RES25-191
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 401

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Aug 6, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 4

Oppose: 1

I wish to comment: 2

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Damien Waikoloa	damien.waikoloa@gmail.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawai'i YIMBY	Support	Aug 4, 2025 @ 07:39 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Cardenas Pintor	pintorcards@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 4, 2025 @ 01:38 PM

Testimony:

I support this resolution.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Gregory Misakian	greg.misakian@sbcglobal.net	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	Aug 5, 2025 @ 10:28 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters and City Council Members,

My name is Gregory Misakian, and I currently serve as the President of the Kokua Council, a Director on the Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans board, a Director on the Keoni Ana AOAO board, and a recent Waikiki Neighborhood Board member, serving from January 2023 to June 2025. I am submitting testimony today as an individual.

Mahalo for recognizing that change was needed at the Neighborhood Commission. I support the replacement of Commissioners Richard Oshiro and Claire Tomamoto, both who in my opinion (and with clear evidence to support), failed to comply with the Neighborhood Plan and failed to properly fulfill their duties for the Neighborhood Boards and the residents of Hawaii. This included not properly ensuring that the 2025 Neighborhood Board elections were conducted properly and fairly. Ironically, two years ago this City Council passed a resolution regarding concerns with the 2023 Neighborhood Board elections, yet lessons were not learned, and the 2025 elections had many more issues and concerns, resulting in election complaints and a Hawaii Supreme Court complaint. The root cause of many of the issues and problems at the Neighborhood Commission Office is the Executive Secretary, who has not been compliant to the Neighborhood Plan in numerous areas, including elections. The residents of Hawaii expect and deserve better and need your help to ensure that the Executive Secretary is qualified and "compliant" with the Neighborhood Plan, and when not (as is the case here), to replace the Executive Secretary. In my opinion and the opinions of many others, this should have happened a long time ago.

I am also requesting that the City Council address the issues raised with the 2025 Neighborhood Board elections by having a hearing and allowing public participation.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
LARRY VERAY	LVERAY@hawaii.rr.com	96782
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	Aug 5, 2025 @ 11:05 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Michelle Matson	MSMatson808@gmail.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	Aug 5, 2025 @ 12:01 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Cyle Dahl	cyledahl@gmail.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 5, 2025 @ 12:20 PM

Testimony:

I’m proud to support Angie Knight for Neighborhood Commission. Angie truly cares about her community and wants to make not just her neighborhood, but all of Honolulu a better place for everyone.

She listens carefully, thinks through the issues, and treats people with respect, even when they disagree. Angie is fair, thoughtful, and willing to take on tough challenges to do what’s right. She’s the kind of leader we need: someone who works hard, stands up for others, and puts the community first.

I believe Angie will make a real difference on the Neighborhood Commission.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Trevor Nagamine	tnagamine.nb25@gmail.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 6, 2025 @ 01:13 AM

Hawai'i YIMBY
Honolulu, HI 96814
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August 6, 2025

Honolulu City Council
530 South King St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SUPPORT RES25-191: RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENTS OF CHRISTIAN DE QUEVEDO, ANGELA KNIGHT, AND HARRIS NAKAMOTO TO SERVE ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Councilmembers,

On behalf of Hawai'i YIMBY, we are writing in **strong support of the nomination of Angela Knight** to serve on the Neighborhood Commission. Angie is a highly engaged and devoted community member who brings both personal commitment and professional expertise to this role. With a background in homeless services and active involvement in several community advocacy organizations, she offers a well-informed and compassionate perspective that is essential to meaningful leadership. Her understanding of housing insecurity and her hands-on experience working with vulnerable populations give her a deep awareness of the challenges many Honolulu residents face.

It is this kind of dedication to her community that makes Angie an ideal member of the Neighborhood Commission. She consistently shows up, listens carefully, and works toward practical, inclusive solutions. Her voice will help ensure that the neighborhood plan reflects the needs of all residents, not just the most vocal. Angie's steady commitment and values-driven leadership will be a great asset to the Commission's mission of supporting civic engagement and community-based decision-making. We urge you to confirm her appointment.

Hawai‘i YIMBY
Honolulu, HI 96814
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Hawai‘i YIMBY (Yes In My Backyard) is a volunteer-led grassroots advocacy organization dedicated to supporting bold and effective solutions for Hawai‘i’s housing crisis. We urge your support and thoughtful consideration on this measure, and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Damien Waikoloa
Chapter Lead, Hawai‘i YIMBY

Edgardo Díaz Vega
Chapter Lead, Hawai‘i YIMBY

TESTIMONY OF
LARRY S VERAY

TO THE
CITY COUNCIL
CITY & COUNTY HONOLULU

REQUEST TO DEFER RESOLUTION 25-191 RELATED TO APPOINTMENTS OF CHRISTIAN DE QUEVEDO, ANGELA KNIGHT, AND HARRIS NAKAMOTO TO SERVE ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

August 6**, 2025**

Aloha, Chairman Tommy Waters and all City Council members. I am Larry Veray, Chairman for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21. I have also served as Commissioner on the Neighborhood Commission for the past year and recently have been appointed Vice Chair of the Neighborhood Commission. I am submitting this testimony as an individual.

