

RES24-103

Testimony

MISC. COMM. 192

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH (HSH)

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH (HSH)
Meeting

Meeting Date: May 1, 2024 @ 02:30 PM

Support: 8

Oppose: 36

I wish to comment: 7

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Rachel Porter	paipoqueen@hawaii.rr.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Apr 29, 2024 @ 02:33 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>As a longtime Pupukea resident who walks the beach at Waimea every day and swims every day that conditions permit, I have observed our heroic lifeguards for more than 30 years. It has never made any sense to me that they should be in the same department with paramedics and ambulance personnel. If I found myself in a dangerous, life-threatening situation in the ocean, I certainly would not want to be rescued by EMS, just as I wouldn't want a lifeguard putting out a fire at my house.</p> <p>Firemen have their own department and are supervised by people with actual fire-fighting experience. The same should absolutely be true for lifeguards.</p> <p>Although it may sound like the most democratic path, I am strongly opposed to making this a ballot measure voted on by the general public, for all the reasons so eloquently outlined by Councilwoman Andrea Tupola on a previous hearing on this measure. This is a complicated issue, and if the public has not taken the time to attend the hearings as I have, then their tendency will generally be to vote No.</p> <p>Please allow the Mayor to exercise the powers he has been given and establish a separate department for Ocean Safety immediately.</p>		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Donna Ching	donnalching@icloud.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Apr 29, 2024 @ 09:25 PM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Frederic Booth	freddybooth@hotmail.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	Apr 30, 2024 @ 12:19 PM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Frederic Booth III	freddybooth@hotmail.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	Apr 30, 2024 @ 12:46 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>i sent a pdf of a vote we just did through HGEA amongst our OSD division. These results just came back Monday and are as up to date as it gets. 220 emails went out to members and just over half participated and voted. The results are clear. 86% are for 24-50 and only 3% are for 103. 100% want the dept so why would we risk it with 24-50? It's all because of the Mayor appointed Director. 24-50 has risk with the vote but the res is clear! Res 103 and 92 is murky and that is the risk. i'm</p>		

sure the administration will say they support a commission so my question i'd love answered is. If the Mayor stands up OSD now with a Director and the commission passes in November, what happens to his Director? 92 says the commission appoints the Director. Clarification on this is key to me providing whether i support or oppose. Will the Director now need to requalify and get reapproved along with other candidates through the commission? If not can the commission oversee a Mayor appointed Director beholden to the Mayor? Please clarify. As far as the HGEA OSD vote i would like to point out to the council and anyone else that when a Lifeguard says "Ocean Safety" or "we" when testifying in regards to support for 103 just know that supports is very small. Also when the Mayor or his administration mentions talking to "Ocean Safety" in regards to support for 103 that support is also very small. Clarification on what would happen with the Director position if the commission is approved would be greatly appreciated to clear the water. Thank you.

Name: Denise Antolini	Email: antolinid@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 30, 2024 @ 03:49 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Committee Chair Weyer and Members,

I write in support of Res. 24-103 with the caveat that I *also support Res. 24-92* so that -- eventually -- a Commission with oversight, approved by the voters, is ultimately established for the new OSD Department that is stood up by the Mayor through this resolution.

Mahalo,

Denise Antolini
Pūpūkea resident

Name: Sarah Fairchild	Email: sarahjfairchild@yahoo.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 30, 2024 @ 06:43 PM

Testimony:

I do support a separate Department of Ocean Safety but I'm not convinced that a department lead by a Mayor's appointee would be much different than the status quo. I am further concerned there is no strategic plan other than the budget for extra positions prepared by the Chief of the Department of Ocean Safety for the Ocean Safety Task Force. Where will the headquarters be for this new department? Where will the offices be for the added positions? What is the timeline for this development?

Name: Bryan Phillips	Email: bryanphillips808@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
-------------------------	--------------------------------------	---------------

Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 30, 2024 @ 07:07 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Chair Weyer and members of the Committee-</p> <p>I support RES24-050 as the preferred method for standing up a Department and Commission for Ocean Safety. RES24-050 provides the cleanest path forward for public oversight and transparency while keeping the chiefs of Ocean Safety in leadership.</p> <p>While the intent of RES24-103 is good, I do NOT support the current language of RES24-103 where the Mayor appoints directors.</p> <p>In light of the suspension of Chief Titchen with an unclear reason it has lead the public, lifeguards and supporters to speculate whether this suspension is based off a difference of opinion between the Mayor and Chief. 24-50 did not go unnoticed through the council. It has been passed unopposed by the council during 4 separate hearings over a span of about 2.5 months.</p> <p>As the dust settles it may be wise to defer 24-50, 24-92 and 24-103 to next year which is a charter year.</p> <p>I have a few questions if 103 does pass and 92 goes to the ballot for he administration and the council.</p> <p>Why is there such a huge rush to get this done now?</p> <p>What happens to the Mayor appointed directors of 103 if 92 is passed in November?</p> <p>Thank you to the administration and the council for their support of the lifeguards.</p> <p>Aloha, Bryan Phillips</p>		
Name: Aka Tamashiro	Email: akataamashiro@hotmail.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 30, 2024 @ 08:55 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I oppose strongly oppose 103 and support not only 24-50 but also chief of ocean safety John Titchen.</p> <p>None of the way this matter feels right</p>		

