REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION

Voting Members:
Radiant Cordero, Chair; Val A. Okimoto, Vice-Chair;
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Andria Tupola, Matt Weyer

Committee Meeting Held
April 30, 2025

Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Planning, Infrastructure & Transportation, which considered Resolution 25-111 entitled:

"RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN H. KATAHIRA TO THE HONOLULU AUTHORITY FOR RAPID TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS,"

introduced on April 8, 2025, reports as follows:

The purpose of the Resolution is to confirm the appointment of John H. Katahira ("Mr. Katahira") to serve as a voting member on the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation ("HART") Board of Directors of the City and County of Honolulu for a term to expire on June 30, 2030.

Mr. Katahira provided background information about himself and expressed his willingness to serve on the HART Board of Directors, and responded to questions from Councilmembers.

Your Committee prepared a CD1 version of the Resolution that makes the following amendments:

A. Adds a reference to Council Communication 111 (2025), dated April 14, 2025, which proposes the nomination of John Katahira to the HART Board of Directors and includes the nomination form, a resume, and a voter registration certificate for the nominee.

ADOPTED ON JUN 4 2025

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 164

B. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.

Your Committee finds that Mr. Katahira meets all qualifications required to serve as a member of the HART Board of Directors.

Your Committee on Planning, Infrastructure & Transportation is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 25-111, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as Resolution 25-111, CD1. (Ayes: Cordero, Okimoto, Weyer – 3; Noes: None; Absent: Dos Santos-Tam, Tupola – 2.)

Respectfully submitted,

Radiant Cordero
Committee Chair

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. **25-111, CD1**

RESOLUTION

RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN H. KATAHIRA TO THE HONOLULU AUTHORITY FOR RAPID TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

WHEREAS, Section 17-101 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (Amended 2017 Edition), as amended ("Charter"), establishes a public transit authority, known as the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation ("HART"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Charter Section 17-103, HART is responsible for the development of the City's planned fixed guideway transit system, known as the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project ("Rail Project"); and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 17-104 provides for a 10-member HART board of directors ("HART Board") consisting of nine voting members and one nonvoting member, as follows: three members appointed by the Mayor, three members appointed by the City Council ("Council"), the State of Hawai'i ("State") Director of Transportation and the City Director of Transportation Services serving as ex officio voting members, a ninth member appointed by a majority vote of the voting members, and the City Director of Planning and Permitting serving as an ex officio nonvoting member; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 17-104 further provides that the powers, duties, and functions of the HART Board include the following:

1) Authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds, subject to Council approval;

2) Appointing and removing an Executive Director and establishing the qualifications, powers, duties, functions, and compensation of the Executive Director;

3) Annually evaluating the performance of the Executive Director and submitting a report thereon to the Mayor and Council;

4) Reviewing, modifying as necessary, and adopting annual operating and capital budgets prepared by the Executive Director, for submission, through the Mayor, to the Council;

5) Determining the policy for the development of the City's fixed guideway system;

RESOLUTION

6) Adopting and enforcing rules and regulations having the force and effect of law to carry out the Charter provisions relating to HART; and

7) Submitting an annual report to the Mayor and Council on its activities; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 13-103 requires a HART Board member to be a duly registered voter of the City; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Council to evaluate each applicant for appointment to the HART Board on an objective basis, utilizing criteria previously established by Resolutions 11-30, CD1, and 19-74, CD1, including that a Board member:

1) Be free of actual or potential conflicts of interest;

2) Be nominated and appointed based on their demonstrated knowledge, expertise, and experience in relevant subject matter areas, including but not limited to one or more of the following: a) transit operations; b) construction management; c) financial management and risk assessment; d) land use planning; and e) property development and management;

3) Have at least five years of senior leadership experience in mass transit, rail, construction, engineering, business administration, financial management, law, or similar industry relevant to the Rail Project; and

4) Have a bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctorate from an accredited college or university in engineering, law, accounting, business administration, public administration, or other discipline relevant to the Rail Project; or a combination of education and work experience substantially equivalent to such a bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, by Council Communication 111 (2025), dated April 14, 2025, John H. Katahira has been proposed as a Council appointee to the HART Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, if approved by the Council, Mr. Katahira would succeed Robert Yu, who was appointed by the Council through Resolution 22-300 and whose term expires on June 30, 2025; and

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 25-111, CD1

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Council has carefully considered Mr. Katahira's background, qualifications, character, and service to date and desires to appoint him to the HART Board; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it finds that John H. Katahira meets the qualifications for service on the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation Board of Directors and hereby appoints Mr. Katahira to serve thereon as a voting member for a term to expire on June 30, 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Katahira for his willingness to serve as a volunteer on the HART board of directors and for his active participation in City government; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Transportation Services, the Chair of the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation Board of Directors, the President of the Hawai'i State Senate, the Speaker of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives, and John H. Katahira.

INTRODUCED BY:

Radiant Cordero

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

April 8, 2025
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

Report Title:
Appointment; Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation ("HART"); HART Board of Directors

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.