RES25-179
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 358

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Jul 9, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 14

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kathleen Pahinui	pahinuik001@hawaii.rr.com	96791
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 4, 2025 @ 05:38 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters and Council Members -

I fully support the Mayor‘s appointees for the Ocean Safety Commission. I personally know Racquel Achiu and Kanani Oury and know they will provide meaningful contributions to the commission and Ocean Safety.

Mahalo,

Kathleen M. Pahinui
North Shore Resident

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Denise Antolini	antolinid@gmail.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 6, 2025 @ 05:41 PM

Testimony:

Resolution 25-179

Aloha Chair Waters, and Members,

I am very pleased to write in strong support of Racquel Achiu for the Ocean Safety Commission as her nomination starts through the Council process.

I serve with Racquel on the North Shore Neighborhood Board and am aware of her long history of working closely with Ocean Safety.

She has the energy, smarts, and passion that we need on the Commission to support Ocean Safety's mission, leadership, and operations in a way that will effectively serve the needs of our diverse ocean user communities on O'ahu.

Mahalo,

Denise Antolini
Pūpūkea resident, CD2

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Susan Smith	susanjtf@gmail.com	96791
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 7, 2025 @ 01:48 PM

Testimony:

Racquel Achiu is a respected, active and competent leader born and raised on the north shore and has history in various ocean events and activities that occur in Haleiwa. She is an approachable and hands on individual with common sense & good communication skills with our community. Asset to Commission. Pls support her.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kevin Medeiros	kmedeiros@hiunlimitedinc.com	96707
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Unlimited Inc	Support	Jul 7, 2025 @ 08:32 PM

Testimony:

I've had the pleasure of working with Richard Kebo on several projects, and I can confidently say that he's one of the most exceptional professionals I've ever met. His expertise, work ethic, and attention to detail are awe-inspiring. What sets him apart is his exceptional communication skills, ability to work well under pressure, and dedication to delivering outstanding results.

I've seen Richard Kebo easily tackle complex challenges, providing innovative solutions that exceed expectations. His passion for his work is contagious, and he's been an invaluable asset to our growth. I wholeheartedly recommend Richard Kebo, a top-notch professional who consistently delivers high-quality personal service.

Look no further if you're looking for someone with passion, integrity, and a strong work ethic. He's a true asset to any organization, and I'm honored to call him a colleague.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
George Medeiros	medeiros001@gmail.com	96706
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 7, 2025 @ 10:27 PM

Testimony:

Dear Honorable Members of the Honolulu City Council,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Mr. Richard Kebo’s nomination to serve on the Honolulu Ocean Safety Commission. I have known Richard since our high school days, and over the decades, he has remained not only a lifelong friend but also someone I deeply respect for his integrity, dedication, and commitment to our community.

Richard has consistently demonstrated strong leadership and responsibility in both his professional and personal

endeavors. As a consultant, he has excelled in organizational development and problem-solving, skills that will be invaluable in helping guide the important work of the Ocean Safety Commission. Additionally, his past service on the neighborhood board underscores his willingness to step up for the community and his ability to work collaboratively with others to address local concerns.

Beyond his professional and civic contributions, Richard has a profound personal connection to the ocean and water safety. He has been a lifelong surfer, usually out at Hau Bush at sunrise, which speaks to his deep respect and love for the ocean. That daily connection gives him firsthand understanding of both the beauty and the risks of our coastal waters and underscores his genuine commitment to ocean safety and the well-being of our community.

Richard's combination of professional expertise, community involvement, and genuine passion for ocean safety makes him exceptionally well-qualified to serve on the Honolulu Ocean Safety Commission. I am confident he will be a thoughtful, dedicated, and effective commissioner who will help ensure the safety and well-being of our ocean-going community.

Thank you for your consideration of his nomination. I strongly urge you to confirm Mr. Richard Kebo's appointment.