Name: Alan Cavaco	Email: alimakavaco@me.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 30, 2024 @ 09:05 PM
Testimony: As an Ocean Safety officer for the City and County of Honolulu I OPPOSE res24-103 as it fails to provide us with an oversight commission which is what we as a department want. Res24-103 goes against the wishes of Ocean Safety. NO to res24-103.		
Name: Chelsea Kahalepauole-Bizik	Email: chelsea_opuulani@yahoo.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 30, 2024 @ 09:17 PM
Testimony: As an Ocean Safety officer for the City and County of Honolulu I OPPOSE res24-103 as it fails to provide us with an oversight commission which is what we as a department want. Res24-103 goes against the wishes of Ocean Safety. NO to res24-103.		
Name: Derek Wong	Email: wongderek808@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 30, 2024 @ 09:20 PM
Testimony: As an Ocean Safety officer for the City and County of Honolulu I OPPOSE res24-103 as it fails to provide us with an oversight commission which is what we as a department want. Res24-103 goes against the wishes of Ocean Safety. NO to res24-103.		
Name: Kale Sylva	Email: kalesylva95@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 30, 2024 @ 09:26 PM
Testimony: As an Ocean Safety officer for the City and County of Honolulu I OPPOSE res24-103 as it fails to provide us with an oversight commission which is what we as a department want. Res24-103 goes against the wishes of Ocean Safety. NO to res24-103.		
Name: Jude Parker	Email: 808heyjude@gmail.com	Zip: 96821

Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 30, 2024 @ 09:28 PM
Testimony: As an Ocean Safety officer for the City and County of Honolulu I OPPOSE res24-103 as it fails to provide us with an oversight commission which is what we as a department want. Res24-103 goes against the wishes of Ocean Safety. NO to res24-103.		
Name: Eddie Fujioka	Email: puunui@msn.com	Zip: 96818
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 30, 2024 @ 10:09 PM
Name: Ikaika Won	Email: ikaikawon@yahoo.com	Zip: 96819
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 30, 2024 @ 10:11 PM
Testimony: As an Ocean Safety officer for the City and County of Honolulu I OPPOSE res24-103 as it fails to provide us with an oversight commission which is what we as a department want. Res24-103 goes against the wishes of Ocean Safety. NO to res24-103.		
Name: Racquel Achiu	Email: rhachiu@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 30, 2024 @ 11:42 PM
Testimony: Aloha, Racquel Achiu, North Shore in support of Res 24-103. I've advocated for Ocean Safety to be its own department for many years now... too many years. Seeing budgeting challenges for OS in 2019 promoted the introduction and ultimate adoption of 21-122 (urging mayor to exercise his executive reorg authority to create a separate dept for Ocean safety & lifeguard personnel services). Here we are in 2024 still asking for this measure to be implemented. Ocean Safety's independence as its own Department, I believe will provide greater autonomy for its budget and operations to better serve our communities, as well as their own personnel. Ocean Safety will have the potential to progress in a way that appropriately meets the rapidly growing needs of our community (and visitor industry). Keeping "the department" from appearing on the ballot & eliminating the risk of the department from not being implemented at all. Please ensure the passage of this resolution MAHALO !!		
Name: Christian Hemmings	Email: aloha_hemmings@yahoo.com	Zip: 96795
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Oppose	May 1, 2024 @ 06:20 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha City Council members, my name is Christian Hemmings and I'm an Ocean Safety Lifeguard on the Eastside of Oahu. I strongly oppose Res24-103 and so does the rest of our department. We want our department set up with a Chief and commission to have more accountability and transparency to the public. Mahalo for your time.</p>		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Steven Hong	pioumehanakalani@gmail.com	96744
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	May 1, 2024 @ 06:24 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I oppose this it should be a commission like fire and police for transparency and fairness for everyone</p>		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Theodore Davis	keasdaman@gmail.com	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	May 1, 2024 @ 06:36 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I oppose, ocean safety should be its own department with a commission!</p>		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jacob Ah Sam	ahsam96795@gmail.com	96795
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	May 1, 2024 @ 06:41 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>A commission is the way it should be done</p>		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jacob Ah Sam	ahsam96795@gmail.com	96795
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	May 1, 2024 @ 06:43 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Commission for ocean Saftey department</p>		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Joey Cadiz	joeycamillewedding@gmail.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 1, 2024 @ 06:47 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Council Members:

My name is Joey Cadiz. I a lifeguard on the North Shore and one of the members of the Ocean Safety Task Force. I have served as a steward and officer for the lifeguard labor union and active advocate of OSD over the last several years.

Acknowledging that recent events have catalyzed what seem like opposing views on how to move forward, I want to remind everyone here that our workforce us absolutely united on the need to create a department for Ocean Safety that is separate from Emergency Services.

I am here to represent myself and many of my co-workers in the supporting Resolution 103 and to thank all of you and the Mayor for offering this expeditious solution. I truly believe that Resolution 103 is the best way to give OSD the means to succeed.

Standing up OSD right away with an appointed Director hastens OSD's independence. But just as importantly, this route comes with a tacit pledge of support from the administration, ensuring OSD of the Mayor's support in the critical first years of independence. This cooperative relationship is critical for OSD to thrive.

If down the road, a commission or other change to the governance of the department is deemed in the best interests of ocean safety, that too can be considered by our rank and file, the Council and Mayor. But the time to stand up the department is now.

As lifeguards we spend our days mitigating risk, educating the public, and taking action in a rescue situation. My support of Resolution 103 represents this same process: educating (myself), assessing risks, taking action. Resolution 103 is clearly the quickest, least risky, most assured path to delivering an independent and successful OSD. It has my full support.

I am here to support OSD moving forward.... not backwards nor into a political quagmire.

