

# Resolution 21-18

## Testimony

**MISC. COM. 39**

EMLA

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 7:22 AM  
**Subject:** Council Testimony

## Written Testimony

**Name** Christopher T. Chun

**Phone** 8084285744

**Email** chun@hhsaa.org

**Meeting Date** 01-12-2021

**Council/PH  
Committee** Council

**Agenda Item** RES21-018

**Your position on  
the matter** Support

**Representing  
Organization** Organization

Hawaii High School Athletic Association

**Written  
Testimony**

The Hawaii High School Athletic Association (HHSAA) supports this Resolution and the creation of a stakeholder group. I am further willing to serve as part of this group and/or contribute to it in any way that I am able to. As one of six states that have not been able to offer athletic opportunities for our student-athletes, Hawaii's youth are not having the same access as other students across the country to the critical development that high school athletics offers. It is imperative that we return youth (and high school sports) as soon as it is safe to practically do so. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Testimony  
Attachment**

**Accept Terms  
and Agreement** 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 7:55 AM  
**Subject:** Council Testimony

## Written Testimony

**Name** Mark Bowman  
**Phone** 808-498-8933  
**Email** markbowmanjr@gmail.com  
**Meeting Date** 01-08-2021  
**Council/PH Committee** Council  
**Agenda Item** RES21-018  
**Your position on the matter** Support  
**Representing Organization** Self

I support resolution RES21-018, and am willing to be part of the effort to address a safe pat forward.

**Written Testimony** As a coach and parent I'm very concerned that some of the COVID control measures currently in place are having a severe negative impact on the physical and mental well being of the youth in our community.

**Testimony Attachment**  
**Accept Terms and Agreement** 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

# Written Testimony

Name Mark Bowman  
 Phone 8084988933  
 Email markbowmanjr@gmail.com  
 Meeting Date 01-12-2021  
 Council/PH Committee Executive Matters and Legal Affairs  
 Agenda Item 20-18 **21-18**  
 Your position on the matter Support  
 Representing Self  
 Organization

Dear Councilmember Tupola,

I can't thank everyone responsible for last Friday's webinar addressing youth sports enough. As a volunteer track and cross country coach at JCHS, I've seen first hand the negative impact of COVID related issues to our high school students, often to the most vulnerable in our community.

As a result, in spring of 2020 I established a Track and Field USA sanctioned track club (76 South Track Club) in an effort to provide a safe environment for athletes to workout in small groups, implementing COVID prevention measures as needed.

Since it appears the public schools will not be opening up sports programs, possibly for the remainder of the year, I believe our collective efforts are all the more critical.

I'm standing by to assist/support this effort wherever/whenever needed. At the grass roots level we could use some help in the following two areas.

Written  
Testimony

1. Competition. I have a couple of High School athletes who are chomping at the bit to compete. I'm trying to work with the ILH to accept our athletes during some competitive events. We're not looking to compete in ILH league or championship events, just a chance to participate as individuals not representing any school. Any contacts you may have in the IHL system who might support such an effort would really help.

2. Facilities. It's running, so we don't need an all weather track to workout, we can adapt. What we do need is a safe environment with bathroom facilities. In the past One'Lua Beach Park has been the best fit due to location (many of the athletes walk or bike to practice), open fields, and running water. However, in the past 5 months the park appears to open 24/7, and there is a large number of permanent tenants, many of whom are participating in activities inconsistent with providing a safe environment for minors.

Again, based on what I observed Friday, I'm confident we're on the same page in terms

of the importance of physical activity opportunities for our youth. I look forward to aligning my efforts with yours to provide safe and healthy options for everyone.

All the Best,  
Mark Bowman  
808-498-8933

Testimony  
Attachment  
Accept Terms  
and 1  
Agreement

IP: 192.168.200.67

# Written Testimony

Name Bev Brennan  
 Phone 808-673-2695  
 Email bevbrennan@barberspointbowling.com  
 Meeting Date 01-12-2021  
 Council/PH Committee Executive Matters and Legal Affairs  
 Agenda Item Resolution 21-18  
 Your position on the matter Support  
 Representing Organization  
 Organization Save Oahu Bowling Centers

I fully support Resolution 21-18 - Creation of a Stakeholder Group  
 As a bowling center proprietor and spokesman for Save Oahu Bowling Centers, our industry has been handcuffed by former Mayor Caldwell's Emergency Orders and Tier System. The city needs to consider businesses not associated with restaurants, retail, or travel & tourism. Barbers Point Bowling Center, Leeward Bowl, and Pali Lanes worked together to develop safety protocols that we all agreed to implement. There was no guidance from the city with regard to anything bowling centers should do to make their centers safe. Our protocols go above and beyond any required.  
 On September 8, 2020, I sent an email to Mayor Caldwell, the City Council Chair and Vice-Chair, and the three Council Members representing Kalaeloa, Pearl City, and Kailua. We asked to be treated fairly and to not make decisions about our industry based on old stereotypes. I included our safety protocols and said if they saw anything missing, we would, within reason, implement them.  
 To date, I've never received a response from the Mayor's office or from any of the Council Members. That, more than anything else, puts a spotlight on the need for this resolution to be adopted.

