and sham by Tommy Waters and Esther Kiaaina to try to justify taking the proposed 64% pay raise. Now, they don't want to do outside work, they just want to get more money from the citizens of Honolulu for the same amount of part-time work they are currently doing for the Council. Tommy and Esther, we are so disappointed with the two of you. If you don't like the terms of your council seat, you shouldn't have ran.</p> <p>Tommy: We made a mistake by supporting you over Trevor. We won't be making that mistake again.</p> <p>Augie and Angela: Keep up the fight. The two of you are the only one's protecting the interest of the people.</p> <p>Tyler: What is your position on the 64% pay raise? If this is a full-time job, why don't you respond to your constituents and let them know your position. Or are you too busy being a show-horse.</p>		
Name: lynne matusow	Email: lynnehi@aol.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 4, 2023 @ 10:40 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>in strong opposition. this is another backhanded attempt by the council (which refused to put the salary increases on the agenda) to try to save face, instead they look like two year olds having a temper tantrum. stop the 64% pay raise. stop this nonsense. you ran for office knowing what the pay was. you have full time staffs. if you want the increase then reduce the size of your staff. in addition, the pay increase should be removed from the budget.</p>		
Name: Michael McCurdy	Email: hammajang@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Jun 5, 2023 @ 09:21 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>This matter should be put before the voters at the fall 2024 general election. They should decide whether a full-time City Council is in the interests of the City and its people. Full costs need to be visible, including salaries, fringe benefits (including pensions), staff resource requirements, etc.</p>		
Name: Fenton Lee	Email: sugar.chef@hotmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 5, 2023 @ 10:07 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I oppose this resolution because I believe no amendments are needed.</p>		
Name: Karen Luke	Email: nahele@yahoo.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 5, 2023 @ 11:26 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Full-time work may not be the answer, but it is worth discussin.</p>		
Name: mike guerrero	Email: michael.kn.guerrero@gmail.com	Zip: 96814
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 05:34 PM
<p>Testimony:</p>		

i do not see nothing wrong with council members having other jobs as long as their 2nd jobs doesnt come into conflict with their city duties.

Name: James Pilgrim	Email: oiwi@hawaiiantel.net	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 10:19 PM

Testimony:
This is obviously targeted retaliation towards Councilman Tulba's opposition to the ridiculous proposed pay increases. I am against this resolution and also against the raises.

Name: Choon James	Email: ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com	Zip: 96762
Representing: CountryTalkStory.com	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 7, 2023 @ 12:58 AM

Name: De Mont Manaole	Email: demontconner@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Ho'omana Pono, LLC	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Jun 7, 2023 @ 04:27 AM

Name: Tiara Companion	Email: tiarajc7@gmail.com	Zip: 96797
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 7, 2023 @ 09:19 AM

Testimony:
I oppose the prohibiting of other employment unless it creates a conflict of interest in which other employment may cause some sort of financial benefit from serving (ex. creating or passing of bills that will serve to put money in their other business/es in an unethical and unlawful situation). Here in Hawaii many people must hold on more than one job to make a decent living or to live the life you want to comfortably or with all the luxuries they wish to possess. To restrict a person to just one job, is not right and in a way seems to be taking away a person's right. If a person has a passion and love to serve the people of Hawaii and love to work and have a passion for other work in life, it's not right to restrict them in that sense also. If someone is ambitious and a go getter that can do all and many things that they put their heart and minds to, do not restrict them of doing just that. This job is a service to the people, when running you know the hard work you need to put into it and the challenges you may need to face or come up against. When other entities help to serve the people they are doing it voluntarily out of the goodness of one's heart to better serve the people and their community. This job is like volunteering to serve the people and should not come with self made rewards.



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Promoting Good & Just Governance

ORDER OF BUSINESS

REGULAR MEETING

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

9TH SESSION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023

10 A.M.

STRONGLY OPPOSE
Bill 33 (2023) & Resolution 23-109

Relating to outside employment. (Prohibiting Councilmembers from holding other employment while holding office.)

Aloha Chair Tommy Waters, Esther Kia'aina, and City Council members:

This quick introduction of Bill 33 comes across as an intentional obfuscation to the 64% salary increase controversy. Chair Waters' adamant rationale that the council position is "**full-time**" and thus deserving of the 64% salary increase needs to be discussed first.

Bill 33 also comes across as retaliatory against the two "dissidents" who Independently introduced Resolution 23-081 and Resolution 23-082 to directly address the 64% pay increase and to allow public participation.