Mahalo

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Mike McHale	mikemchale001@gmail.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 1, 2024 @ 06:53 AM

Testimony:

As a OSD employee since 2004 it's very exciting to have both the Mayor and the City Council in full support of a stand alone department for OSD! I am in full support of 24-103. Thank you for your service!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Moses Kaawaloa	ahukini7@gmail.com	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	May 1, 2024 @ 06:57 AM
Testimony: I oppose 24-103.		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Samuel Fisher III	swfda3rd@gmail.com	96791
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	May 1, 2024 @ 06:59 AM
Testimony: I am in full support of resolution 24-103		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Robert Beall	robertbeall123@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	May 1, 2024 @ 07:25 AM
Testimony: No		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Alex Ferencz	aferencznj@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	May 1, 2024 @ 07:28 AM
Testimony: The national standard for an Emergency services department is a chief elected by a commission. This allows Ocean Safety the ability to serve the public in the most effective and transparent way possible. It enables the chief to advocate to the mayor/city for what the department needs without fear of being told to step down. Emergency responder organizations need to have the ability to speak up when things need to change to better serve the public we commit our lives to protect!		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Punahele Motoyama	filbert_0kinsmen@icloud.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	May 1, 2024 @ 07:28 AM
Testimony: A commission would be a much better approach to allowing the Department of Ocean Safety to flourish. It will allow us to hear from more voices throughout the community, and prevent a "my way or the highway" approach that may occur with		

<p>emplacement of director appointed by only one man.</p>		
<p>Name:</p> <p>Alex Chao</p>	<p>Email:</p> <p>alexandchao@gmail.com</p>	<p>Zip:</p> <p>96826</p>
<p>Representing:</p> <p>Ocean safety</p>	<p>Position:</p> <p>Oppose</p>	<p>Submitted:</p> <p>May 1, 2024 @ 07:44 AM</p>
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha, I am a water safety officer with the department of ocean safety. I am also a social worker. I strongly oppose the mayors plan for ocean safety. Ocean safety's performance should not be political currency for the mayors office. The osd should have a separate oversight system and autonomy as an emergency department. Mahalo. WSO Chao.</p>		
<p>Name:</p> <p>Blayne Fujita</p>	<p>Email:</p> <p>bkunane@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Zip:</p> <p>96815</p>
<p>Representing:</p> <p>Self</p>	<p>Position:</p> <p>Oppose</p>	<p>Submitted:</p> <p>May 1, 2024 @ 07:58 AM</p>
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I oppose RES24-103</p>		
<p>Name:</p> <p>Lamakani Holt</p>	<p>Email:</p> <p>lamakani@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Zip:</p> <p>96816</p>
<p>Representing:</p> <p>OSD city and county ocean safety</p>	<p>Position:</p> <p>Oppose</p>	<p>Submitted:</p> <p>May 1, 2024 @ 08:26 AM</p>
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I oppose 24-103 i am for 24-92 thank you!</p>		
<p>Name:</p> <p>Alan Lamphere</p>	<p>Email:</p> <p>lamphere_alan@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Zip:</p> <p>96825</p>
<p>Representing:</p> <p>Self</p>	<p>Position:</p> <p>Oppose</p>	<p>Submitted:</p> <p>May 1, 2024 @ 08:46 AM</p>
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I oppose to Res24-103.</p> <p>A commission is a national standard and is the right move towards ocean safety to better server the public and visitors who enjoy our beautiful beaches.</p>		
<p>Name:</p> <p>Jorge Gago</p>	<p>Email:</p> <p>Longlivethedax@gmail.com</p>	<p>Zip:</p> <p>96734</p>
<p>Representing:</p> <p>Ocean Safety</p>	<p>Position:</p> <p>Oppose</p>	<p>Submitted:</p> <p>May 1, 2024 @ 08:48 AM</p>

<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Commission is a preferred option to directorship for many reasons, one being the events of last week</p>		
<p>Name:</p> <p>Travis Estores</p>	<p>Email:</p> <p>traviskk@hawaii.edu</p>	<p>Zip:</p> <p>96791</p>
<p>Representing:</p> <p>Self</p>	<p>Position:</p> <p>Oppose</p>	<p>Submitted:</p> <p>May 1, 2024 @ 09:00 AM</p>
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am in opposition of RES 24-130 because I feel a commission that has a group of minds instead of just one to make decisions for Ocean Safety would benefit democracy and fairness. Having a director that can be appointed by the mayor and changed when a new mayor is elected would not be in the best interest of the Ocean Safety department. Progress that a previous mayor and director were making during their term could be completely overturned or reversed by the next mayor and director. While on the other hand a commission that has a board that must be voted in would make more sense and be a stable foundation for future endeavors and the advancement of the Ocean Safety Department.</p>		
<p>Name:</p> <p>Kori Oros</p>	<p>Email:</p> <p>Koriharvey@gmail.com</p>	<p>Zip:</p> <p>96712</p>
<p>Representing:</p> <p>Self</p>	<p>Position:</p> <p>Support</p>	<p>Submitted:</p> <p>May 1, 2024 @ 09:00 AM</p>
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I strongly support the development of an Ocean Safety Department. The needs of our ocean waterpeople are different than the land safety services and should have their own resources, decision making and budget - this would help our island community so that residents would benefit. I believe a commission would be better as oversight, however the main focus would be the creation of the department. Mahalo.</p> <p>Kori</p>		
<p>Name:</p> <p>Devin Brady</p>	<p>Email:</p> <p>bradydevin@gmail.com</p>	<p>Zip:</p> <p>96816</p>
<p>Representing:</p> <p>Self</p>	<p>Position:</p> <p>Oppose</p>	<p>Submitted:</p> <p>May 1, 2024 @ 09:05 AM</p>
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am opposed to this. Ocean Safety should remain its own, and not be put in a position where the mayor has a certain degree of control because they are appointing a director. It iOS ann over all safety issue and concern for the public.</p>		
<p>Name:</p> <p>Joseph Cruz</p>	<p>Email:</p> <p>808joecruz@gmail.com</p>	<p>Zip:</p> <p>96816</p>
<p>Representing:</p> <p>Self</p>	<p>Position:</p> <p>Oppose</p>	<p>Submitted:</p> <p>May 1, 2024 @ 09:14 AM</p>

