RES25-111
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 244

PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION (PI&T)

PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION (PI&T) Meeting

Meeting Date: Apr 30, 2025 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 6

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Wesley Yokoyama	808kimoy@gmail.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Apr 25, 2025 @ 07:05 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ron Iwamoto	ron@iecstructural.com	96701
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Apr 25, 2025 @ 07:52 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ian Arakaki	ian@tlcghawaii.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
The Limtiaco Consulting Group	Support	Apr 25, 2025 @ 11:05 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Brennon Morioka	bmorioka@hawaii.rr.com	96744
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Apr 26, 2025 @ 08:38 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Paddy Kauhane	pkauhane@bgch.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii	Support	Apr 28, 2025 @ 11:48 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jeff Kalani	jeff@yogikwong.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Yogi Kwong Engineers, LLC	Support	Apr 28, 2025 @ 01:22 PM

Wesley T. Yokoyama, P.E.
City and County of Honolulu
Department of Environmental Services
Wastewater Engineering & Construction Division
650 South King Street 14th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 768-8790
April 25, 2025

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

Subject: Letter of Recommendation For John Katahira to the HART Board

I respectfully submit testimony to support the candidacy of Mr. John Katahira to the HART Advisory Board.

Having been a former City Director as well as been in a number of positions in my 37 year career in government, I have seen the power and importance of administrative boards. Not only do these boards provide different and useful perspectives, alternatives, and solutions to the focused agencies they oversee; they also represent the viewpoints of the people the agency is servicing. It is important that members of any public administrative board keep these two goals at the forefront in performing their duties, and not be afraid to ask the tough questions and fairly assess the answers. Being a board member is often a tough, thankless unpaid job requiring both commitment of time and fortitude.

John is a retired President and owner of The Limtiaco Consulting Group (TLCG), a private engineering firm that does work with private, Federal, State, and City agencies. Many of the projects that TLCG has worked on for ENV are difficult and controversial (the 3-mile Kailua Kaneohe Sewer Tunnel, sewer breaks in landslide areas, emergency sewer repairs in sensitive areas). For all of these projects, John himself would go out to the community and meet one-on-one with affected individuals in their homes, most often in the evenings after they finished work, to explain what is going on and to field the tough questions and concerns. He would then bring these residents' perspective to and work on resolutions with the City. He made himself available 24/7 to residents on all of his projects and often conversed with them at odd hours late at night. While as President, he could've sent his staff to do this, he felt a duty to do community outreach, and provide information on impacts due to his projects. I have to add that John did not charge the City for all of his time doing outreach; he was committed to the idea that the project constituency be kept aware of and heard during the duration of the

projects, and that this effort, no matter how time-consuming, was already part of the design work we contracted for.

When I became ENV Director in 2021, I formed the Landfill Advisory Board to provide input from the spectrum of Honolulu's business, environmental, cultural, construction and legal community leaders. I asked John to be the Facilitator for this endeavor, because of his commitment to community issues of prime importance. He helped guide the diverse group to develop weighted criteria to rank qualified properties and ultimately come up with a recommended list. When the BWS interjected their concerns about locations being close to aquifers, John helped guide the group to evaluate the list of properties was accordingly, and a recommended list (with reservations due to the aquifer issue) was developed. Through the process John ensured that the public had access to all board meetings and progress; that the group stayed focused on the criteria and not just the interest in their own specialty area; that disagreements were worked out; and that we reached milestones and goals in accordance with our schedule.

While I cannot speak to personal experience with John's community work with schools, on credit union boards, and with environmental organizations, I can vouch for his commitment to volunteer to support causes critical to Honolulu and its residents. I can also say that I know from many years of experience that John will hear all sides and input and take a fair, information-based and practical approach to resolution of issues.

Sincerely,



IWAMOTO ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS, INC.

April 25, 2025

Planning, Infrastructure & Transportation Committee
Committee Chair Radiant Cordero & Committee Vice-Chair Val Okimoto
City and County of Honolulu
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for The Appointment of Mr. John Katahira to the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation Board of Directors
Honolulu City Council Resolution 25-111

Dear Honorable Chair Radiant Cordiero, Honorable Vice-Chair Val Okimoto and Members of the Planning, Infrastructure & Transportation Committee:

I am writing to express my recommendation and strong support for my colleague and fellow Professional Engineer, Mr. John Katahira, for appointment to the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) Board of Direction. Mr. Katahira is a highly respected member of our local engineering community with a highly successful and reputable engineering career. He is not only knowledgeable in his field of Civil Engineering but represents his profession with a high level of integrity and ethical standards. He has demonstrated strong professional expertise throughout his career at his company as shown in the numerous distinguished engineering design and construction projects which we have worked and collaborated on, as well as in his volunteer leadership in many committees, professional and business organizations in our field.

