

**RES24-103
Testimony**

MISC. COMM. 170

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Apr 17, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 6

Oppose: 2

I wish to comment: 4

Name: Judy Beasley	Email: ctama@myyahoo.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 15, 2024 @ 12:35 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I oppose the creation of a separate department; this will cause duplicate of staff, services and \$\$ i.e. additional Director, ASO, personnel clerks, clerical, offices, supplies, etc. to annual budget. This Division is small and should work together with all other emergency response departments. If they do not want to be part of EMS then they should be consolidated with Fire, as fire used to provide ocean rescues. OSD needs oversight and structure; the current OSD Chief has used intimidation to coworkers and other department personnel. Rather than create a new department, hold senior management accountable for their role in managing this division. If the Mayor has an issue with the services OSD provides, then address them through the Director of that department. If Mayor is going to pursue this organizational change then director and assistant director salaries need to be adjusted downward to reflect the downsizing of the HESD department. This level of management recieved a salary increase; they should earn that salary increase. Audits are conducted every year, yet no department is held accountable to those audits. Now the Auditor's budget is cut?! While working at the city, I saw these audits simply be put to the side and business continued as usual. This is unfortunate as I've seen the City's government integrity crumble in these past few years.</p>		
Name: Denise Antolini	Email: antolinid@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 15, 2024 @ 07:43 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Council Chair Waters and Members,</p> <p>I continue to support RES24-050 (Charter Amendment, Department with Commission) as the preferred route to stand up Ocean Safety to a Department.</p> <p>Recognizing the Mayor's initiative and request for a resolution to allow the Executive to proceed with a reorganization in the interim, I also *support RES24-103.*</p> <p>And I support RES24-92, introduced by Councilmember Weyer, to put the Commission on the Charter if RES24-050 is supplanted by the Executive reorganization.</p> <p>The additional budgetary request (approximately \$1.4m) is a small investment in a new administrative structure given the incalculable value of human life and safety, the inherent risks of our coastal recreational areas, and the proven record of our world-class Lifeguards as dedicated and effective first responders.</p> <p>Bottom line: I fully support the creation of an Ocean Safety Department that - ideally and eventually - has a Commission and independent Director to ensure transparency and public oversight. Our lifeguards and our communities deserve this major step forward and upward!</p> <p>Mahalo, Denise Antolini Ppkea, Oahu</p>		
Name: Stella Jay	Email: stellaplotke@gmail.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 15, 2024 @ 09:23 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>We don't need another mall on Oahu. It was just build something useful to help the community.</p>		
Name: Bryan Phillips	Email: bryanphillips808@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 16, 2024 @ 06:06 AM

Testimony:

I OPPOSE Resolution 24-103. I do believe Ocean Safety needs to be a department, however hastily starting up a department with no strategic plan, no real facilities, and no support staff is shortsighted. Appointed directors by any administration have no place in public safety sector. Public safety departments, like Fire and Police, have commissions and no appointed directors. A future department of Ocean Safety stood up with Resolution 24-103 would be a continuation of what is currently in place. I urge the council and administration to wholeheartedly work with the subject matter experts (chiefs) at Ocean Safety to support reso 24-50 which is the best path forward.

Mahalo,
Bryan Phillips

Name: Edward Fujioka	Email: puunui@msn.com	Zip: 96818
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 16, 2024 @ 07:53 AM

Name: Evan Hodges	Email: evan_hodges@outlook.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 16, 2024 @ 10:11 AM

Testimony:

