

RES24-092
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 173

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

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

Support: 3

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name: Edward Fujioka	Email: puunui@msn.com	Zip: 96818
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 15, 2024 @ 07:14 PM
Testimony: I am in full support of an Ocean Safety Commission comprised of up to 7 members. Representing a board range of community on Oahu. Mayor can appoint up to 3 members, the City council will appoint all others for terms up to 3years. Commissioners can be held over for a maximum of one additional 2yr term. I also support a Council draft resolution to form an EMS commission to appoint the Director/Chief of HESD and hold authority to appoint, terminate, suspend and provide/enforce recommendations. These commissions will provide oversight and assist in resolving issues provide solutions and serve as advocates for employees and the public concerns.		
Name: Denise Antolini	Email: antolinid@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 15, 2024 @ 07:42 PM
Testimony: Aloha Council Chair Waters and Members, I continue to support RES24-050 (Charter Amendment, Department with Commission) as the preferred route to stand up Ocean Safety to a Department. 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. 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. 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. 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! Mahalo, Denise Antolini Ppkea, Oahu		
Name: Evan Hodges	Email: evan_hodges@outlook.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 16, 2024 @ 09:54 AM
Testimony: Hello, my name is Evan Hodges I am an Ocean Safety Officer for the City and County of Honolulu. I am writing in support of RES24-050. I thoroughly believe that a commision based department is the best way for Ocean Safety to provide the best care for our community and its visitors. Nationwide commision based systems have proven to ensure that emergency response departments continue to grow and expand. Thank you for your time and for reading my testimonial.		
Name: Frederic Booth III	Email: freddybooth@hotmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 17, 2024 @ 09:15 AM
Testimony: i have been a Lifeguard on the North Shore for 22 years. In that time the most growth i've seen in OSD is lately under Chief		

Titchen. i have watched the councils unanimous support of 24-50 as well as my Chiefs along the way and i agree and also strongly support 24-50. One thing we can all agree on is we all want Ocean Safety to be its own Department. Now it's just if it's with a Chief and a commission or a Director. i strongly oppose the mayors resolution because i believe he is in too much of a rush, and he wants to use a Director. This also shows me he hasn't been as committed as he says to being willing to work with the council and Ocean Safety to get this done. i don't agree with res 92 because it allows the mayor to do this in a rush with a Director. What happens down the line if a commission is chosen? Will the Director be removed? Nationwide best practice for an emergency department is a Chief and a commission. i don't believe a Director to be independent. Directors often times donate to the mayor, they are hired by the mayor, and they usually come and go with the mayor. Common sense says a Director is committed to the mayor more then the men and women on the frontline. As a Lifeguard on the front line for 22 years i strongly support 24-50, strongly oppose 24-103, and with respect disagree with 24-92 because it leaves room for a Director rather than a Chief and a commission. We shouldn't be in a rush to do this the wrong way.