

**RES24-050
Testimony**

MISC. COMM. 122

BUDGET (BUD)

BUDGET (BUD) Meeting

Meeting Date: Apr 2, 2024 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 4

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Sarah Fairchild	Email: sarah@dukefoundation.org	Zip: 96816
Representing: Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 30, 2024 @ 06:23 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha kkou, I'm writing in strong support of the creation of separate departments for Ocean Safety and EMS. I served on the Mayor's Ocean Safety Task Force which unanimously endorsed Ocean Safety becoming a separate department to increase efficiency and effectiveness with its mission which is of significant scope, and markedly different from that of EMS. I'm especially pleased to witness the Mayor and City Council working cooperatively on this lifesaving matter. Honolulu's Ocean Safety team is composed of the most highly skilled watermen and waterwomen in the world, and we will be proud for our City to demonstrate international leadership in this field. Hawaii is second in the nation for rate of drowning among residents; drowning is the leading cause of death for Hawaii keiki ages 1-15; and drowning is the leading cause of injury-related death for our visitors. As part of the Hawaii Water Safety Coalition, I recognize that preventing drownings requires an ecosystem of water safety awareness built by individuals, organizations, and all levels of government. The creation of an independent Ocean Safety department will be a primary step in building this new ecosystem. I strongly support both departments being overseen by commissions rather than solitary, appointed department heads. Commission oversight is a national best practice in public safety because the focus is on saving lives. Commission oversight fosters transparency, accountability, and trust between communities and public safety departments. It provides an additional layer of scrutiny, potentially reducing misconduct and ensuring that department actions align with community expectations. Mahalo, Sarah Fairchild Executive Director Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation</p>		
Name: Jill Paulin	Email: jillpaulin@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 31, 2024 @ 09:30 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Budget Committee,</p> <p>I strongly support Resolution 24-50 to pursue a dedicated Ocean Safety department. I agree with the recommendation to create a Board for accountability, similar to the Commissions for the Fire and Police department. I believe the public will vote favorably if given a ballot measure on this.</p> <p>Mahalo,</p> <p>Jill Paulin</p>		
Name: Kauanui Sabas	Email: ksabas@hgea.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: Hawaii Government Employee Association	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 08:03 AM
Name: Kealakai Hammond	Email: kealakai.hammond@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2024 @ 12:30 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Council Budget Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Weyer, and Committee Members,</p> <p>I am a resident of (which area of Oahu).</p> <p>I am in STRONG SUPPORT of the amendment proposed by Councilmember Weyer to add \$500,000 to the capital budget for planning and design of the Ocean Safety First Responder Center - North Shore District.</p> <p>We desperately need these EMS/ambulance services and new Lifeguard District Office on the North Shore and this important area would be much better used for this purpose than more commercialization and tourism.</p>		

Mahalo,

Kealakai Hammond



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Committee on Budget

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

April 2, 2024

Resolution 24-50 (2024) – Initiating Amendments to the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (Amended 2017 Edition), as Amended, Relating to the Establishment of a Department of Ocean Safety

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports Resolution 24-50, which proposes to place the following question on the 2024 general election ballot: “Shall the Revised City Charter be amended to establish a Department of Ocean Safety and remove ocean safety responsibilities from the Department of Emergency Services?” and amends Section 6-603, Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (Amended 2017 Edition).

As the exclusive representative of the Water Safety Officers of the City and County of Honolulu, we believe it is in the best interest to create a separate department. A new Department would allow for greater autonomy, management, and oversight in water safety operations and funding, which in-turn, would better support Water Safety Officers in serving local residents and visitors at our beaches.

As the exclusive representative for most employees effected in this resolution, should the City Council vote to past this resolution and the people of Honolulu vote in-favor of this concept, we would like to kindly remind the Administration that in accordance with Chapter 89-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes and the applicable collective bargaining agreement (s), any changes affecting employee relations or conditions of work are subject to consultation with the exclusive representative. Furthermore, any changes to wages, hours, and other conditions of work specified in a collective bargaining agreement shall be negotiated between the employer and the exclusive representative.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Resolution 24-50.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director