Sincerely,
George Medeiros RN

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kanani Kaopua	kananik@hawaiianprop.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 7, 2025 @ 10:40 PM

Testimony:
Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the nomination of Richard "Kebo" Kebo to serve as a member of the Ocean Safety Commission. Having had the privilege of working closely with Kebo for several years during his service in an officer capacity on a Board of Directors, I can confidently attest to his integrity, cultural grounding, and leadership—qualities that are deeply needed in this critical role.

Kebo embodies the values of kuleana (responsibility), aloha (compassion), and pono (doing what is right). His deep respect for Hawai'i's people and its ocean resources is unwavering. As the Mayor eloquently stated, this Commission requires individuals who bring both leadership and aloha for our ocean and one another. Kebo does just that.

During our time working together, Kebo consistently demonstrated fiscal responsibility as we collaborated on complex annual budgets. He was also instrumental in addressing sensitive constituent concerns with humility and grace. He has a

unique ability to actively listen to others, yet still lead with confidence and resolve, ensuring the needs of the community and the mission at hand were never lost.

Kebo is a devoted family man, and everything he does is grounded in his commitment to uphold honor—for himself, his ‘ohana, and the community he serves. He leads with integrity and will undoubtedly bring that same strength of character to the Ocean Safety Commission.

I urge you to confirm his appointment without hesitation. The people of Hawai‘i will be well-served by his presence and contributions.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,
Kanani Kaopua

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Barbie Hatcher	barbieh@hawaiianprop.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 8, 2025 @ 11:09 AM

Testimony:
I am in support of the selection by Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi of the five people nominated to serve as inaugural members of the city’s Ocean Safety Commission.

I think the public is in need of this Honolulu Ocean Safety Department, the city’s prime lifeguarding sector that staffs 43 lifeguard towers around Oahu. More Importantly, the commission will be responsible for appointing and evaluating the performance of the chief of Ocean Safety. Also, the commission will be able to make recommendations to the mayor and the Honolulu City Council. This process encourages transparency.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Vance Leong	vance.leong@yahoo.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 8, 2025 @ 12:09 PM

Testimony:
I am writing to express my full support for Richard Kebo as an appointee for Ocean Safety. Richard is a respected leader in our community, known for his deep knowledge of the ocean and his unwavering commitment to educating others about water safety.

Through his paddleboard company, Richard has consistently created opportunities to connect with both residents and

visitors, promoting not just recreation, but also responsible and safe interaction with the ocean. He leads by example—always going out of his way to help others, offering guidance with a warm, approachable, and genuinely humble spirit.

Richard’s blend of experience, cultural awareness, and aloha makes him an ideal candidate to serve and protect our coastal community. His appointment would be a valuable asset to the mission of Ocean Safety.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Tiera Covington	tieralcovington@gmail.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 8, 2025 @ 12:25 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters and Council Members,

I am delighted to express my support for Richard Kebo for the Ocean Safety Commission. I have had the privilege of knowing Rich and his beautiful family for over 8 years.

One of Rich's standout qualities is his positive energy and ability to bring everyone together. He has always shown me that respect, kindness, generosity, loyalty, and responsibility are important values to him. He can always be counted on to hear everyone's point of view without judgement and show support to a friend during challenging times.

Rich's dedication to the Hawai'i ocean community is evident through his commitment to building and nurturing connections, and his undoubtable love of the ocean. His background and experience in strengthening teamwork and leadership will be an asset to the Commission.

Mahalo,

Tiera Covington

Honolulu Resident

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Christine Alexander	christine.alexander@k12.hi.us	96791
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 8, 2025 @ 12:30 PM

Testimony:

The Honorable Members of the City Council,

It is with immense pleasure and unwavering conviction that I, as Principal of Waialua High and Intermediate School, offer this testimony in strong support of Raquel Achiu's appointment to the Ocean Safety Commission of the City and County of Honolulu.

Raquel has been an extraordinary pillar of our school and the wider Waialua community for many years. As the Chair of our School Community Council, she has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication, and an unparalleled commitment to fostering a thriving environment for our students and residents.