Chair Waters has refused to allow these two Resolutions to be heard or be placed at this Meeting's Agenda. Instead, the Chair introduced Bill 33 and Resolution 23-109. These two new actions do not directly address the 64% salary increase issue. If nothing is addressed, the 64% salary increase becomes in effect on July 1, 2023. Cherry-picking which bill to be heard and which not to does not promote an open and transparent government.

The idea that a council member should devote "**full-time**" to its duties and responsibilities is laudable. But there are other substantial negative multiplier impacts that must be considered.

- 1. There is No specific language** in this Bill 33 stating that it is "full-time" position. Bill 33 states a projected hope to prevent conflicts of interests or appearances of potential of conflicts of interest, and supposedly "*maintains fiscal integrity, and promotes public trust in government officials.*" (How does paying 64% pay raises or more and other related costs support fiscal integrity?)

***EXCERPTED from Bill 33.** "Due to these responsibilities and obligations to O'ahu residents, it is essential that these officers devote their full attention, time, and energy to serving our community to the best of their abilities and avoid even the appearance of potential conflicts of interest. Prohibiting Councilmembers from holding other employment while in office prevents any semblance of impropriety or*

a conflict of interest, maintains fiscal integrity, and promotes public trust in government officials. Accordingly, the purpose of this ordinance is to prohibit Councilmembers from holding other employment while holding office.”

- 1. STANDARDS:** How to set a full-time Job Description for a council member to be consistent with these hopes? Aren't current council members living up to this ideals now?

What activity is considered to be in compliance and what is not to *“devote their full attention, time, and energy to serving our community to the best of their abilities and avoid even the appearance of potential conflicts of interest.”*

Should a city council member immediately resign if they wish to run for other political offices?

It's a known fact that many city council members have vigorously campaigned for other political offices while still a council member. There was a recent case of a city council member also hired a paid city staff member to concurrently be her personal social media campaign manager. In another office, insiders reported a full-time paid staff member as a stealth worker. (Each city council member has 5 full-time staff.)

Should there be two regular monthly council Hearings instead of one?

Should there be required town hall meetings to introduce and explain all the significant bills and resolutions that significantly affect residents?

- 2. ENFORCEMENT:** How is this full-time expectation going to be enforced? Does a city council member clock in and out or be required from the Ethics Commission to provide a “6-minute” time sheet to report work hours imposed on the former Ethics Director Chuck Totto and staff during the 2016 controversy at City Hall?

What public engagements can be treated as “essential” to a council member's duties and what could be deemed as self-promotion and

self-interest and so on?

- 3. Will Bill 33 attract the best and brightest candidates?** The city council temporary tenure is at best a 8-year position. The tradition of “public service” and “giving back to society” should be encouraged. This is a public office for the public good. If a candidate will only run because of the money, that candidate may not be the ideal candidate for this public office.

To completely mandate a council member to divest of outside professional involved can actually prevent concerned citizens from running. Some may be willing to serve in a public office and reduce their professional obligations but need to return to their original profession after the tenure is over. Eight years is a big long break.

“ARTICLE _ : OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT OF COUNCILMEMBERS

§ 5-_.1 Definitions. For the purposes of this article, the following definitions apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Blind Trust. A trust agreement where neither the trustor nor the beneficiaries have any control or influence over, or knowledge of, the assets in the trust, and which complies with the definition of “qualified blind trust,” as defined in the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 5 U.S.C. § 13101—13146 or their successor provisions.

Emolument. Any salary, fee, payment, wage, earning, allowance, stipend, honorarium, or reward; provided that “emolument” does not include the salary or benefits for service as a councilmember; any pension income; retirement income; social security payment received; non-controlling ownership of stocks, mutual funds, or real estate; rental income; or dividend, interest, or other form of passive income.

§ 5-_.2 Prohibition. (a) As of the sixty-first calendar day after election or appointment to office, a councilmember may not, while holding that office, maintain any other employment, maintain a controlling interest in a business, or receive any emolument.

(b) Where a councilmember has a controlling interest in a business

and does not wish to divest himself or herself of that interest, in order to comply with this section the councilmember may transfer the interest to a blind trust within sixty one days of election or appointment.

This is a good discussion to be had amongst many. But let's address the 64% pay increase first and allow public participation on that. The public understands the need for pay raises but insisting on a 64% pay raise is too bitter a pill for citizens to swallow.

