



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

TOMMY WATERS
CHAIR & PRESIDING OFFICER
MATT WEYER
VICE CHAIR
RADIANT CORDERO
FLOOR LEADER
TYLER DOS SANTOS-TAM
ESTHER KIA'ĀINA
SCOTT Y. NISHIMOTO
VAL A. OKIMOTO
AUGIE TULBA
ANDRIA TUPOLA
MATT WEYER

JOURNAL

ADVANCE COPY

SPECIAL MEETING
7TH SESSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2025

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
3RD FLOOR, HONOLULU HALE
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Note: A copy of the video of the full proceedings of this meeting may be requested by calling the City Clerk's Office at (808)768-5822.

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the City Council was called to order by the Chair and Presiding Officer, Tommy Waters, at 3:18 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following Councilmembers present:

Councilmembers Cordero, Dos Santos-Tam, Kia'āina, Nishimoto, Okimoto, Tulba, Weyer, Waters – 8.

Excused: Tupola – 1.

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ORDER OF THE DAY

NEW BUSINESS

ADOPTION

RESOLUTION 25-86, FD1

RESOLUTION INITIATING AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU 1973, (AMENDED 2017 EDITION), AS AMENDED, PURSUANT TO THE MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE REORGANIZATION AUTHORITY, RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF HOUSING, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING, DEPARTMENT OF LAND MANAGEMENT, AND DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FISCAL SERVICES.

The following amendment was posted on the agenda:

Resolution 25-86, Proposed FD1

Councilmember Weyer moved that Resolution 25-86 be adopted. Seconded by Councilmember Nishimoto.

Councilmember Weyer moved that Resolution 25-86 be amended to the posted FD1. Seconded by Councilmember Nishimoto. Councilmember Weyer explained the FD1 amendment.

The following individual testified:

Angela Melody Young, CARES (Support)

Councilmember Kia'āina stated that she is working actively to oppose efforts by the State Legislature to strip the City's responsibilities over 201H projects. She encouraged the Administration to join the Council in asking the Governor to veto the measure.

In response to Councilmembers, Kevin Auger, Executive Director, Office of Housing, stated:

- The housing voucher programs will remain within the Department of Community Services (DCS) who will work collaboratively with the newly proposed Department of Housing and Land management (DHLM) to provide project-based vouchers for City projects.

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- The proposed structure of the DHLM is to reduce friction both in policy and process to eventually better allocate and utilize resources.
- The administration of the Clean Water Natural Land Fund will remain under the DHLM.
- A primary focus of the DHLM is to use public lands for the development of affordable housing. Even though the DHLM is not fully staffed, the plan is to partner with housing developers to create capacity.
- DHLM is working collaboratively with the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) on a second phase of reorganization that will help DPP streamline land use permitting and entitlement that would make DHLM more effective.
- Six vacant positions transferred from DPP will have their position descriptions re-written with one focusing primarily on Federal fund grant applications. Two filled positions will be transferred from DCS and there are four proposed positions.
- DHLM is actively recruiting to fill the vacant positions which will not be funded until July 1, 2025.
- The Office of Housing is currently housed at the Frank Fasi Municipal Building. Discussions are underway on where DHLM will be housed.
- The City has assembled a working group to review housing policies and plans to provide the Council with recommendations at the end of the year.
- DHLM will continue to review and update its inventory list.
- DHLM believes that the current workload is manageable and hopes to attract and retain the right staff to fill positions.
- DHLM has not been advised of any conflict of interest placing the Housing Finance and Development functions within the same Department.

In response to Councilmembers, Aedward Los Banos, Deputy Director, Department of Community Services (DCS), stated:

- DCS has approximately 150 staff including the Community Based Development Division staff that will be transferred to DHLM.
- The Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement Team (CORE) will remain as a function within the Honolulu Emergency Services Department.
- The human services component addressed in the Resolution is intended to identify affordable housing that offers services for vulnerable populations.
- DCS's strategy is to help individuals stay off the street and successfully move into affordable housing.

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Resolution 25-86 was amended to the posted FD1.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
WEYER, WATERS – 7.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: TULBA, TUPOLA – 2.

Resolution 25-86, FD1 was adopted.

AYES: DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO*, WEYER,
WATERS – 6.

NOES: CORDERO – 1.

ABSENT: TULBA, TUPOLA – 2.

*Councilmember Okimoto voted aye with reservations.

Related communications:

MM-62 Office of the Mayor

MM-64 Office of Housing

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 4:16 p.m., Councilmember Weyer moved that Council stand adjourned until Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 10 a.m. Seconded by Councilmember Cordero and there being no objections from the 7 members present (Absent: Tulba, Tupola – 2), it was so ordered by the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

GLEN I. TAKAHASHI
City Clerk

dl

DATE APPROVED:
