RES24-050
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 209

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: May 15, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 23

Oppose: 1

I wish to comment: 4

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Edward Fujioka	puunui@msn.com	96818
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 10, 2024 @ 08:37 AM

Testimony:

I am in support of the Amended version of Reso 50-24. I would also support a Creation for an EMS Commission with similar Powers

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony, I will out of Country until June 12, 2024

Edward Fujioka

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Brett Kulbis	brett.kulbis@use.startmail.com	96706
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	May 10, 2024 @ 02:27 PM

Testimony:

I oppose Resolution 24-50. I believe this grows our County Government and is unnecessary. For decades Honolulu Emergency Services Department had no problems with the Ocean Safety Division under it. Additionally, the HPD and HFD have their own ocean safety units.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Frederic Booth III	freddybooth@hotmail.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 12, 2024 @ 09:32 AM

Testimony:

i fully support the passing of 24-50 and thank the Mayor for keeping the dept question off the ballot with 103. i would like to hold the MD accountable to what he said on record about leaving the dept alone as he said OSD already has a Chief and things are running fine. i would also like recommend after securing the dept that things slow down to allow time for the Nov vote and time to select commission members, and a Chief. Also time to consider facilities, positions etc needed and consider the 2026 budget for all this rather than rushing it in to the 2025. Secure the dept now but slow it down to build it up right. Mahalo

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kauanui Sabas	ksabas@hgea.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaii Government Employee Association	Support	May 14, 2024 @ 08:53 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:

Samuel Fisher III	swfda3rd@gmail.com	96791
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 14, 2024 @ 04:04 PM
Testimony: I support Ocean Safety Department first, commission to ballot. Thank you Council members and Mayors office for working together and making this happen.		
Name: Bryan Phillips	Email: bryanphillips808@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 14, 2024 @ 09:40 PM
Name: Sarah Fairchild	Email: 808fairchild@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 14, 2024 @ 10:26 PM
Testimony: I support this resolution. Commission oversight is preferable to a Mayor-appointed director for public safety departments.		
Name: Jesse King	Email: jking808808@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 15, 2024 @ 03:55 AM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina and Council Members, mahalo nui for all your support and hard work through this process. I am in strong support of RES24-050. This resolution allows an Ocean Safety Department the opportunity to establish a strong foundation to build off of so the agency can continually meet the growing needs of the public and the county. An Ocean Safety Commission that appoints the Department Chief is a key component to the success of a standalone Ocean Safety Department. If Ocean Safety is to become a standalone department, it must be implemented the right way. The timeline of a new department is also crucial to its success. The implementation should take effect in the 2026 budget cycle. Anything sooner could be too fast. The transition must be taken slowly to give time for proper funding, reorganizing, and correct implementation.		

Until November 5th, when 24-50 is passed on the ballot, please allow our Operations Chief and Assistant Chiefs to continually manage our agency.

Mahalo Nui,

Jesse King

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Mike McHale	mikemchale001@gmail.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	May 15, 2024 @ 07:24 AM

Testimony:

As a OSD employee since 2004 I strongly support 24-103. Thank you to the Mayor, the Managing Director and the City Council for all being in support of Ocean Safety becoming a stand alone department. This is a monumental opportunity for OSD!! Aloha Mike McHale

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Evan Hodges	evan_hodges@outlook.com	96782
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 15, 2024 @ 07:38 AM

Testimony:

My name is Evan Hodges, I am an Ocean Safety Officer for the City and County of Honolulu, and I am writing in STRONG support of RES 24-050. I believe that if we are to move forward with becoming a department a committee with a chief is the best way to move forward. It is proven around the nation to be the best and most accountable way for an emergency services department to be structured. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and listen to our concerns on the subject.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
rachel porter	paipoqueen@hawaii.rr.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 15, 2024 @ 07:39 AM

Testimony:

I am absolutely in support of Ocean Safety being a separate department. It makes no sense at all for lifeguards whose domain is the water to be supervised by others with no lifeguard experience whose domain is land.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
David Loui	05wiper.indoor@icloud.com	96821
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	May 15, 2024 @ 07:40 AM

Testimony:

I am here to support this bill. I'm also here to support that Chief Titian be reinstated as our division chief. Under no circumstances do I support a director of any sort. I support a commission. Let's be very clear on this. This department deserves better than what we have. This department has the largest full-time lifeguard department in the nation yet we work out of public bathrooms and beach parks with no facilities for us. We are the best lifeguards in the world, and everyone can agree with that. But yet we are not paid respectfully and deservingly what we should be. we have the most challenging surf and weather conditions in the world and we should be paid accordingly. Under a commission we will be able to get better pay and working conditions. I can tell you for a fact that none of you council members I've ever gotten enough on the morning to go to work and wondered if you'll ever be seeing your families or loved ones again , because you know your job is so dangerous that you might have to put your life on the line. I may never come home again. None of you will ever experience that but yet we do this on a daily basis. So pay us accordingly give us the commission and give us our Chief back and start paying us Like the professionals that we are at a respectable pay grade. Build some facilities make this happen. Thank you very much for your support. I know of firefighters who have worked 20 years plus and have never even put out a fire. But a lifeguard will go to work every day and save a life . Thank you for your time council members.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Toni Watanuki	tonitomomi@gmail.com	96821
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 15, 2024 @ 07:44 AM

Testimony:

I support 24-50.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Derek Wong	wongderek808@gmail.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 15, 2024 @ 07:57 AM

Testimony:

I believe Ocean Safety becoming its own department with a Commission will help provide a better understanding of what resources we will need to run efficiently to serve the public and keep our beaches safe.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kona Llamas	konallamas@gmail.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Ocean safety division	Support	May 15, 2024 @ 08:08 AM

Testimony:

I agree with most of my coworkers and peers that this is the best way forward to becoming a department considering our options. A commission based department will allow a larger opportunity of transparency and hopefully a balance in the

corruption of politics. I support this bill as ocean safety take another step to becoming its own department.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Will Obermeyer	willjobermeyer@gmail.com	96821
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 15, 2024 @ 08:17 AM

Testimony:

As Honolulu Ocean safety served our entire island community I believe it only makes sense that this division of EMS, that works 365 days a year from sun up to sun down, should be its own department. With that being said myself and many others only want that to happen under the right circumstances and with our jobs and lives in mind. Many of us ocean safety lifeguards are much more comfortable with a commission based department with a commission head or chief. Given that having a chief is something we are comfortable with and has been working for years rather than something new and extreme to us like a mayor appointed director who we as lifeguards do not know the intentions of.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Joseph Vitek	joevitek1@hotmail.com	96791
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 15, 2024 @ 08:19 AM

Testimony:

I support starting the department now and putting the question of the commission to the voters. Thank you all for the historical support of Ocean Safety !!!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
kamakani froiseth	kamakanifroiseth@live.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 15, 2024 @ 08:23 AM

Testimony:

once again we come to the same conclusions department, commission for ocean safety, why you ask?

1. focuses on ocean priorities that in turn’s puts public safety first
2. reducing mismanagement and back room deals.
3. more thinking heads brings more solutions to the table
4. allows for a team environment with like minded goals that was harder to achieve in a joined department
5. keeps ocean safety growing towards the future

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Racquel Achiu	rhachiu@gmail.com	96791
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 15, 2024 @ 08:23 AM

Testimony:

Aloha counsel Racquel Achiu, North Shore Mahalo for your time and consistent work in this effort. I am support of 24–50FD1 as it removes the question of the creation of department for ocean safety from being placed on the ballot. I understand and support the question of a potential commission being placed on the ballot.