What truly sets Raquel apart is her enduring dedication. Her children graduated from Waialua High and Intermediate School nine and seven years ago, respectively. Yet, despite her direct ties to the daily operations of the school having lessened, Raquel has continued to pour her time, resources, and unwavering spirit into our community. She embodies the very essence of long-term civic responsibility and a deep-seated love for our North Shore home.

In her role as SCC Chair, Raquel has been instrumental in bridging the gap between the school and the community. She possesses a remarkable ability to unite diverse voices, facilitate constructive dialogue, and drive initiatives that directly benefit our students' academic achievement and overall well-being. Her collaborative approach, keen understanding of community needs, and tireless work ethic have made a tangible positive impact on countless lives.

While her direct experience may be rooted in education and community engagement, Raquel's qualities—her leadership, her unwavering commitment to public service, her ability to foster collaboration, and her deep understanding of the needs of the Waialua community—are precisely what are needed on the Ocean Safety Commission. The North Shore, in particular, has a profound connection to the ocean, and Raquel's lived experience within this unique community will provide invaluable perspective. She understands the delicate balance between enjoying our oceans and ensuring the safety of all who venture into them.

I have no doubt that Raquel will bring the same level of passion and intelligence to the Ocean Safety Commission as she has consistently demonstrated for our school and community. She is a thoughtful leader who listens, learns, and acts with integrity and a genuine desire to serve. Her appointment would be an immeasurable asset to the commission and a testament to the power of dedicated community leadership.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this truly exceptional individual.

Sincerely,

Christine Alexander

Principal, Waialua High and Intermediate School

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Brandon Elefante	senelefante@capitol.hawaii.gov	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 8, 2025 @ 02:34 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Sean Moody	Seanmoody83@yahoo.com	96791
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Support	Jul 8, 2025 @ 05:17 PM

Testimony:

Aloha,

I would like to recommend Racquel Achiu to serve on the Ocean Safety Commission. Her and her 'Ohana are beloved members of our community with great knowledge of our waters. She is a Hawaiian, that comes from a long line of waterman and grew up in a home that was filled with surfers and paddlers including Kelly Slater and Shane Dorian.

We feel she would be perfect to serve on the commission of 25-179 as she has incredible passion and work ethic in everything she does.

Mahalo,

Sean Moody

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Fredrick Patacchia Jr.	patacchia1@hotmail.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 8, 2025 @ 08:54 PM

Testimony:

I am in support of Racquel Achiu to serve on ocean safety commission.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Joel Centeio	joelcenteio@gmail.com	96791
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 8, 2025 @ 10:05 PM

Testimony:

Writing in support of Raquel Achiu for Ocean Safety commission.

She is an amazing candidate for this position. Tons of experience and knowledge will be brought to the table with her.

The Senate
Ka 'Aha Kenekoa

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813

July 9, 2025

The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair
The Honorable Andria Tupola, Vice Chair
and Members of the Honolulu City Council
Honolulu City Council, City Council Chambers
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Waters and Members:

Subject: Testimony in Support of **Dr. Richard Kebo** for **Resolution 25-179** CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTEES TO SERVE ON THE OCEAN SAFETY COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

I offer my testimony in **support** for **Dr. Richard Kebo** to serve as a commissioner for the newly created Ocean Safety Commission. Dr. Kebo is a lifelong resident of our island community, a Pearl City High School alumnus, small business owner, and an avid surfer.

I have known Dr. Kebo for nearly a decade. I first met him when he was working with the Small Business Development Center in 2015 working with business owners who were impacted by the construction of Skyline in the 'Aiea and Pearl City corridor during my time as a member of the Honolulu City Council (2014 to 2022). Dr. Kebo really took the time to meet with business owners, work with elected officials, and served as a critical liaison in working with all stakeholders. He has a tremendous number of experiences working with businesses and communities. Most notably, Dr. Kebo was instrumental with starting up a newly formed community association in his community. Dr. Kebo is a caring leader and will do a fantastic job in this role as a commissioner. Thank you to Mayor Blangiardi and his leadership team for selecting Dr. Kebo to his important role.

I humbly ask you to support **Dr. Richard Kebo** as a commissioner. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Brandon Elefante
Hawai'i State Senator District 16