

RES24-023
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 171

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

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

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Christopher Delaunay	Email: cdelaunay@prp-hawaii.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Pacific Resource Partnership	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 15, 2024 @ 02:20 PM
Name: Joli Tokusato	Email: jtokusato@5.unitehere.org	Zip: 96826
Representing: UNITE HERE Local 5	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 16, 2024 @ 07:26 AM

Testimony of
Pacific Resource Partnership

City Council
City & County of Honolulu
Councilmember Tommy Waters, Chair
Councilmember Esther Kia'aina, Vice Chair

Resolution 24-23, CD1— Chinatown Hotel Development
Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and Members of the Council:

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a nonprofit organization that represents the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters, the largest construction union in the state with approximately 6,000 members, in addition to more than 250 diverse contractors ranging from mom-and-pop owned businesses to national companies.

The Developer is proposing to develop a hotel in Chinatown that will help to stimulate the local economy by creating more jobs, visitor spending, and tax revenues for the state and city.

The development of a hotel increases the economic opportunity and employment diversity in the Chinatown TOD Neighborhood by attracting new businesses and supporting existing businesses that will provide services to the hotel, its guests, and employees. The hotel expects to provide \$18.9 million annually into the Chinatown community directly from its visitor spending and will benefit our government through tax revenues.

Moreover, the Project will create construction jobs for Hawaii's residents paying them a "living wage" with benefits. These types of jobs provide residents with an opportunity to afford Hawaii's high cost of living, keep residents off welfare and other government assistance programs, stimulate the local economy, and provide economic stability for workers and their families.

Given the above, we respectfully request your favorable decision on this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.





Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

April 16, 2024

Honolulu City Council
Councilmember Tommy Waters, Chair
Councilmember Esther Kiaʻāina, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Resolution 24-23

Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kiaʻāina, and Councilmembers,

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.