Hello, my name is Evan Hodges I am an Ocean Safety Officer for the City and County of Honolulu. I am writing to comment on RES24-103. The creation of an Ocean Safety Department is necessary for the continue growth and expansion of Ocean Safety and to better protect our beachgoing community and its visitors. However, I thoroughly believe that a commision based department is the best system to provide more checks and balances within the department and distribute responsibilities among the departments executives. Nationwide commision based systems have proven to ensure that emergency response departments continue to grow and expand. On the contrary, allowing the decision of Ocean Safety transistioning to a department to be voted upon on genral election ballots may not be the best way to represent the beachgoer population. Since out of the 1 million people in our population (according to the 2023 US Census) only just over 500,000 are registered voters and out of that there is less than a 50% voter turnout. It is hard to believe that properly represents the community who is most affected by this transistion and I fear that if we do not get the 51% turnout needed we will lose the oppurtunity to become a department. Due to these factors, I am neither in support or opposed to RES24-103, because I believe immediate action is necessary but I do not believe a system with mayor appointed chiefs is the best for the department. Thank you for your time and for reading my testimonial.

Name: Randy Perreira	Email: ksabas@hgea.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: Hawaii Government Employee Association	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 16, 2024 @ 11:21 AM

Name: Sarah Fairchild	Email: sarah@dukefoundation.org	Zip: 96816
Representing: Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 16, 2024 @ 03:14 PM

Testimony:

The city council should request a detailed strategic timeline for standing up a new ocean safety department before considering approval of this resolution. I've seen references to this department opening July 1, 2025. With the known challenges of human resource management in our city, I'm not convinced a year is enough time to create job descriptions, advertise them, review applicants, interview, hire, onboard, and train, nevermind the other administrative challenges of creating a new department and setting up a physical space for it to exist. We have a brilliant opportunity to make Hawaii a leading example in ocean safety; let's do it in a thought-out, thorough manner. I'd hate to see a new department seen as a failure because it was not planned well.

Name: Racquel Achiu	Email: rhachiu@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 16, 2024 @ 10:57 PM

Testimony:

Aloha, Racquel Achiu of Waialua Moku, North Shore. I would like to combine (if you will) my support for Ocean Safety (OS) and the creation of a separate Ocean Safety Department. Having worked on this effort for many years now, the focus has always been to separate Ocean Safety from HESD and creating an independent, more efficient and effective Department solely for OS. MAHALO to CM Tupola for Resolution 24-50 of which I have supported since its introduction. Understanding it was a risky move (in my opinion) going to ballot, Res 24-50 was the only option to consider. However, with the introduction of Resolution 24-092 and Resolution 24-103, my position has come down to a statement I've made in past meetings, I SUPPORT ANY MEASURE THAT SUCCESSFULLY SEPARATES OCEAN SAFETY TO THEIR OWN DEPARTMENT IN AN EFFICIENT & TIMELY MANNER. Unfortunately, it seems, for some, that the focus of securing a Department for OS has somehow shifted to the management or oversight of the department (that doesn't exist...YET) in having a Commission vs Director. I respect whatever transition the Council determines is best for the future OS Department BUT I would respectfully ask that the creation of a separate department not be placed at risk by being on a ballot so to determine whether or not a commission is appropriate. Ideally, the creation and implementation of the Ocean Safety Department should be done in the most efficient & timely manner without going to ballot. The commission, if it must, can go to ballot without impacting the progress of creating the department. Further, for whatever its worth, in 2021, former CM Tsuneyoshi introduced Resolution 21-122. Res 21-122 request is very similar to Resolution 24-103 (without mention of a Commission). Res 21-122 was adopted on June 2, 2021, yet here we are, 3 years later STILL trying to get the OS Department to fruition. Please support the creation of OS Department without going to ballot and implementation as timely as possible. MAHALO

Name: Kerry Atwood	Email: kerryjatwood@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 17, 2024 @ 05:31 AM

Testimony:
Aloha,
My name is Kerry Atwood, and I am an individual testifying in support of resolution 24-103.

I am a lifeguard on the north side of the island and strongly feel that the establishment of the Ocean Safety department under the Mayors powers would best serve public safety and the continued growth of ocean safety. I have been a lifeguard for 35 years, and I have been a part of and under guidance from several different administrations and Directors. And with this opportunity to have the autonomy and Leadership specifically for ocean safety to be a standalone department I believe would greatly enhance public safety. I would NOT like for this matter to go to ballot, and strongly support the execution of this action from our Mayor.

Mahalo,
Kerry Atwood

Name: Joey Cadiz	Email: joeycamillewedding@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 17, 2024 @ 07:09 AM

Testimony:
Aloha my name is Joey Cadiz, I am a lifeguard on the North Shore of 10 years, and I am HGEA BU15 vice chair union steward. I was one of the Ocean Safety officers who served on the Ocean Safety Task Force in lieu of, this particular subject of the creation of a Department of Ocean Safety.

With all due respect to resolution, 24-50, CM Tupola, and to some of the comments made in the previous hearing by our Chief; I would just like to clarify that there is a large amount of my coworkers who are indeed aware of the processes and risks involved in the resolutions at hand. My colleagues and I have had many discussions, and although I speak for myself, I know that the consensus was in support for whatever measure is best for us to become our own department. I am here to acknowledge that we are very much in favor of supporting resolution 24-103; with the Mayor standing up the Department through his executive powers. We recognize that while as lifeguards, we do get lots of support through social media and press, but our voting communities here on the island may have very limited education on the subject to vote in favor of this process moving forward... and the risk to actually lose in a vote, would only set us back even further. We believe that resolution 24-103 is indeed the most secure and responsible way to move forward with a standalone department. We also do believe that transparency and accountability will be achieved through a Director appointed by the Mayor and would like to see this initiative go through the under the administration's direction.

We are all so very honored to have the attention and support for Ocean Safety by both the council and the Mayor and really look forward to the growth of this new department to continue to offer the greatest public safety possible on our coastlines. Mahalo.

Name:
Frederic Booth III

Email:
freddybooth@hotmail.com

Zip:
96712

Representing:
Self

Position:
I wish to comment

Submitted:
Apr 17, 2024 @ 07:31 AM

Testimony:

i strongly oppose 24-103 and believe this resolution goes to show the mayor is NOT committed to working with the council and Ocean Safety. The council has unanimously voted in favor of 24-50 every step of the way which is a Chief and commission. Ocean Safety's Chief has said on record many times he supports 24-50 and to do this slowly. His work performance these last years for Ocean Safety speaks for itself. This resolution shows the Mayor wasn't listening and i oppose. This resolution is nothing more than status quo for Ocean Safety's future. i believe the best and only way forward is a Chief and a commission like Fire and Police.

April 16, 2024

Testimony by Edward Fujioka

Resolution 24-103

Aloha Chair and members of the City Council thank you for the opportunity to testify on Resolution 24-103. I am a retired first responder with over 40 years of service. Resolution 24-103, Mayor's proposal to Charter amendment. In Sec.6-603 Powers, Duties and Functions. Although the primary language in this Resolution addresses the proposed Ocean Safety Department Proposal, it is also important to take this opportunity to address the entire Section 6-603.

The Director of emergency services shall; the following should be added to this section below.

- (a) Be the primary provider of;
- (b) Develop a program to provide Mental Health and Wellness for First Responders employed by the City and County of Honolulu. A wellness check shall be conducted during the responder's annual physical examination at HESD's Health services.

The purpose of adding this function is to address the overall wellness of our first responders, not just the physical examination. Mental wellness and overall wellness should be conducted to help responders cope with the stress and hypervigilance the jobs require. Providing this assessment is a win win investment for the employees and the City ensuring longevity of employment and overall wellness. I am available for any questions or comments.

Mahalo



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

April 17, 2024

Resolution 24-103 – INITIATING AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED CHARTER OF
THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU 1973 (AMENDED 2017 EDITION), AS
AMENDED, PURSUANT TO THE MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE REORGANIZATION
AUTHORITY, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN SAFETY

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports Resolution 24 – 103, which creates the Department of Ocean Safety, pursuant to the Mayor's Executive Reorganization Authority.

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, 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 – 103.

Respectfully submitted,


Randy Perreira
Executive Director