RES23-158
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 383

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting
Meeting Date: Jul 12, 2023 @ 10:00 AM
Support: 2
Oppose: 0
I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Gary Simon	gsimon@aarp.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
AARP Hawaii	Support	Jul 11, 2023 @ 01:34 PM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Peggy Mierzwa	peggy@hiphi.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaii Public Health Insititute	Support	Jul 11, 2023 @ 02:52 PM

AARP Hawai'i

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July 11, 2023

RE: RES23-158 CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTY-ANN NISHITA TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

Aloha City Council Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of RES23-158** confirming the appointment of Christy-Ann Nishita to serve on the Board of Parks and Recreation of the City and County of Honolulu.

Dr. Nishita is the Director of the University of Hawaii Center on Aging and Coordinator for the Age-Friendly Honolulu (AFH) initiative. 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), an Age-Friendly Honolulu ordinance strongly supported by AARP Hawaii. Dr. Nishita has worked closely with Departments to set age-friendly goals and foster cross-department initiatives. Partnering with the community, she has led an age-friendly business program, intergenerational projects, the Dementia Friends initiative, and pedestrian safety projects.

During the pandemic, Dr. Nishita has worked with the Elderly Affairs Division, Hawaii Public Health Institute, and AARP Hawaii to leverage community partnerships in order to successfully address kupuna food security and vaccine outreach needs. She has since co-founded the Kupuna Collective and currently co-coordinates this network of over 250 members statewide. Co-led by the Hawaii Public Health Institute, this collective raises critical issues, leverages community partnerships, and incubates new and innovative solutions.

As we learn to adapt and live with COVID-19, Dr. Nishita deeply appreciates the need to create stronger social connections and more resilient communities. She is passionate about creating inclusive, intergenerational spaces to improve health and social connections. As her mentor and colleague, I strongly believe that she will be highly successful in this role and will ensure that the Parks and Recreation department effectively engages older adults in its parks and programs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of RES23-158**.

Very sincerely,

Gary Simon

Gary Simon
State President
AARP Hawai'i
808 265 5716
gsimon@aarp.org

HIPHI Board

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University of Hawai'i at Hilo

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Kaiser Permanente

May Okihiro, MD, MS
John A. Burns School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: July 7, 2023

To: Councilmember Tommy Waters, Chair
Councilmember Esther Kia'āina, Vice Chair
Members of the Honolulu City & County Council

Re: Support Resolution 23-158 Confirming the appointment of Christy-Ann Nishita to serve on the Board of Parks and Recreation of the City and County of Honolulu

Hrg: Wednesday, July 12, 2023

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute[i] (HIPHI) is in **Support of Resolution 23-158,** Confirming the nomination of confirming the appointment of Christy-Ann Nishita to serve on the Board of Parks and Recreation of the City and County of Honolulu.

Dr. Nishita is the Director of the University of Hawaii Center on Aging and Coordinator for the Age-Friendly Honolulu (AFH) initiative. 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 city programs, projects, and facilities. Dr. Nishita has worked closely with Departments to set age-friendly goals and foster cross-department initiatives. Partnering with the community, she has led an age-friendly business program, intergenerational projects, the Dementia Friends initiative, and pedestrian safety projects.

During the pandemic, Dr. Nishita worked with HIPHI, the Elderly Affairs Division, and AARP Hawai'i, to support community partners in addressing urgent kūpuna food security and vaccine outreach needs. She has since co-founded the Kūpuna Collective and co-coordinates this network of over 250 members statewide. Co-led by HIPHI, the Collective raises critical issues, leverages community partnerships, and incubates new solutions.

As we learn to adapt and live with COVID-19, Dr. Nishita appreciates the need to create stronger social connections and more resilient communities. She is passionate about creating inclusive, intergenerational spaces to improve health and social connections across generations and believes that park spaces can be thriving community hubs to achieve these goals.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** for the appointment of Dr. Christy-Ann Nishitia.

Mahalo,



Peggy Mierzwa
Director of Policy & Advocacy
Hawai'i Public Health Institute

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[i] Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.