I have known Mr. Katahira both personally and professionally over the past 30 years and he was also my classmate at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Throughout this time, Mr. Katahira has always been a selfless and hard-working individual who always volunteers diligently without fanfare. He will most certainly bring valuable professional expertise, knowledge and insight to this position. Mr. Katahira will be an excellent addition to the HART board, and I cannot think of anyone more qualified to represent both our profession, livelihood and broader community interests. I strongly support and recommend Mr. John Katahira for this position.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ron E. Iwamoto

Ron E. Iwamoto, P.E.
President
Iwamoto Engineering Consultants, Inc.
Consulting Structural Engineers

98-029 Hekaha Street, Suite 37 * Aiea * Hawaii * 96701
Ph: (808) 486-5202 * Fax: (808) 486-5206
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THE LIMTIACO CONSULTING GROUP
CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

April 25, 2025

Office of the City Clerk
Honolulu City Council
Attention: Information Section
530 South King Street, Room 100
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: John Katahira, P.E., Nomination to the HART Board of Directors

Dear Councilmembers:

It is my privilege and honor to provide strong support for John Katahira for a position on the HART Board of Directors.

Throughout his years of service in both the private and non-profit sectors, John has displayed a high level of professionalism and has demonstrated a deep passion for solving difficult problems through innovative thinking. His dedication to the local engineering industry has made positive impacts that will resonate for years to come.

I had the privilege of working with John for nearly two decades as his business partner at The Limtiaco Consulting Group. During this time, I witnessed firsthand his deep commitment to the people of Hawaii and his passion for engaging with the local community.

There should be no doubt that John is more than qualified for this position as his past professional success, awards and qualifications speak for themselves. The City needs John Katahira during this critical time for HART.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Best always,
THE LIMTIACO CONSULTING GROUP, INC.



Ian Y. Arakaki, P.E.
President

1622 Kanakanui Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
TEL (808) 596-7790 • tlcghawaii.com

April 20, 2025

Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Okimoto, and Honorable Members
Planning, Infrastructure & Transportation Committee

Re: Resolution 25-111 appointing John Katahira to the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation Board of Directors

Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Okimoto and Members of the Committee,

I would like to express my strong **support** for RES25-111 relating to Mr. John Katahira's consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors for the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART).

I have known Mr. Katahira for over 30 years both personally and professionally in my varying capacities while we both graduate engineering students at the University of Hawaii (UH) at Manoa or while working for the State, the City and County of Honolulu, in the private sector, or now in my capacity as Dean of the College of Engineering at UH. I have always known him to be of both high intelligence and integrity. He has done much to cultivate innovation and entrepreneurialism in Hawaii as a leader in our local community or as a business executive leading one of Hawaii's premier engineering firms. He has worked to promote economic growth and diversification and supporting our youth as future leaders. He has always been a problem solver in coming up with the best answers to our most difficult problems.

I believe John is an exceptionally qualified nominee and would humbly ask for your favorable consideration of his nomination to this position.

Aloha,

Brennon T. Morioka, PhD, PE

April 27, 2025

Honolulu City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Committee on Planning, Infrastructure & Transport
Via: https://hnldoc.ehawaii.gov/hnldoc/testimony

Aloha Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Okimoto and committee members,

Re: RES25-111 – Relating to the appointment of John Katahira to the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation Board of Directors

On behalf of myself and Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii, I am honored to submit this testimony in support of Mr. Katahira's appointment to the HART Board of Directors.

Mr. Katahira has been an integral member of Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii's Corporate Board of Directors since 2011, serving on the Board Executive Committee and currently as the Chair of the Board Led Safety Committee. His focus on proactive planning, risk assessment, compliance and fiduciary responsibility has helped BGCH to continue to serve thousands of youth on Oahu and Kauai in a safe, secure and fiscally responsible environment.

Mr. Katahira brings to BGCH expertise as an engineer, a business leader, and a community driven mindset which has served us well through ongoing challenges, including the Covid-19 pandemic, when we successfully and safely remained open to serve the keiki and teens who needed us most. He is unfailingly the voice of reason at the table, able to look past emotion and to the facts, encouraging solutions which move our organization forward.

These are the experiences and qualities I know Mr. Katahira will bring to the HART Board of Directors and I fully support his nomination.

Yours truly,

Paddy Kauhane

Paddy Kauhane
President & CEO
Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF HAWAII

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Coby Barbata
William Chen
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Sarah Guay
Walter Guild
Chip Hammond
Jeff Haughey
Peter Hirano
Keslie Hui
Kisan Jo
Andrew Kamikawa
John Katahira
Ryan Kuniyuki
Dionicia Lagapa
Lina Le
Peter Lewis
Liz Makarra
Daniel Nishikawa
Shannon Nishio
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Aaron Young

Founder
Charles C. Spalding

President & CEO
Paddy Kauhane

United Way
Aloha United Way

YKE

April 28, 2025

Honolulu City Council
Committee on Planning Infrastructure & Transportation

Subject: Testimony in Support of RESOLUTION 25-111
Appointment of Mr. John Katahira to Serve on the
Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation Board of Directors

Dear Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Okimoto and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong **support** for RES25-111.

I have known Mr. Katahira for more than 30 years during which time I developed close professional and personal relationships with him. Mr. Katahira possesses a combination of integrity, expertise and experience that makes him exceptionally well-suited to serve as a voting member on the Board of Directors for the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation.

Mr. Katahira is highly respected throughout our industry due to his ethical values and impressive track record in various leadership and technical capacities within Hawaii's construction and engineering sectors, including transportation, business administration and financial management.

Hence, I respectfully urge the committee to favorably consider Mr. Katahira's appointment nomination. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss my support.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey K. Kalani

Jeffrey K. Kalani
President / CEO
Yogi Kwong Engineers, LLC