

RES24-023
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 87

ZONING (ZON)

ZONING (ZON) Meeting

Meeting Date: Mar 6, 2024 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Ivan Hou	Email: ihou@5.unitehere.org	Zip: 96826
Representing: UNITE HERE Local 5	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 08:42 AM
Name: Angela Melody Young	Email: Alohdivinedesign@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: CARES Community Advocacy Research Education Services	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 6, 2024 @ 08:52 AM
Testimony: CARES testifies in strong support.		



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

March 5, 2024

Committee on Zoning
Honolulu City Council
Councilmember Calvin Say, Chair
Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Resolution 24-23

Chair Say, Vice Chair Dos Santos-Tam, and Members of the Committee,

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents 10,000 working people in the hotel, food service and health care industries across Hawaii. We are in support of Reso 24-23, approving the conceptual plan for a hotel at 128 North Nimitz Highway. The hotel would be located close to a future rail stop, which could benefit the success of rail, helping fulfill the goals of transit-oriented development. It could also act as part of the revitalization of Chinatown, while preserving the historic structure on the premises.

The developer is seeking less than the maximum possible variances under the IPD-T rules. Rather than build a 400-foot structure with a 10.0 FAR and the associated impacts from that, the developer is seeking to build a 200-foot hotel with a 6.82 FAR. The community benefits suggested in return seem reasonable.

Finally, we feel the developer has reached out to the community from the project's early stages, and worked with stakeholders on their concerns. We have confidence they will continue to do so.

Thank you for your consideration.