# RES25-094
# Testimony

**MISC. COMM. 237**

COUNCIL

**COUNCIL  Meeting**

Meeting Date: Apr 16, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 0

Oppose: 2

I wish to comment: 1

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Eric Chang | ericchang1945@gmail.com | 96813 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | Oppose | Apr 15, 2025 @ 09:17 AM |

Testimony:

Hello All,

This should not be approved. There is no need to go to Poland. Whatever the purpose of this business trip is and whatever Gdańsk has to offer, it can be done in the USA.

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Michelle Hettema | alohamickie@hotmail.com | 96789 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | I wish to comment | Apr 15, 2025 @ 03:03 PM |

Testimony:

From Civil Beat:

"Kim Hashiro says the trip is necessary to approve the colors and security features ASAP."

Even if the trip is a gift, this is a ludicrous precedent for a bonus vacation for Ms. Hashiro. She needs to be at her desk, handling actual business. There may be a slight color variation on-line, but that will happen anyway as ID cards are printed. It's not like we're matching paint for a sacred monument. As for security features, read the manuals. Ridiculous and not even close to necessary.

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Serena Harris | Bgrateful2Day@gmail.com | 96815 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | Oppose | Apr 15, 2025 @ 06:41 PM |

Testimony:

Given that foreign actors openly exerting influence or even appearing to do so is easier than ever, that the director is even considering to accept the trip rings of an unfixed moral compass in the director; and for the city go along, smacks of an unwillingness to move away from corruption towards transparency within Hawaii’s government.

If the director were to accept this “gift” from a Polish company, what other gifts are ethically acceptable? Does this exemption of ethics extend to all who serve in some public role? Was the Director planning travel to Poland before the offer of free travel? If so, was it not allocated properly in the budget? If there was never a trip planned, how does the director expect to justify travel? How was the color selection originally planned to take place?

I have a friend in Boston who is a professor at a community college there. One semester pre-COVID, his student, through his parent’s company, offered my friend a similar all-expenses-paid trip to China… his community college ethics board

would not permit the travel. I don’t see why the director or those who support her position would think this case any less ethically complex, and therefore I submit that this travel should be disallowed.