RES26-167
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 362

*HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS & PARKS (HHP)

***HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS & PARKS (HHP) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Aug 25, 2026 @ 02:30 PM

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Martin Nguyen	martin@bishop-pacific.com	96701
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 24, 2026 @ 08:40 AM

August 24, 2026

The Honorable Andria Tupola
Committee on Housing, Homelessness & Parks
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION 26-167

Aloha Chair Tupola, Vice Chair Tulba, and Committee Members,

My name is Martin Nguyen, and I am submitting this testimony in my personal capacity and as the older brother of Peter Nguyen. I write in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Resolution 26-167, CD1, accepting our family's donation of a bench at Ala Moana Regional Park in memory of Peter.

On March 21, 2026, just three days before his 30th birthday, we tragically lost Peter in the waters off Magic Island. Peter was born and raised here in Honolulu. He was a beloved son, brother, family member, and friend. He was deeply kind, quietly talented, and creative. He loved music and art, played trumpet with the Hawai‘i Youth Symphony, and graduated magna cum laude from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa with a degree in art. He was also a person of deep faith who regularly volunteered through the Church and gave his time to help others.

Following his passing, our family established Peter's Memorial Fund. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of family, friends, and members of our community who contributed in his memory. We decided that one of the most meaningful uses of those contributions would be to donate a bench at Magic Island in Peter's honor. This bench will give my parents, our family, Peter's friends, and others who loved him a quiet place near the ocean to sit, reflect, and remember him. And because it will be a public bench, we hope that it will also serve the countless families and members of our community who enjoy Magic Island every day.

I also want to recognize the extraordinary men and women of Honolulu Ocean Safety who responded that day. In extremely difficult ocean conditions, they risked their own safety to search for Peter, bring him back to our family, and assist my father, who had entered the water trying to save his son. Because of their efforts, we were given the precious opportunity to bring Peter home and say goodbye. A few days later, on what would have been Peter's 30th birthday, many of those same lifeguards returned to Magic Island and joined our family as we celebrated Peter's life and scattered flowers into the ocean in his memory. Some of them were grieving alongside us. It was a moment of extraordinary compassion that our family will never forget. That experience made our connection to this place even more meaningful.

I hope that, many years from now, our family can return to Magic Island, sit on Peter's bench, look out at the ocean, and remember him not for the day that we lost him, but for the nearly 30 years that we were blessed to have him. On behalf of my parents and our entire family, I respectfully ask for your support of Resolution 26-167, CD1.

Mahalo nui loa.

Martin M. Q. Nguyen, MRED