RES23-156
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 374

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting
Meeting Date: Jul 12, 2023 @ 10:00 AM
Support: 1
Oppose: 0
I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Sean Maskrey	hawaiipublicpolicy@gmail.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 11, 2023 @ 09:02 AM

Sean Maskrey
1099 Alakea Street, Suite 2530
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

July 12, 2023

Council Chair Waters and
Members of the Honolulu City Council
Via Electronic Transmission

Re: Resolution 23-156 Confirming the appointment of Carla Houser to serve on the Board of Parks and Recreation of the City and County of Honolulu.

Aloha Chair Waters and members of the Honolulu City Council,

I am testifying in support of Resolution 23-156, confirming the appointment of Carla Houser to serve on the Board of Parks and Recreation of the City and County of Honolulu.

I am a lifelong resident of Honolulu and currently a college student studying economics and political science at the University of British Columbia. Through my work at a Honolulu government relations firm, I have learned about the important work that the Opportunity Youth Action Hawaii hui is doing to reduce the punitive effects of youth incarceration. Recently, I toured Hale Kipa where I observed the independent living facilities and therapeutic foster care which serve as a haven for youth who might otherwise be houseless or on the street. I have learned through these experiences that Carla Houser has been a community leader in addressing youth homelessness in her role as the executive director of Residential Youth Services and Empowerment. She is a driving force behind the Opportunity Youth Action Hawaii hui and works hard to advocate for mental health services and ending homelessness.

Youth incarceration, poverty, and homelessness are critical issues that are the responsibility of all of us. Ms. Houser has demonstrated the kind of thoughtful leadership that will serve the City well in this appointed position. There is little doubt that she will do her best to advise the City & County Department of Parks and Recreation on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, as well as youth inclusion. She will work collaboratively with city officials and community stakeholders. Please confirm her nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Sean Maskrey