Testimony:

As a current employee for Ocean Safety and being someone involved with organizing and representing our personnel by Union Stewardship i can say that we in Ocean Safety nearly unanimously oppose 24-103. We have organized and completed a department wide vote via HGEA amongst our union members that was sent to approximately 220 employees resulting in 86.49% supporting 24-50 and only 3.6% supporting 24-103. We do NOT want 24-103. We strongly oppose an appointed director, and furthermore any supplemental resolution like 24-92. I have no confidence in 24-92 and feel it only tries to pull a veil over 103 which remains if 92 results in no commission. We as a majority in my communications with personnel would prefer nothing at all if not 24-50. The national standard for an Emergency services department is a chief elected by a commission. Your own TASK FORCE reported as much. This allows the new Ocean Safety Department the ability to serve the public in the most effective and transparent way possible. It enables the chief to advocate to the mayor/city for what the department needs without fear of being told to step down....or being put on administrative leave and made a public spectacle. Thats what all our Department sees right now. What a disappointment to watch unfold. We all respect Chief Titchen and he was our biggest advocate. Why is he not here at this most critical time? He alone fully understands the needs and intricacies that need to be communicated to you all. Emergency responder organizations need to have the ability to speak up when things need to change to better serve the public. Every day 365 days a year we commit our lives to protect you and your loved ones. Please listen to US. Listen to what WE want. Look at the consensus of YOUR task force. We want a commission. We do not want a Director. We do not want to try to add a commission later to a unsupported and unwanted initial model.

Name: Kurt Lager	Email: lager.kurt@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 1, 2024 @ 09:24 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Weyer and Committee Members,

I would like to express my support for RES24-50 as I believe this resolution is a complete package without confusion. It simply lets the public decide what public safety should look like.

I am not necessarily opposed to RES24-103 or RES24-92, I do feel it is important that Ocean Safety becomes a department. However, there are questions that these resolutions raise: Will a Director be appointed before the vote on RES24-92? What will happen to the Director if RES24-92 is successful at the poll? What is the rush to create the department?

I believe some clarity needs to be made for these resolutions to be more widely supported.

Thank you for the continued support of Ocean Safety and this historic movement that is being discussed.

Aloha,

Kurt Lager		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Mitchell Kemp	mitchkempauberger@gmail.com	96814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	May 1, 2024 @ 10:02 AM
Testimony: As a current Lifeguard for Ocean Safety I oppose RES 24-103.		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Blake Caporoz	bjcaporoz@hotmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	May 1, 2024 @ 10:06 AM
Testimony: I am an ocean safety employee serving the public for 20 years. I oppose 24-103. The union organized and completed a department wide vote via HGEA, it was sent to approximately 220 employees resulting in 86.49% supporting 24-50 and only 3.6% supporting 24-103. We do NOT want 24-103. Nor do we want 24-92. I am in support of 24-50. It was reported that the National standards for emergency departments is a chief elected by a COMMISSION. Why would we not uphold a national standard that ensures transparency & democracy? Why would not listen to the major vote. What the people want.		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Louis S	lsarkes@oberlin.edu	96791
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	May 1, 2024 @ 11:07 AM
Testimony: Oppose RES24-103.		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Brieanna Cantalupo	bricantalupo@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	May 1, 2024 @ 11:07 AM
Testimony: I am opposing this agenda.		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Rowena Estores	reestores@yahoo.com	96791

Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 1, 2024 @ 11:39 AM
Testimony: The mayor should not be able to appoint the head of ocean safety. Political appointments cause instability in the department due to lack of longevity in mayors.		
Name: James Estores	Email: kainoaej@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 1, 2024 @ 11:48 AM
Testimony: Because mayors are replaced every 4 or 8 years, a political appointee as department head of ocean safety would not be conducive to a stable department. The head of ocean safety should not be a political appointee.		
Name: Josh Barber	Email: jbb0811@gmail.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 1, 2024 @ 12:24 PM
Testimony: Aloha, my name is Josh Barber, currently serving as a lifeguard for Honolulu Ocean Safety. I oppose RES 24-103. While I support the idea of us becoming our own stand-alone agency, I'm concerned about the provision allowing someone like Mayor Rick Blangiardi, who isn't a subject matter expert in our field, to appoint our director. Our leadership should ideally come from within our expertise to ensure effective decision-making.		
Name: Victor Hemmy III	Email: apache8008@gmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 1, 2024 @ 12:58 PM
Testimony: I strongly oppose resolution 24-103 and would like a commission voted on by the public and to reinstate chief Titchen		
Name: Evan Hodges	Email: evan_hodges@outlook.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 1, 2024 @ 01:07 PM
Testimony: My name is Evan Hodges I am an Ocean Safety Officer for the city and county of Honolulu. I am writing in opposition of RES 24-103. It does not provide the oversight on management needed for the growth of ocean safety.		

