

RES25-247
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 468

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Sep 3, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 8

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Terrence George	Email: terrencegeorge@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 1, 2025 @ 02:17 PM
Name: Richard Proctor	Email: rotaryrich1@gmail.com	Zip: 96734-4402
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 1, 2025 @ 03:23 PM
Name: Leslie Uptain	Email: Luptain@yahoo.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 1, 2025 @ 04:33 PM

Testimony:

September 1, 2025

Public Testimony – Resolution 25-247

ATTENTION: Honolulu City Council

Aloha Chair and Councilmembers,

My name is Leslie Uptain, and I am a resident of Waikīkī. I am writing in strong support of Resolution 25-247, which would allow signage in Centennial Park recognizing donors who helped make the park possible.

Centennial Park is a tremendous asset to our neighborhood. As one of the only new green spaces in Waikīkī, it has already become a place of respite, gathering, and connection for residents like myself, and also for visitors who see that our community values open space. In a district where every square inch of land is precious, having a well-designed public park is a gift.

It is important to acknowledge the people, families, and organizations who made Centennial Park possible. Their vision and generosity turned an underused lot into a thriving green heart for Waikīkī. Signage acknowledging donors is a modest but meaningful way to honor that legacy, while also inspiring future philanthropy to care for this and other public spaces.

As a neighbor and park user, I respectfully urge you to approve Resolution 25-247 so that Centennial Park can both celebrate its roots and continue to grow as a place of pride for Waikīkī.

Mahalo for your consideration and for your support of our community.

With gratitude,

Leslie Uptain

Resident, Waikīkī

Name:

Robert Sumpf

Email:

bobsumpf@gmail.com

Zip:

96821

Representing:

Rotary Club of Honolulu

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Sep 1, 2025 @ 09:31 PM

Testimony:

As a Rotary Club member who has worked on this project for several years, I urge you to approve the modest and tasteful signage recognizing the generous donors who have helped bring Centennial park to life.

Name:

Robert Wo

Email:

bwo@cswo.com

Zip:

96817-1108

Representing:

Self

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Sep 2, 2025 @ 08:25 AM

Testimony:

I strongly support Resolution 25-247: Approving Signage in Centennial Park Waikiki

My name is Robert Wo. I am owner of C.S.Wo & Sons Furniture, and an active member and Past President of the Rotary Club of Honolulu. Over the past 10 years, the Rotary Club has devoted enormous efforts and funding to transform a dilapidated, vacant, unsightly parcel of Waikiki into the beautiful, heavily utilized and enjoyed Centennial Park Waikiki. The final phase of Centennial Park includes adding signage, and I ask your consideration in approving the signage for Centennial Park Waikiki.

Mahalo!

Name:

Gwen Yamamoto Lau

Email:

gwenyamamolau@gmail.com

Zip:

96821

Representing:

Self

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Sep 2, 2025 @ 09:33 AM

Testimony:

The Rotary Club of Honolulu has been working tirelessly over the past nine years to re-develop a barren parcel in the middle of Waikiki into a beautiful pocket park. We could not have done it without the help of our volunteers and generous donors. We respectfully request that you approve the proposed signage in Centennial Park Waikiki. Mahalo!

Name:

William Liggett

Email:

wrliggett@yahoo.com

Zip:

96816

Representing:

Position:

Submitted:

Self	Support	Sep 2, 2025 @ 03:28 PM
Testimony: With regard to Resolution 25-247: I give my strongest support to Council approval of this resolution. Centennial Park is a neighborhood gem and example of citizen and City cooperation to provide for beauty and recreation in Waikiki, an important component of residential and business for Honolulu. Founder Rotarians provided perspiration and treasure to get this accomplishment started and finished. And their recognition on plaques and pohaku is highly appropriate. Please pass this resolution. William Reese Liggett, 4947 Maunalani Circle, 96816, District 4		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Emily Perry	emily.perry@tpl.org	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Trust for Public Land	Support	Sep 3, 2025 @ 09:09 AM
Testimony: I am writing in support of RES25-247 Approving Signage in Centennial Park Waikīkī as it further emphasizes the importance of public-private partnerships to care for our shared, public spaces. Rotary International has been working with the City to develop a park in Waikīkī for almost a decade since 2016. In 2019, the Rotary gifted more than \$1.5 million to the design and construction of what was renamed "Centennial Park Waikīkī". The signage outline in the resolution would recognize the supporters of the park and deepen connect to place. For these reasons, I support RES25-247 Approving Signage in Centennial Park Waikīkī .		

Dear Members of the Honolulu City Council,

I enthusiastically support Resolution 25-247. As a Past President and longtime member of the Rotary Club of Honolulu and its Centennial Park Committee, I am so pleased to be part of this public-private effort to build a park for residents of Waikiki on a parcel of land that was once strewn with weeds and used as a baseyard. Now children living in cramped apartments have a place to play. Mothers have an opportunity to meet with one another. Kupuna can end their isolation and gather together for a stroll. Community is being built once again.

This park has been built with well over \$1.5 million in in-kind donations and cash donations, thereby saving the City significant sums of money that would otherwise come out of the City's limited budget.

This resolution would allow the placement onto existing large pohaku a few very modest signs of approximately 20 inches by 20 inches, placed inconspicuously under trees.

Thank you so much for your consideration of this resolution.

Sincerely,

Terrence R. George
Past President, Rotary Club of Honolulu
Member, Centennial Park Committee

Testimony for Centennial Park Waikiki

Resolution #25-247

9/3/25

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a member of the Rotary Club of Honolulu and have donated many hours and many dollars towards completion of Centennial Park Waikiki. I am one of the original donors to this project, and I am very proud of what we have been able to accomplish in creating a park that the community can enjoy. I think that the design of the signage proposed would be very understated in that the names of donors would be added to existing pohaku already in the park. I also think that showing recognition in this way might also encourage others to donate to community minded projects that the City is unable to fund on its own. Finally, our club promised some form of recognition to the donors who launched this endeavor. There is an expectation which I believe is satisfied under this resolution.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Richard Proctor
Past President
Rotary Club of Honolulu