RES26-129
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 271

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Jul 8, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 9

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Larry McElheny	lkmcelheny@gmail.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 1, 2026 @ 10:24 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Council Members

I am testifying in strong support of the nomination of Krishna F. Jayaram to serve as the Managing Director of the City and County of Honolulu.

Mahalo

Larry McElheny

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Bruce Coppa	brucopp@gmail.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 2, 2026 @ 07:36 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Denise Antolini	antolinid@gmail.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 6, 2026 @ 07:55 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

I am pleased to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of Krishna Jarayam as our new City MD.

I was aware of Krishna's stellar yet quiet reputation in the legal community since he served in the AG's office.

And, ever since I met Krishna at the Mayor's Town Halls two-plus years ago, he has really impressed me as a highly competent, caring, and professional civil servant.

He is an invaluable asset to this administration, the city council, and its partners..

In addition to his extensive legal and policy background, and exemplary service as Deputy MD, Krishna has proven to me - through many conversations on some difficult community issues - his gift for facilitating effective and timely communication, and collaboration, all focused on problem solving for the good of the City and its constituents.

His calm demeanor, analytical skills, and openness to listening is remarkable given the pressures of the job.

We are lucky to have him.

Mahalo for confirming Krishna as MD!!

Denise Antolini

Pupukea

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Blake Oshiro	blake.oshiro@808cch.com	96701
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 6, 2026 @ 04:37 PM

Testimony:

I submit this testimony in strong support for KRISHNA F. JAYARAM TO SERVE AS THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

I have worked with Krishna on a couple of projects while working in Governor Green's office as well as in my more recent time in the private sector. I have found him to be extremely intelligent, very diligent and effective in his role. He has a hard work ethic which is often needed for senior officials in public service. I am very confident he will fill this role well and will be a tremendous leader in our City and County of Honolulu.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Dylan Armstrong	dylan.p.armstrong@gmail.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 7, 2026 @ 10:41 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock	clskwock@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Chinatown Business & Community Association	Support	Jul 7, 2026 @ 10:46 AM

Testimony:

We support Mr. Krishna Jayaram for the position of City Managing Director.

Mr. Jayaram has been a very efficient Deputy MD serving alongside former MD Michael Formby whom we appreciated very much.

We in Chinatown had many occasions requested City help through the MD's Office covering many agencies - not once were we ignored - help came quickly and we are so impressed!

Mr. Jayaram worked quietly and efficiently - he got along with City Dept heads and community leaders -we are fortunate to have him running our City as MD!

Please confirm his appointment!

Mahalo!

Chu Lan Shubert- Kwock

President, Chinatown Business & Community Association

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Chu Lan Shubert- Kwock	clskwock@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Chinatown Business & Community Associatikn	Support	Jul 7, 2026 @ 11:06 AM

Testimony:

1. We support Mr. Krishna Jayaram for this position of City Managing Director.

2. Mr. Jayaram has proven himself capable of humble and able to execute his responsibilities.

3. He is calm, humble and efficient and he is very approachable by all getting along with Council, dept heads and the community at large.

3. Please confirm his appointment. His years as the Deputy MD working along side former MD Michael Formby showed us he is capable and deserves our support.

Mahalo!

Chu Lan Shubert- Kwock, President,

Chinatown Business & Community Association

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Dean Sakamoto	deans@dsarch.net	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 7, 2026 @ 11:06 AM

Testimony:

I support the appointment of Krishna Jayaram as our Managing Director. He is an exceptionally qualified professional and

of the highest personal character suited for the job.		
Name: Martin Nguyen	Email: martin@centre-urban.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 7, 2026 @ 10:35 PM

July 8, 2026

Dear Members of the Honolulu City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Krishna Jayaram as Managing Director for the City and County of Honolulu. Having observed his professional commitment and dedication to our community, I am confident that Mr. Jayaram possesses the leadership skills, integrity, and strategic vision necessary to excel in this pivotal role. His background and approach to governance align well with the needs of our city, and I believe his appointment will serve the public interest effectively.
I urge the Council to confirm his nomination. Thank you for your time and your service to our community.

Sincerely,

Bruce Coppa

Testimony for the Honolulu City Council
The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair, and Andria Tupola, Vice Chair

8 July 2026

Res 26-129

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Council Members,

Thank you for considering my SUPPORT for the nomination of Krishna Fumihiro Jayaram, Esq. for Managing Director of the City and County of Honolulu.