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Norman Skorge	msdhawaii01@gmail.com	96821
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	May 1, 2024 @ 01:13 PM
Testimony: Ocean Safety Department director position should be recommended by committee not politically appointed by Mayor. Otherwise just another example of nepotism in action. Transparency and honesty in government please! Norm Skorge Veteran Lifeguard, WSOII, Ocean Safety		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
James Loganbill	jmsloganbill23@gmail.com	96744
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	May 1, 2024 @ 01:18 PM
Testimony: As a lifeguard with 35 years of experience , I strongly oppose Res 103 . Our goal and top priority at Ocean Safety is to provide quality lifeguard services when and where they are needed most. I believe that a commission overseeing the department helps ensure this goal exists in perpetuity. Mahalo, James Loganbill		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jessamy Hornor	jessamyhornor@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	May 1, 2024 @ 01:54 PM
Testimony: Aloha, I wish to submit personal testimony as a longtime advocate for ocean and water safety representing the perspective of those who have lost loved ones to drowning. I am testifying in support of a separate Department of Ocean Safety overseen by a commission, and ask that this go to the voters because ocean safety has a direct impact on all of us. This process has become very complicated with politics playing an outsized role, and I think it is important to refocus on the core mission of ocean safety which is to perform rescues - as well as offer more proactive prevention outreach and education. The new US National Water Safety Action Plan recommends foregrounding drowning prevention outreach and education at a scalable level to reduce the need for on-site interventions and rescues. The current configuration of Ocean Safety under EMS has not allowed for that more proactive approach. With a Department, a commission not only would oversee ocean safety, it would allow for more robust community engagement much like a non-profits board members. According to the National Drowning Prevention Alliance, Drowning costs the U.S. Economy \$51.53 billion per year. While there is concern about the cost of a new Department, more drowning prevention outreach would significantly reduce the impact on our economy as a whole. And it would save lives, which is ultimately the mission of Ocean Safety. Thank you for your consideration.		

Name: Tiana Wilbur	Email: tianawilbur2023@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 1, 2024 @ 02:24 PM
Testimony: I support the reorganizing of Ocean Safety to be their own department. Fully funded and commissioned.		

SUPPORTING Resolution 24-103

Aloha Council Members:

I'm Donna L. Ching, an ocean swimmer and ocean safety advocate since the old days when the lifeguards were lumped into the same HGEA union (Unit 3) as white collar clerks and secretaries. I helped the lifeguard public awareness campaign to secure their first bargaining Unit (14). That was a long time ago and many good things have happened since including moving on to Unit 15, much needed pay raises, budgets for additional positions, equipment, extended hours, etc.

I'm asking your support for Resolution 24-103 because I truly believe it is the best path to give Oahu's lifeguards the independent department they've desperately needed for years. Having the department in the Mayor's administration with an appointed director/chief means OSD will have the administration's support in the fledgling first years.

Commissions or other change to the governance of the department can be considered down the road. Saddling a brand new OSD with the potentially fractious oversight of a group is risky and foolish. The new OSD director/chief needs to focus all their energy on planning, organizing and achieving results. Not wasting precious bandwidth on managing egos and agendas of commissioners.

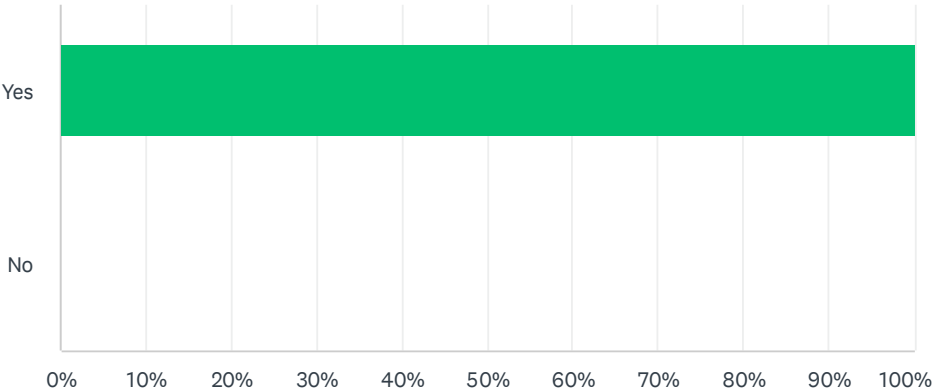
Resolution 24-103 is the best mechanism for standing up an independent and successful OSD. It has my full support. Please do not allow the long overdue establishment of the Ocean Safety Department to be further waylaid by distractions like creating a commission first. Get OSD moving. Consider adjustments and complex layers of oversight later (or maybe never?).

Mahalo,

Donna L. Ching
808-384-4070

Q1 Do you generally support the creation of the Department of Ocean Safety?

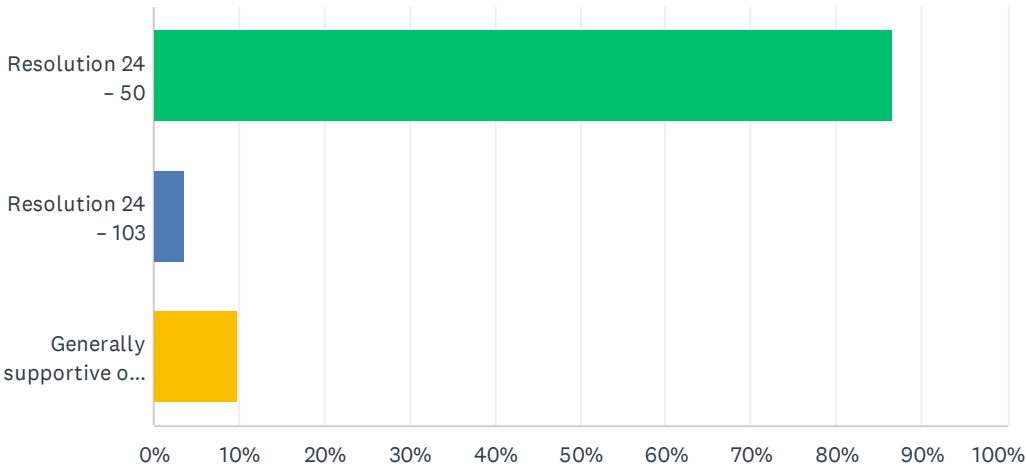
Answered: 112 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	112
No	0.00%	0
TOTAL		112

Q2 If yes, which resolution are you supportive of?