as I have stated in the past testimony, I don't believe it is necessary or in the best interest of ocean safety to place the creation of a separate department at risk by going to ballot versus being executed by way of resolution 24–103. The separation of ocean safety to a standalone department is long overdue so I am incredibly appreciative for the workplace in this effort Mahalo.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ally Roth	allynroth235@gmail.com	96821
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 15, 2024 @ 08:43 AM

Testimony:

I believe it would be best for our department to have a commission based system. It will provide security in whom our appointed chiefs will be, and it will be by people who are more deeply involved with the ocean safety department and its future. We are an important piece in the safety of Hawai'i and we need help from our leaders to continue to grow and provide the best care possible.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Keanu Bosgra	keanuhsurf@gmail.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 15, 2024 @ 09:23 AM

Testimony:

I support Res24-50

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Aka Tamashiro	akatamashiro@hotmail.com	96795
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 15, 2024 @ 09:23 AM

Testimony:

I support 24-50

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Shawn Wolff	swolff.hnl@gmail.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 15, 2024 @ 09:46 AM

Testimony:

In support of ocean safety and ems being separate departments under their own. In support of an ocean safety commission.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kelly Finley	kellyrae.finley@gmail.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	May 15, 2024 @ 09:47 AM

Testimony:

In support of ocean safety being a stand alone department. This is necessary for what is best in serving the community of Hawaii and the tourist population that so frequently visits the beaches and waters of Hawaii. Budget being separate is required in order to best protect and serve.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
MJ Finley	mjfin2@gmail.com	55340
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 15, 2024 @ 09:53 AM

Testimony:

The Ocean Safety Patrol NEEDS to be their OWN Dept. I have personally been affected by the immediate response they gave my special needs daughter when she needed help. They need to be able to make their OWN decisions and have the necessary equipment that THEY know they need to keep the beaches safe for the community and tourists.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Taylor Finley	taylor.c.finley@gmail.com	99224
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 15, 2024 @ 09:56 AM

Testimony:

I believe it is necessary and only right to make ocean safety its own department. I fully support ocean safety being its own department in order to continue making the beaches and water of Hawaii a safe place for myself and my family.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Brooke Finley	brookeaccra@gmail.com	55340
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 15, 2024 @ 09:58 AM

Testimony:

I support of Ocean Safety being a department of its own. The Ocean Safety Patrol needs to be able to decide how the budget is spent, so that they can keep the community and everyone that visits the beach, safe!!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Eric Ellingworth	eric.ellingworth@gmail.com	96712

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 15, 2024 @ 09:59 AM

Testimony:

I am in 100% support of Ocean Safety being a stand alone department. Given the obvious fact that water surrounds the islands of Hawaii are routinely populated by the community and tourists. Professionals of that department should oversee the budget and decide how it is spent so they can ensure safety for the masses.

HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

AFSCME
LOCAL 152, AFL-CIO

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

May 15, 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.

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 and Commission. 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. Additionally, our members find it necessary that the Department be overseen by a standalone commission, as it would provide greater accountability and transparency, similar to other public safety commissions.

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 Statues 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

I SUPPORT a Department of Ocean Safety with a structure like HPD and HFD where the chief is chosen by a commission as stated in RES24-50 with no directors who sit on the Mayors Cabinet.

I was a member of the Ocean Safety Taskforce chosen by this administration. During one of our 11 meetings the Ocean Safety Chiefs prepared a presentation on how the structure of a department will best serve the public and the lifeguards. Attached below is page 22 from the final report. It outlines the current organizational structure and also denotes the recommended positions needed to support a new department. I agree with these recommendations.

I SUPPORT a strategic plan for adding new support staff positions and construction of new substation facilities for all 5 Ocean Safety districts. I SUPPORT creating a timeline where fiscal implementations will take effect in the FY 2026 budget cycle. I SUPPORT waiting till the November results from the ballot vote of RES24-50 are finalized to establish a commission and a chief is chosen.

Mahalo,
Bryan Phillips

