



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
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RADIANT CORDERO
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March 19, 2024

Members of the Salary Commission
Salary Commission
City and County of Honolulu
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony In Opposition to the Salary Commission's Permitted Interaction Group's Recommended Salary Increases for Councilmembers

Dear Honorable Members of the Salary Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to the Salary Commission's Permitted Interaction Group's recommended increases to salary and salary schedules of elected and appointed officials, as presented at the February 27, 2024 meeting of the Salary Commission.

As a Councilmember who voluntarily retained the salary of \$68,904, against the Salary Commission's recommended increases in 2023, I respectfully oppose the proposed salary increases for Councilmembers.

As the Chair of the Committee on Budget, I recommend we have a further discussion and consider implementing policy changes so that salary increases are nominal and take effect in future Fiscal Years. The City and County of Honolulu's proposed budget faces grave restrictions, including restrictive revenues, transitioning of American Rescue Plan Act and State and Local Fiscal Recovery funds and positions to the General Fund, hazard pay negotiations for employees during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and further unfunded mandates by the Hawai'i State Legislature.

On a personal note, as a former staff member of the Honolulu City Council, I am also of the opinion that my staff and team members should retain a higher salary than me, the Councilmember they are employed by, to reflect fair and equitable compensation for the important work that they do for our communities. Lastly, thank you for your time, commitment, and dedication to serve on the Salary Commission.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony in opposition to the proposed salary increases.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Radiant Cordero", is written over a printed name and title.

Radiant Cordero, Councilmember
Honolulu City Council, District VII