Answered: 111 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Resolution 24 – 50		86.49%	96
Resolution 24 – 103		3.60%	4
Generally supportive of both		9.91%	11
TOTAL			111

Q3 Do you have any additional comments you'd like to share on these proposals? (All comments will be nameless and shared only amongst HGEA staff and BU15 Oahu Island Division Leadership.)

Answered: 62 Skipped: 50

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Regardless of which resolution passes Ocean Safet will be best served by a leader who is able to keep his ego in check and who will be able to "manage upward"-- i.e. with the mayor and the city council and "manage downward"-- i.e. be able to listen and advocate for the rank-and-file lifeguards. Reso 24-50 does not specify the criteria of selection for the commission. This could introduce as much politic as a director appointed by the mayor. I am also not sure about the org chart with Reso 24-103. Will there be an Excluded Management chief in addition to the director? I think a longer-term goal would be to have a commission whose makeup is spelled out and -- as much as possible -- removed from the mayor's whims. I do feel, however, it is advantageous to take advantage of creating a stand-alone department while we have the opportunity.	4/28/2024 11:31 PM
2	Need to see this on the ballot to be voted on by the general public. I really feel this is long overdue, Ocean safety needs to get out from under EMS and become its own entity to even better serve the community as well as all of the visitors that fly here on a daily basis.	4/28/2024 9:42 PM
3	If we move ocean safety from EMS to it's own managed and separate department, it would provide new and expanding opportunities. The democratic approach of a commissioned governing body to head the internal affairs and decisions concerning the newly formed department would allow for a more balanced and fair system that ultimately and directly effect the public we serve, as well as it's members.	4/28/2024 9:41 PM
4	Would like to see the current chief stay and have a commission to support and back him up , like police, fire , and other emergency services around the U.S. A director appointed by the mayor would be a poor decision and we have had to many poor decisions by past mayors and appointed directors. We need transparency, accountability, and public input. Let the citizens vote on these issues. Thank you, Bruce Bellows	4/28/2024 9:15 PM
5	The Mayor should NOT appoint the Ocean Safety director. The public should vote so the process is transparent.	4/28/2024 8:25 PM
6	A commission that has a variety of smart, educated, unbiased workers seems fair!	4/28/2024 7:52 PM
7	Mahalo!	4/28/2024 7:37 PM
8	Want a commission with a chief	4/28/2024 7:14 PM
9	This survey does not include resolution 24-92 and I feel is inaccurate in conclusion upon the lack of information provided. This was an inappropriate poll.	4/28/2024 10:05 AM
10	I strongly support Honolulu Ocean Safety in becoming its own department and to be under Chief John Titchen.	4/28/2024 9:50 AM
11	It would be nice if we started our own department now but not with an appointed director. In my eyes we have been treated as the step-son of EMS since I've started with Ocean Safety in 2011 with Directors who have been former EMS workers who do not know what our job is in OSD. At least with a commission, there will be multiple people deciding on decisions about what Ocean Safety needs. Not just one person who may not (most likely not) know our needs.	4/28/2024 9:38 AM
12	Resolution 24-50 seems like the way to do it if looking at other agencies and how they have been setup. My concern with that is we will have people who have no experience in ocean safety making decisions about the future of the department 24-103 seems to be a faster way to get our department going, however it seems to be heavily influenced by the mayor (whoever that may be) and that may be hard down the line with lifeguards and the public. Both resolutions seem to show the need for ocean safety needing to be its own department and I	4/28/2024 8:50 AM

City Department of Ocean Safety Survey

support that all the way. I also really hope Chief Titchen is involved and a big part of our future in creating our own department. Mahalo