Mahalo,

Choon James
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ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com

HO`OMANA PONO, LLC

Mamua Kānaka

Attn: Tommy Waters, District IV, Chair

Esther Kia`aina, District III, Vice Chair

Radiant Cordero, District VII, Floor Leader

Andria Tupola, District I, Member

Matt Weyer, District II, Member

Calvin Say, District V, Member

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, District VI, Member

Val Okimoto, District VIII, Member

Augie Tulba, District IX, Member

July 7, 2023

Re: RES23-109 & Aloha

Aloha Mai Kakou Chair Tommy, Vice Chair Esther and Members of our AUGUST body called the City Council!

This is De Mont Kalai Manaole, formerly known to most of you as De Mont R. D. Conner, Co-Manager of Ho`omana Pono, LLC, a native Hawaiian Advocacy Corporation operating out of the Waianae Coast.

I submit this comment today simply to plead with all of you to not let this resolution or the issue of pay raise for your jobs to become a wedge in your unity.

I personally know most of you sitting in this chamber here today, and continue to have the highest respect & regard for each of you that I know, by your first name:

- Calvin, as the senior ranking member of this council, I remember you as a dear friend of my late mother, Catherine Emmalika Manaole Conner, who did a lot of volunteer work for the Democratic Party, especially during the campaign and election of Governor John D. Waihe`e, III.
- Augie, your grandmother, Mrs. Adams used to babysit my baby sister Dionne and myself, along with you and your late twin brother, in Kam IV (Kalihi Valley Housing), building 13J. Your Grandmother and my mother were in the Aloha Mother's Club together, along with two of my Aunties and other women of Kam IV.
- Tommy, you were my lawyer, during your office off-season, in the last criminal case that I had in 2005. **We** won that case and I am here today because of it. I know the ridiculous case loads that Court Appointed Attorneys have, like Public Defenders. Yet, you dive right in and Defend your clients to the best of your ability.
- Esther, I met you through the contentious D.O.I. hearings back in 2015 and met you through your brother who as a Sergeant in Halawa Correctional Facility. Out of my respect for him, though we were at that time on opposing sides of the issue of Federal Recognition, I treated you with respect and we became friends, even until this day.
- Andria, you continue to be the light and inspiration of the Westside, we deeply miss you as our Representative. I still believe that Hawai`i missed its BEST CHOICE for Governor in 2016.

You are truly the “People’s Rep” & the ONLY person I have seen dedicated to getting down and dirty to clean up our community, before, during and after an election, whether you win or lose! I’ve watched candidates for office come out all loving and caring for the community when they want our votes. Yet, when they lose the election, they no longer are in the community making a difference.

Not you, you get out there, with your safety vest, cap and work gloves to crack major sweat to clean up Pa`akea. I hope one day Pa`akea will be renamed in your Honor for giving more than lip service to that cause.

We’ve had many conversations and we did work together for the community. You heard our voice and fought for us when nobody else would listen to the Westside.

- Radiant and Tyler, I met you folks during the campaign years of 2016 & 2018. While you were hopeful then to become the leaders you are today, you also exhibited kindness and concern for the native Hawaiian causes that I advocate for. I am excited to see you both rise to greater political heights, as our future is in good hands with both of you.

Why am I sharing all this info? It’s because we live in the best place on earth: Hawai`i Nei! The land of ALOHA. All of you are the best examples of the Spirit of Aloha when you’re in your lane of giving your best for the causes you fight for.

While I am NOT interested in this “pay raise” & “RES23-109”, that’s an issue you must amicably resolve amongst yourself.

Nevertheless, don’t let the media or the chirping of “Aku Birds” instigate you guys to become resentful, bitter or create bad blood between you.

While a bitter and contentious battle for the LUST of POWER exists right now on Capitol Hill, that is virtually on the brink of starting a civil war. We let’s NOT mimic that kind action here. Whether by Blood or by heart, we are ALL Hawaiians. If you say Hawai`i is YOUR home, that you love and cherish this

sacred place. Then to me, you are Hawaiian. If you can accept being Hawaiian, then please remember that contentious issues must NOT become so nasty, as to cause us to act outside of the Spirit of Aloha.

At the end of this Resolution and when the pay raise issue becomes yesterdays' news, you will all still be Hawaiians. We will all be connected, as I have demonstrated between you and me, in some way, shape or fashion. Stay true to your true selves, the very people that I respect and call friends.

Mahalo Nunui for taking the time to read my words, I hope it means something to you.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me: (808) 726-5753 or email: demontconner@gmail.com

De Mont K. Manaole

De MONT Kalai Manaole, Co-Manager
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