# RES25-292
# Testimony

**MISC. COMM. 566**

COUNCIL

**COUNCIL  Meeting**

Meeting Date: Nov 5, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 5

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| David Okabe | david.okabe@hawaiipacifichealth.org | 96826 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Hawaiian Humane Society | Support | Oct 31, 2025 @ 03:36 PM |

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Melissa Pavlicek | mpavlicek@hawaiipublicpolicy.com | 96813 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | Support | Oct 31, 2025 @ 06:28 PM |

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Gina Anonuevo | ganonuevo@fhb.com | 96826 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | Support | Nov 2, 2025 @ 04:55 PM |

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Scott and Patsy Saiki | pksaiki@me.com | 96814 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | Support | Nov 4, 2025 @ 12:36 PM |

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Dylan P. Armstrong | dylan.p.armstrong@gmail.com | 96822 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | Support | Nov 4, 2025 @ 03:48 PM |

Testimony:

Aloha mai kākou:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Ms. Anna Neubauer, to serve on the Citizens Advisory Commission (CAC) on Emergency Management (EM) of the City and County of Honolulu.

Ms. Neubauer's experience is well suited to the CAC, as someone with experience in leadership and operations particularly in non-profit settings (the disabled, animals). She may provide an outside perspective on EM with useful analogous experiences.

Unfortunately, there is a severe lack of oversight and accountability at DEM.

It’s duly remarkable that the Department of EM just repeated a hazardous and unnecessary repeat of the tsunami scare and traffic jam that happened on O'ahu four decades ago, and yet not one person at DEM was fired, nor did the City accept any responsibility in light of Lāhaina (Maui County accepted none for its catastrophic and deadly loss of the state’s

second largest city). Had there been a large direct impact in Honolulu, the economic damage and the fatality count would have been severe. I do not think that sheer luck exonerates the department.

I have worked in emergency management since 2019, with expertise in multiple subject matters. I am not an armchair commentator.

Best,

Dylan P. Armstrong

Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.
2700 Waialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: Oct. 31, 2025

To: Chair Tommy Waters
Vice Chair Andria Tupola
and Members of the City Council

Submitted By: David Okabe, Board Chair
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2242

RE: Support for Resolution 25-292 Confirming the Appointment of Anna Neubauer to serve on the Citizens Advisory Commission on Emergency Management for the City and County of Honolulu
Wednesday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m., City Council Chamber

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As board chairman for the Hawaiian Humane Society, I want to express my strong support for the appointment of Hawaiian Humane President & CEO Anna Neubauer to serve on the Citizens Advisory Commission on Emergency Management for the City and County of Honolulu.

Anna has extensive experience in animal disaster preparation and response and has helped to elevate Hawaiian Humane's role in this critical area since her arrival in 2019. Anna successfully deployed teams in response to multiple hurricanes on the continental United States while working for the Dumb Friends League (now named Humane Colorado).

Following her hiring at Hawaiian Humane, she collaborated with the Honolulu Department of Emergency Management to offer an intensive training from the nationally recognized experts at American Humane to local stakeholders in 2023. Extending over several virtual session and culminating with a two-day in-person training, this opportunity helped animal first responder professionals from across the state hone critical skills.

Anna's boots-on-the-ground leadership included organizing Hawaiian Humane's preparations for the recent tsunami threat and bringing in emergency supplies for staff sheltering in place for the event.

Anna's participation in this Advisory Commission would be of enormous benefit to the City and County of Honolulu and I urge you to adopt RES25-292. Mahalo for your consideration.

Melissa Pavlicek
1099 Alakea St., Suite 2530
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Oct. 31, 2025

Honolulu City Council
Chair Tommy Waters
Vice Chair Andria Tupola and Members of the City Council

RE: Support for Resolution 25-292 Confirming the Appointment of Anna Neubauer to serve on the Citizens Advisory Commission on Emergency Management for the City and County of Honolulu Wednesday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m., City Council Chamber

Aloha kākou,

My name is Melissa Pavlicek and I have served as a volunteer and member of the board of directors of the Hawaiian Humane Society for six years. I am writing to support the appointment of Anna Neubauer to serve on the Citizens Advisory Commission on Emergency Management for the City and County of Honolulu.