I am requesting that Resolution 25-191 be deferred to Council Committee to review the Neighborhood Board experience of the three individuals who want to serve on the Neighborhood Commission.

I have two concerns that I would like to address.

First concern is that Commissioner Steve Melendrez served his first five-year term providing exceptional support as an integral member of the Neighborhood Commission and creating a positive impact leading the Commission's Neighborhood Board Survey Committee as Chairman, and as a member of the Neighborhood Plan Revision Committee. Importantly, when the Commission addressed Neighborhood Board member complaints, he always provided constructive feedback and guidance to those who filed complaints, and to the decision-making process of the Commission. However, Commissioner Melendrez has not been offered the opportunity to complete his second term on the Commission, and in all fairness, I most strongly recommend that you consider retaining him for his second term.

Second concern is that the three individuals that have applied to serve on the Neighborhood Commission lack the experience in resolving Neighborhood Board issues with limited time as Neighborhood Board members. Appointed Commissioners are expected to be role models with a wealth of Neighborhood Board experience to serve the Neighborhood Commission as proven, fair decision-makers.

Therefore, I most strongly urge you to please defer Resolution 25-191, and send it to Council Committee for review and reconsideration of these appointments for the Neighborhood Board Commission. Mahalo!

Larry S. Veray

Honolulu City Council Meeting
August 6, 2025

Testimony and Request to Defer Resolution 25-191
Related to Appointments of Christian de Quevedo, Angela Knight, and Harris Nakamoto to Serve on the Neighborhood Commission of the City and County of Honolulu

Aloha Council Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

I have been a long-standing member of the Diamond Head/Kapahulu/St. Louis Heights Neighborhood Board and a knowledgeable observer of the Neighborhood System process, and am providing this Testimony individually for the purpose of this first hearing and listed action on Resolution 25-191.

There is a serious concern that Dr. Steven Melendrez, PMO, has not been enabled to continue his second term serving on the Neighborhood Commission in the interests of the Neighborhood Boards. Dr. Melendrez is a highly respected Commission member with exemplary qualifications and experienced knowledge of the Neighborhood Plan that serves to guide the Commission and the elected and advisory community district Boards.

Dr. Melendrez is responsive to fair and open communication between the Commission and the Boards to render objective outcomes and sound policies from the Commission that benefit the Boards as representatives of their unique community districts and interests.

Notably, of the three Neighborhood Commission members suddenly being replaced, two Commissioners have fulfilled 2 terms each. However, Dr. Melendrez, Chair of the Commission's Survey Committee, is being prevented from fulfilling his second term.

Dr. Melendrez just completed the first year of his second 5-year term, and remains a very valuable, objective and inclusive Commission member dedicated to the successful productivity of the elected Neighborhood Boards representing their communities.

Currently Dr. Melendrez is working to complete the compilation of important results from his Survey Committee's recent survey responses and recommendations received from Board chairs and members, and these results will contribute to a) an updated and improved Neighborhood Plan, which guides the Commission and the Boards, and b) needed improvements within the Neighborhood Commission Office administration, which is charged with serving the Boards as well as the Commission.

However Resolution 25-191 proposes to cut Dr. Melendrez's comprehensive and experienced work short and replace him with a 2-year board member. The remaining two

replacements have served only 2 years on their Boards as well, and all 3 replacements are from East Honolulu.

Resolution 25-191 was introduced on July 8, and has had no Committee hearing to rightfully include public testimony, deliberations, recommendations or any amendments. This leads to the question of who has been engineering this suddenly fast-tracked Resolution as written with no community input.

The City Council via Committee referral needs to ensure that any Commission applicant possesses an experienced understanding of the comprehensive Neighborhood Plan in the interest of the many communities served, and can serve fairly and openly without catering to special interests or influences, or any office secretary.

Mahalo for your consideration of these concerns.

Michelle Spalding Matson

August 6, 2025

Trevor Nagamine
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Councilmember Tommy Waters, Chair
Honolulu City Council
530 S. King St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Resolution 25-191 — Relating to the Appointments of Christian de Quevedo, Angela Knight, and Harris Nakamoto to Serve on the Neighborhood Commission of the City and County of Honolulu

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,

My name is Trevor Nagamine, and I am a resident of Mililani. I am also a member of Neighborhood Board No. 25 (Mililani/Waipio/Melemanu); however, I am submitting this testimony in my individual capacity, and this testimony does not reflect an official position of Neighborhood Board No. 25. I am writing today in support of Resolution 25-191.

I am writing specifically in support of Angela Knight's appointment to the Neighborhood Commission. Angela is presently a member of Neighborhood Board No. 5 (Diamond Head/Kapahulu/St. Louis), and I can personally attest that she is an active and engaged member of her community. As a fellow member of a Neighborhood Board, I believe that she will be a great asset to the Neighborhood Commission.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Mahalo,

Trevor Nagamine