I first became acquainted with Mr. Jayaram during the CoViD-19 pandemic. Mr. Jayaram was then employed as a state Deputy Attorney General, and frequently participated on behalf of the Attorney General's Office in the CoViD-19 Statewide Video-Teleconference and Senior Leader Briefing (a phone conference), which I managed and supported, respectively, as the Deputy Chiefs for the CoViD-19 Planning and Operations Sections in the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HiEMA), among other roles.

Though we never stood in the same room, on countless occasions we participated in the same meetings. Mr. Jayaram is memorable to me for his dedication, professionalism, and humility, traits always in need for Honolulu city government.

It need not be elaborated that the CoViD-19 emergency formed a difficult, transformative time for island governments. What is noteworthy is that many in equivalent or similar roles as Mr. Jayaram, of comparable rank and level of influence, did not compare in his respectfulness and courtesy.

I have an excellent memory for character, and feel compelled to support true public servants in what sometimes can be a tense nominating process. For thoroughness, however, my hundreds of pages of notes from that time serve as my reference point.

My best conclusion is that Mr. Jayaram is a sincere public servant. I wish him the best, and hope you will confidently vote 'aye,' in favor.

Mahalo nui loa,
Dylan P. Armstrong
individual capacity.

CENTRE URBAN
REAL ESTATE

Martin M. Q. Nguyen, MRED
Managing Principal
CA DRE #02074177
HI RB-24080

July 7, 2026

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION 26-129 – CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF KRISHNA F. JAYARAM TO SERVE AS THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Members of the City Council,

I submit this testimony in **SUPPORT** of Resolution 26-129 and the confirmation of Krishna F. Jayaram as Managing Director of the City and County of Honolulu.

In my work on housing and community development issues in Honolulu, I have had the opportunity to interact with Krishna and observe his leadership, judgment, and character. Managing Director is one of the most important roles in City government, requiring not only technical competence and administrative skill, but also the ability to understand complex policy, coordinate across departments, and keep public service grounded in the lived experiences of the people the City serves. Krishna brings that balance.

Three qualities stand out in my interactions with Krishna:

1) **Deep understanding of housing programs and implementation** – Krishna has a strong command of the City's housing tools, programs, and policy objectives, including the practical challenges of converting housing policy into real homes for local families. He understands that housing production requires coordination across finance, land use, permitting, infrastructure, community engagement, and long-term affordability. Just as importantly, he appreciates that these programs must be workable in the real world if they are going to meaningfully serve kamaʻāina.

2) **Cross-department coordination and execution** – Krishna has a demonstrated ability to coordinate across multiple City departments and agencies to turn complex issues into clear, actionable next steps. In housing development, progress often depends on aligning land use, permitting, infrastructure, financing, legal, and administrative considerations. Krishna understands how to bring the right people to the table, clarify responsibilities, and keep items moving toward resolution. That type of practical coordination is essential for a Managing Director, particularly at a time when the City must convert policy goals into measurable outcomes for our community.

3) **Empathy, humility, and genuine care for people** – Beyond his policy knowledge and professional qualifications, Krishna is a person of deep character and genuine compassion. Our family experienced a recent personal tragedy, and Krishna showed our family extraordinary compassion, kindness, and support during one of the most difficult periods of our lives. That experience showed me the depth of his character beyond his public role. He listens with patience, treats people with respect, and approaches public service with humility. In a position that requires difficult decisions, coordination across competing priorities, and constant engagement with the public, that empathy matters. Our community deserves leaders who are not only capable, but also compassionate. Krishna is both.

In short, Krishna brings the right combination of experience, housing knowledge, collaborative leadership, and personal character that the Managing Director role demands. His understanding of housing programs and his

genuine empathy for the people of Honolulu will serve the City well at a time when effective, compassionate, and execution-focused leadership is critically needed.

I respectfully urge the Council to confirm Krishna F. Jayaram as Managing Director of the City and County of Honolulu. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. If there are any questions or concerns, please reach me at martin@centre-urban.com to discuss.

Sincerely,

Martin M. Q. Nguyen, MRED
Managing Principal
Centre Urban Real Estate Hawaii, LLC