Anna is an outstanding community leader with deep experience in disaster preparation and response, specifically oriented toward helping people and animals during fires, floods, earthquakes, landslides, hurricanes, and more. I served on a search committee that recruited Anna for her current position, so I can say with absolute certainty that Anna's breadth of experience and unwavering belief in community service is part of her "DNA." I have watched her blossom in her role and put down deep roots in our community.

Anna has forged a collaboration with the Honolulu Department of Emergency Management to offer training from nationally recognized. It is her vision, leadership, and roll-up-your-sleeves "can do" attitude which inspires multitudes of volunteers, including me, on a daily basis. I am personally grateful for her leadership in helping design and implement the Hawaiian Humane Society's West Oahu Campus and for her preparations for the recent tsunami threat and bringing in emergency supplies for staff sheltering in place.

The City and County of Honolulu would most certainly benefit from Anna's selection.
Please adopt RES25-292.

Thank you,

Melissa Pavlicek

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808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: Nov. 2, 2025

To: Chair Tommy Waters
Vice Chair Andria Tupola
and Members of the City Council

Submitted By: Gina Anonuevo, Board Vice Chair
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-525-7117

RE: Support for Resolution 25-292 Confirming the Appointment of Anna Neubauer to serve on the Citizens Advisory Commission on Emergency Management for the City and County of Honolulu
Wednesday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m., City Council Chamber

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It is with great pride that I share this testimony in support of Anna Neubauer's appointment to serve on the Citizens Advisory Commission on Emergency Management for the City and County of Honolulu. Under her leadership, the Hawaiian Humane Society's partnership with the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Emergency Management has grown stronger than ever. As first responders in animal emergencies, our field services officers rely on close coordination with the city, and Anna has elevated that relationship through professionalism, collaboration, and a shared commitment to community preparedness.

Beyond her leadership in local coordination, Anna has been a persistent advocate for including animal welfare and pet owner needs in disaster planning and response at the state level. She has participated in statewide emergency management calls, ensuring that companion animals are not overlooked in planning efforts that affect families and communities across Hawai'i.

Anna's has invested in disaster preparation and training for Hawaiian Humane team members, drawing on her extensive experience in disaster response across the continental United States to connect staff with national experts and best practices. Her efforts have greatly strengthened our organization's ability to respond effectively and compassionately when emergencies arise.

Her commitment to this work is not just professional—it is personal. During disaster warnings and storm preparations, Anna works side by side with our field services and operations teams to secure animals, safeguard facilities, and ensure staff members sheltering in place have what they need. Her calm leadership, preparedness, and compassion exemplify the values of both Hawaiian Humane and the broader emergency management community.

Anna's appointment to the Commission will bring an important and often underrepresented perspective to emergency management discussions, strengthening our collective ability to protect all members of our community—both people and animals alike.

Date: November 4, 2025

To: Chair Tommy Waters
Vice Chair Andria Tupola and Members of the City Council

From: Scott and Patsy Saiki

RE: Support for Resolution 25-292

Hearing: Wednesday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m., City Council Chamber

As members of the Honolulu community, we respectfully submit this testimony in support of Resolution 25-292, confirming the appointment of Anna Neubauer to serve on the Citizens Advisory Commission on Emergency Management for the City and County of Honolulu.

As President & CEO of Hawaiian Humane, Anna has demonstrated exceptional leadership in disaster preparedness and response. Hawaiian Humane field services officers are first responders in animal emergencies. Under her guidance, Hawaiian Humane has reinforced its partnership with the City's Department of Emergency Management to ensure that animal welfare is integrated into emergency planning and response. Notably, Anna has:

- Provided intensive disaster preparedness and response training for staff in collaboration with the Honolulu Department of Emergency Management, including national experts on disaster preparedness for training.
- Has worked and continues to work closely with the field services and operations teams to ensure animal safety in response to disaster warnings on Oahu, and stocks emergency supplies to ensure any staff sheltering in place have what they need.
- Advocated and continues to advocate for including animal and pet owner needs in disaster planning and response at the state level.

Her experience in responding to hurricanes on the continental United States further underscores her qualifications. Anna successfully deployed teams in response to multiple hurricanes on the continental United States while working for the Dumb Friends League (now named Humane Colorado).

Anna's participation in this Advisory Commission would be of enormous benefit to the City and County of Honolulu, and I urge you to adopt RES25-292. Mahalo for your consideration.