RES25-027
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 31

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Jan 29, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 7

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Todd Iacovelli	toddiaco@gmail.com	96834
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jan 24, 2025 @ 09:31 AM

Testimony:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

My name is Todd Iacovelli, and I reside in Kailua. I am writing to express my strong support for Resolution 25-027, which confirms Mrs. Catherine A Taschner as the next Director of Land Management for the City and County of Honolulu.

I had the privilege of collaborating with Catherine (Cat) as a member of the Montessori Community School Board of Trustees. During our tenure as board officers, Cat made significant contributions to our organization. She played a pivotal role in revising our By-Laws and enhancing our board governance practices.

Cat's passion for Honolulu and improving our city is a shining example of the type of individual we want in this position. She has developed a comprehensive vision for how she can serve and improve Oahu. She also sincerely cares for Honolulu's residents.

Despite her numerous accolades for her legal expertise and philanthropic endeavors, Cat maintains a remarkable level of kindness and compassion. She leads with integrity and fosters a collaborative environment. Cat is often instrumental in ensuring that projects are completed successfully, demonstrating her positive attitude and meticulous preparation.

I wholeheartedly endorse her confirmation as the next Director of Land Management.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kimi Ide-Foster	kide-foster@chunkerr.com	96826
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jan 24, 2025 @ 09:54 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Danton Wong	dwong@chunkerr.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jan 24, 2025 @ 10:26 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Megan Oka	cobuma1@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jan 25, 2025 @ 09:30 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Councilmembers,

Please accept this testimony in support of Catherine Taschner's confirmation as Director for the Department of Land Management. I met Cat in my second year of law school, when she was already well into practice. And though we became acquainted by our connection in law, our friendship has expanded to all aspects of our lives. Throughout the years, I've watched Cat grow from associate in private practice, to partner, to deputy director, and also as a partner to her husband, and a wonderful mother to their two sons. Cat holds her work to an incredibly high standard, and I know that coupled with the consideration she shows for others, she is the ideal candidate to continue being a leader within our government.

Thank you,

Megan Oka

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Masato Itoh	masato.e.itoh@gmail.com	96814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jan 27, 2025 @ 09:32 AM

Testimony:

Dear Chair and Members of the City Council,

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit this testimony in support of Catherine Taschner's appointment as Director of Land Management for the City and County of Honolulu.

I have had the privilege of knowing Ms. Taschner in a professional capacity since 2016 when she was a practicing real estate attorney. Ms. Taschner exemplifies competence and efficiency in her work, and most importantly, has the character necessary for a position of public trust.

As an adjunct professor of Real Estate at UH Mānoa, I have invited Ms. Taschner to guest lecture on numerous occasions. The topics of her lectures, I believe, reveal both her qualification and character:

- Economic and social impact of rising housing costs
- Critical importance of addressing homelessness
- Creative affordable housing solutions: adaptive reuse, public-private partnerships, entitlement/tax/financing incentives, etc.
- Long-term risks of rising sea levels and the need for proactive planning
- Opportunities and pathways for careers in government, law, and real estate

Ms. Taschner's ability to communicate complex issues with clarity and foresight, combined with her dedication to serving the community, make her exceptionally well-suited for the role of Director of Land Management.

Thank you for considering this testimony. I strongly urge the Council to confirm Catherine Taschner's appointment.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
CHRISTILEI HESSLER	chh@caselombardi.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jan 27, 2025 @ 09:47 AM

Testimony:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Catherine A. Taschner's nomination to serve as the Director of Land Management for the City and County of Honolulu.

I attended law school with Catherine, and over the years, I have come to admire her dedication, intelligence, and integrity. Even during our time as students, Catherine stood out as someone who was thoughtful, hardworking, and deeply committed to her community. These qualities have continued to shine throughout her career, as demonstrated by her work in private practice with McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP and her role as Deputy Director of the Department of Land Management.

I am confident that she would serve in an exemplary fashion as the Director of Land Management.

Sincerely,

Christilei Hessler

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Tom/Karen Foster/Ide	karen.g.ide@gmail.com	96826
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	Jan 27, 2025 @ 10:44 AM

Testimony:

January 27, 2025

The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair and City Council Members

Office of the City Clerk

530 South King Street, Suite 100

Honolulu, HI 96813

Attention: Information Center

Re: Nomination of Catherine A. Taschner as the Director of the Department of Land Management for the City and County of Honolulu

Dear Honorable Chair Waters and City Council Members

We (Tom Foster and Karen Ide) are writing this letter in strong support of the nomination of Catherine A. Taschner as the Director of the Department of Land Management for the City and County of Honolulu.