13	Let Chief Titchen continue to bring progress to Ocean Safety. Tell the mayor if he supports Ocean Safety he should let good change progress through someone with honor. Also, can we vote on who would be director or who would sit on the board? Let's make sure they're qualified, real lifeguards, with lifeguards' best interests in mind, not just some slimy, corrupt, yes men.	4/28/2024 8:31 AM
14	As a current city and county lifeguard I highly support resolution 24-50. I strongly believe that we need to become our own department so that our leaders can make the best choices to give us what we need to protect everybody that comes to our beaches.	4/28/2024 8:00 AM
15	Pertaining to Ocean Safety Chief and other leadership positions within our department. NOT NOMNATED/REMOVED by Mayor. This is NOT a political appointee position!!!	4/28/2024 7:45 AM
16	By previous existing 1st Responder Departments nationwide, It has been nothing but more then successful & viable, for a stand alone department & for transparency for the public at large for 1st responder departments to have a commission & a chief representing their department. This has proven time & time again to be the efficient & working formula & it only makes logical sense.	4/28/2024 12:08 AM
17	Having our own department would create so much opportunity for future lifeguards and better protection for our public. Please bring back the Chief.	4/27/2024 9:04 PM
18	Joey Cadiz is selfishly miss representing ocean safety department and purposely misleading personal in a direction that befits him and not the department	4/27/2024 8:49 PM
19	#FREE CHIEF TITCHEN	4/27/2024 8:41 PM
20	We are currently under a Mayor Appointed Director that does not serve us well. I feel that a commission will be more fair and keep accountability in the department.	4/27/2024 6:05 PM
21	I am in support of a commission overseeing the new department but I do have concerns about who gets on the commission and how much authority they may have. I don't want Jim Howe as a director, chief, or member of the commission.	4/27/2024 5:39 PM
22	Good grief free the chief	4/27/2024 4:32 PM
23	Typical! City and County of Honolulu trying to screw the people.... When will it stop?!	4/27/2024 1:02 PM
24	Reinstate Chief John Titchen. He has done nothing but great work for the Ocean Safety Department.	4/27/2024 1:01 PM
25	In resolution 24-103 Section 4-104 states that the director will be directly appointed by the mayor which seems to implicate politically charged decisions may be made, and that risk can easily be mitigated through a commission appointed chief. And for that reason i will be going with resolution 24-50. As an ocean safety officer our main concern should be the safety of the public.	4/27/2024 10:57 AM
26	The ocean safety department needs a director that is NOT mayor appointed. Someone who is able to make decisions based on what needs to be done, not what the mayor wants done. It is oblivious that the mayor wants to put his own "yes man" in the position. If that happens the department will be no better off than it was before. Do this right, so we don't do this twice.	4/26/2024 11:58 PM
27	I would like our own department and with resolution 24-50, I feel we would have a voice that could be heard in agreement with other individuals rather than one person doing or saying only what the mayor allows him/her to do or say. We've been kept quiet, stuffed in the corner way too long. It's time to grow!	4/26/2024 3:11 PM
28	Ocean Safety should have its own commission with multiple views and leaders with the option to vote in or vote out those selected members every few years. Ocean Safety should not be ran like a dictatorship. Nothing has or will ever become good of that and never will. A commission board ran department similar to HFD will allow a non biased way of running and improving Ocean Safety as one family with multiple members with experience in the tower or department and not just a city council member that only is in favor of numbers.	4/26/2024 2:46 PM
29	I am highly in support of a commission, if we are to proceed as becoming our own department. Thank you.	4/26/2024 12:41 PM
30	Majority should rule	4/26/2024 11:11 AM

City Department of Ocean Safety Survey

31	I believe that ocean safety becoming its own department would greatly benefit not only the community but also the visitors to our islands as well. I also believe that having a commission and not a mayor appointed director would add transparency and fairness when it comes to making decisions for the department as well. Thank you	4/26/2024 10:37 AM
32	Ocean safety department saves life's all year long, every year!	4/26/2024 10:06 AM
33	In my opinion as a water safety officer and rescue craft operator for the past 10 years I believe moving into our own department with an ocean safety commission will be more positive for the department moving to the future.	4/26/2024 9:38 AM
34	I believe the mayor should make ocean safety it's own department with his executive authority starting with our Chief now or Joey Cadiz as director but allow res 24-50 to go to the ballot and when that passes we create a commission for the ocean safety department	4/26/2024 9:35 AM
35	It's time to change things up and let us have our own commission. We work hard and have the worst facilities. No nice bathrooms no place for equipment. Some places do even have electricity to charge are radios over night.	4/26/2024 8:58 AM
36	Should be commission based because it increases transparency and efficiency.	4/26/2024 7:32 AM
37	My biggest concern is that if we go with Resolution 24-50 there's a chance that it will not get voted in favor of and the Resolution is Dead. If we go with Resolution 24-103 we are a Department with an appointed department head I feel like 24-103 is a better choice for securing a future department of OceanSafety in the near term .	4/26/2024 6:32 AM
38	Excellent leadership by John Titchken	4/26/2024 1:24 AM
39	100 percent ocean safety commission. 100 percent behind chief titchen. He is the reason why this department has grown and provided better lifeguard services sad once I have been here. Over 20 years. He's the best person for the job. We back our chief 100 percent	4/25/2024 9:59 PM
40	We need to do our best to keep John Titchin as our chief and have a commission. This will be best for a new ocean safety department and for the community.	4/25/2024 9:57 PM
41	I support Res 24-50, I believe it is in the best interest of the residents and visitors of Oahu to have an Ocean Safety Department established with a commission to oversee and provide insight and guidance to it's administration. The men and women of this organization have experienced the type of leadership by an appointed director in the past and saw very little progress and growth as a whole. Since the leadership of John Titchen, Ocean Safety Division has witnessed more growth in his 5 year tenure than I have seen in my 17 year career so far. He has shown us the kind of Department that Ocean Safety should be and has worked efficiently to move us decades beyond our previous administration. He is transparent in all of his operations and future goals for the Division. His past experience as a Commander in the United States Coast Guard really shines in his execution and professionalism. Coming from a military background myself I will attest that Chief Titchen continues to be an exceptional leader. My trust in his judgement along with my past experience with an administration led by a sole appointed Director which I and many others believe to have been a failure and disgrace to the men and women who served under it leads me to be in strong support of Resolution 24-50.	4/25/2024 9:46 PM
42	For Ocean Safety to move forward as a Department, it cannot simply copy HESD structure. We would only be changing the name and not the organization. Having public input and involvement throughout the process is vital for the future growth of Ocean Safety and also best practice for a public safety agency. All public safety agencies should be governed to best serve the residents and visitors of Oahu, not to the political agenda of the current and limited term administration.	4/25/2024 9:38 PM
43	I believe that the resolution 20-50 is the best way to ocean safety.	4/25/2024 9:35 PM
44	I've been with Ocean Safety for 35 years. I hope the mayor gets it done and appoints Joey Cadiz as director.	4/25/2024 9:09 PM
45	It necessary for ocean safety to become its own department. Ocean safety needs its own commission, not someone appointed by the mayor. Selecting our own commission would help to support the growing needs of ocean safety are met. Having a panel to discuss and vote on our needs as a department would ensure all of our voices as ocean safety officers are heard.	4/25/2024 8:58 PM
46	I believe a commision is the best for public safety services for accountability and transparency, id like to see ocean safety department get on the same level as fire and police	4/25/2024 8:36 PM

City Department of Ocean Safety Survey

departments. These men and women deal with millions of tourists/locals that come here for the beach, saving lives and spreading awareness of hazards on a daily basis. An appointed director from a mayor seems risky and dangerous.