We have considered Catherine to be part of our family for 27 years. Catherine befriended our (at the time) shy daughter at nine years old when she was new to the competitive swimming world. Catherine made her feel right at home, taking her under her wing and starting a lifelong friendship. We are so truly grateful for Catherine's presence in our family's life and we can't think of anyone more qualified for a position that requires the office holder to really and truly care about the people and the projects they are working with and on.

Over the past couple of decades, we have been thrilled to watch Catherine blossom from a child prodigy student to a fantastic mother and highly intelligent professional who conducts herself with grace and poise and most importantly, integrity and ethics.

It's no secret the our City government has recently faced significant ethical challenges and we are very grateful to the Mayor that he is taking real steps to make good his campaign promises to sort things out and reinstate the people as the focus point of all of these government powers. Tom has routed building permits with DPP for years and has had a front row seat to the kind of damage that is done when power is more important than the people. Since she was a keiki, Catherine has always endeavored to "do the right thing", and we know that she will bring that mentality to the Director position and be part of rebuilding the population's trust in government.

We have lived in Hawaii our whole lives and we hope that Catherine's appointment, if successful, is part of a turning point in our government towards open and fair politics and modern solutions to modern problems. She is the kind of young and vibrant energy we need in government.

We reiterate our unconditional support for Catherine's nomination and encourage the Council's favorable consideration of the same. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 292-0439 if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Tom Foster and Karen Ide

Name: Christian Hellum	Email: chellum1@gmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 27, 2025 @ 04:47 PM

Testimony:

I am writing to express my support for the nomination of Catherine A. Taschner to serve as Director of the Department of Land Management for the City and County of Honolulu.

Ms. Taschner's extensive expertise, leadership abilities, and demonstrated commitment to addressing critical land management and housing issues make her exceptionally well-qualified to lead this department.

I respectfully urge the members of the Honolulu City Council to confirm Catherine A. Taschner’s nomination.

CHUN KERR LLP
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January 24, 2025

The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair
and City Council Members
Office of the City Clerk
530 South King Street, Room 100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Resolution 25-027 – Confirming the Nomination of Catherine A. Taschner to Serve as the Director of the Department of Land Management of the City and County of Honolulu

Dear Honorable Chair Waters and City Council Members:

I am writing to express my unconditional support for Catherine A. Taschner's nomination to continue to serve as the Director of the Department of Land Management of the City and County of Honolulu ("**DLM**").

I have had the distinct privilege of knowing Mrs. Taschner for the past twenty-seven years, first as a friend and now as a highly competent professional. She has served as a mentor to me for many of those years and I am honored to now have this opportunity to submit my unconditional support (again!) in favor of her nomination.

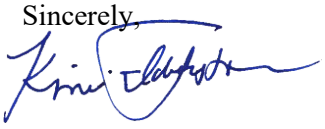
I am currently a partner in the law firm of Chun Kerr LLP and have had the opportunity to work with Mrs. Taschner both during her tenure at the law firm of McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon, and most recently in her capacity as the director of DLM in connection with the negotiation of the development of the Varona Village project. Mrs. Taschner has also worked on several notable projects with other attorneys in our office, including the sale of Waikiki Vista, the largest affordable housing purchase ever made by the city.

Mrs. Taschner is a woman of the utmost integrity and drive. She has a true passion for doing everything she can to make Hawaii better for all residents. Mrs. Taschner is always willing to go the extra mile to get results, but does so in a way that makes other people want to follow her – in short, she's both a great person and a great leader.

Mrs. Taschner is dedicated to her community and will be an asset to the City and County of Honolulu if her nomination is approved. I strongly believe that Mrs. Taschner is eminently qualified to continue to serve as the Director of DLM and encourage the Council's consideration of Mrs. Taschner's nomination.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 528-8236 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Kimi Ide-Foster

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January 24, 2025

The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair
and City Council Members
Honolulu City Council
City and County of Honolulu
530 South King Street, Suite 100
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Resolution 25-027 – Confirming the Nomination of Catherine A. Taschner to Serve as the Director of Land Management of the City and County of Honolulu

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

I am writing to express my unconditional support for Catherine A. Taschner's nomination to serve as the Director of Land Management of the City and County of Honolulu.

I have known Catherine for several years. We have worked together on a number of projects when she was in private practice as an attorney with McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP and as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land Management. Catherine has always proven to be fair, practical, and willing to listen. In her current role as Temporary Director, she has proven to be very effective in protecting, developing and managing the City's real property interests. I am confident that she would serve in an exemplary fashion as the permanent Director of Land Management.

I ask that you favorably consider Catherine's nomination.

Very truly yours,

Danton S. Wong

Danton S. Wong