47	i 100% support 24-50. i do like the thought of the Mayor standing it up now to guarantee it by keeping it off the ballot but feel it is insincere by basically holding the dept hostage with the terms of we can only have that IF we accept his appointed Director. i am 100% against a Mayor appointed Director. i believe an emergency public safety dept should have a commission and a commission appointed leader for transparency, accountability, stability, and to keep politics out as much as possible. For the benefit of Ocean Safety's future i would rather risk doing it the right way with 24-50 going to the ballot, than to be rushed into doing it the wrong way with a Mayor appointed Director.	4/25/2024 8:27 PM
48	Creating a standalone Ocean Safety Department with Resolution 24-50 is the only way forward. It must be structured with a Commission and a Chief. We are a public safety agency that should not have it any other way. No director!	4/25/2024 8:25 PM
49	I highly support ocean safety as their own separate department, but not with a mayor appointed director. I understand it can happen immediately with resolution 103, but I'd rather not rush this. Resolution 24-50 in my opinion is the best route for everyone.	4/25/2024 8:24 PM
50	In my experience talking to a large number of personnel as a steward everyone i have talked to supports a commission based structure (24-50). Even those that are voicing support for 24-103. Every supporter for 24-103 i have spoken to only supports it out of fear of a vote for 24-50 failing. In my opinion we are better off failing at a vote and waiting for this to come back again the proper way with a commission again in the future. We need to get this right from the start. A commission based Dept is the Nation wide standard for first responder emergency services. We are already under a Director based system right now and it is not working.	4/25/2024 8:13 PM
51	I Support ocean safety moving forward in becoming its own department	4/25/2024 8:05 PM
52	I would like a commission to over see our department with a director position also I would like the city council to pick 3 appointees the mayor pick1 and ocean safety pick 1 to be fair and transparent	4/25/2024 8:04 PM
53	It's a shame leaders can't put their egos aside and work together for benefit of the department and the public. I support not putting Ocean Safety department on the ballot. I don't think it will receive strong support due to the personal disputes between the mayor it's directors and chief that has been shared with the media.	4/25/2024 7:55 PM
54	Hard for me to answer second question. To much fancy jargon for me to truly understand the differences in the proposals. Try Dumbing it down for us to plain and simple statements.	4/25/2024 7:55 PM
55	I support resolution 24-50. It's important we have our own department. We can grow as a department accordingly as our economy and population grows. It would be a huge step in the write direction. Mahalo	4/25/2024 7:54 PM
56	I'd like to see the Men and Women who work in Ocean Safety receive 24-50 as that's what those men and women as a department whole want from the city. YES to 24-50	4/25/2024 7:37 PM
57	I truly believe that the creation of an Ocean Safety department is critical for our continued growth in better protecting the community and visitors of Oahu. In addition, I believe Chief Titchen has accomplished more for Ocean Safety in the 5.5 years he has been chief than the 15 years prior to him. I will be extremely disappointed if he does not return to his position, especially because the terms of his suspension are vague and suspiciously timed with the meetings on creating an Ocean Safety Department. If Ocean Safety becomes a department with a mayor appointed director without intention of becoming a commission based department there is a big chance that the appointed director will be serving the mayor and not the employees of ocean safety. If the mayor's proposal is approved and there is no intention of the department going commission based it may negatively impact my and other employees future at Ocean Safety.	4/25/2024 7:37 PM
58	commission structure is the best way to discourage corruption and hold ocean safety in a path to stability and longevity	4/25/2024 7:23 PM
59	Let's end the corruption and become our own department the right way. Commission is what's right for Ocean Safety.	4/25/2024 7:16 PM
60	what happened to resolution 92? would love to get involved more with bu15 if there are	4/25/2024 6:55 PM

City Department of Ocean Safety Survey

opportunities for that. I am opposed to resolution 103.

61	We do not want a director appointed by the mayor .	4/25/2024 6:46 PM
62	I strongly believe that the mayor forcing a new department with a mayor director would be the same situation as we're in now under EMS. His (and other mayors in the future) appointed director would still be beholden to the the mayor	4/25/2024 6:41 PM

Opposition to Resolution 24-103

April 30, 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 and I am opposed to this resolution.

This Resolution allows the Mayor to select the Director (Chief) of Ocean Safety. I believe that this resolution is short-sighted and detrimental to the well-being of our community.

The Commission

Public Safety commissions across the State are established for public safety agencies like Fire and Police. The Commissions select, evaluate, rate and ensure all public laws and agency policies and procedures are followed, updated and followed. The selection of the head of Ocean Safety is critical to the success of the agency. In a recent news article, it was mentioned there a very few qualified candidates for the position. The commission can conduct a national and/or global search of candidates to find candidates interested in the position.

Conclusion

I strongly oppose Resolution 24-103 and urge the city council to reject it. Establishing a Ocean Safety and EMS Commission the City Council will uphold its responsibility to protect and support public safety services that the residences and visitors of Oahu deserve. I am hopeful the city council will make the right decision and vote NO on Resolution 24-103.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify.

Eddie Fujioka