Written  
Testimony

Mahalo,  
 Bev Brennan

Testimony  
 Attachment  
 Accept Terms  
 and 1  
 Agreement

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# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the City & County of Honolulu City Council  
Committee on Executive Matters and Legal Affairs  
Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 1:00 P.M.  
City Council Chamber, Honolulu Hale**

**RE: HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 21-18**

Chair Tupola, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** City Council Resolution 21-18, which urges the creation of a stakeholder group to discuss restrictions imposed on businesses, employers, and activities under the Honolulu Reopening Strategy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The current economic impact of COVID-19 has left many businesses struggling to stay open and survive. As is mentioned in this resolution, some businesses still have remained unable to open completely or those that have are on very limited restrictions on capacity due to the current Oahu Reopening Framework. While the City has been able to provide many of these businesses with financial grants to support their operations, many businesses remain on the brink without any additional assistance.

The Chamber is supportive of the creation of a stakeholder group to provide input and recommendations to the reopening framework in order to help support those businesses and industries that have been the most impacted under the current framework. Similarly, the Chamber has been convening its own stakeholder group comprised of business owners from the most impacted industries and have been meeting on a regular basis with State and City officials to help provide input on the current framework's impact on their businesses. The Chamber would be happy to participate in this stakeholder group or recommend possible members should the Council and Administration see it appropriate.

We remain committed to working collaboratively with both the Council and the Administration to help support our local small businesses. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Resolution 21-18.

# Written Testimony

Name Jasmine Tamanaha  
 Phone 8082303449  
 Email Roxyhoney5466@yahoo.com  
 Meeting Date 01-12-2021  
 Council/PH Committee Parks and Community Services  
 Agenda Item RES21-018  
 Your position on the matter Support  
 Representing Self  
 Organization

Written  
Testimony

I feel there needs to be a bit more balance in this decision. Instead of cancelling the season all together can we please come up with a organized plan to help get our young people get back to playing sports. Many of our kids are lonely, depressed, bored, playing too much video games, vaping, drinking, and taking on much more stress then we adults can imagine. Considering the very low transmission rates of covid-19 amongst young people and the almost non-existent mortality rate, we owe it to our children at least to try it. If we can be in Costco or Walmart with about 300 strangers at any one given time, why can't our kids play in a group of about 50 people that they know and care about, AND with precautions. Please consider amending the current decision to cancel organized sports.

Sincerely,

A worried mom and previous high school coach.

Testimony  
Attachment

Accept Terms  
and 1  
Agreement

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**HAWAII  
YOUTH  
SOCCER**

**CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 21-18**

Mahalo to Councilwoman Andria Tupola for introducing Resolution 21-18.

I urge the support of the resolution to create a stakeholder group to propose appropriate adjustments to the current Tier System which imposes severe restrictions on businesses and organized team sports.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every facet of daily life and sports is no exception. While the safety of our community is paramount and the re-opening of our economy which includes tourism and travel are vital, please do not forget about our youth. For many of the residents of Oahu, sports are an important part of life. Many youth sports leagues and clubs are non-profit organizations with full & part-time employees, much like small businesses that have struggled during the shutdown of our economy.

Hawaii Youth Soccer Association represents nearly 7,000 members statewide with almost 70% on the island of Oahu. Our youth soccer programs on Oahu have been shut down for over 10 months and with the current standards in place, there is no change in sight. Our youth have missed out on countless opportunities. Not only the chances to be seen and recruited by college and professional scouts but the other benefits of sports – physical fitness; mental health; life lessons and leadership development.

I support the formation of a stakeholder group to propose updates to the re-opening strategy that will allow organized team sports to train during Tier 2. Further, we must be allowed to host competitive games. Our members understand the responsibility of re-opening and the protocols that must be followed in order to safely return to play. We have established Return to Play Protocols which reduce and minimize the risk of spreading the virus and address situations that may arise. Detailed protocols can be modified for review or approval by government agencies.

Our City faces many important challenges, and returning Organized Team Sports to our "new normal" is one of them. I ask that you support Resolution 21-18 to form a group that will recommend modifications to the City's current tiered system that would allow sports to return to the fields and courts of our City.

Aloha & Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Keopuhiwa".

Scott Keopuhiwa  
President & Executive Director  
Cell: (808) 927-7927  
Email: [srk@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:srk@hawaii.rr.com) or [hysa@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:hysa@hawaii.rr.com)

# Written Testimony

Name Jordan Inafuku  
 Phone 8085517295  
 Email jordaninafuku@gmail.com  
 Meeting Date 01-12-2021  
 Council/PH Committee Executive Matters and Legal Affairs  
 Agenda Item 21-18  
 Your position on the matter Support  
 Representing Self  
 Organization

Written Testimony I support the resolution to create a stakeholder group to discuss the safe and responsible reopening of youth organized sports. I believe such a group is a critical (and minimal) step to equip our policymakers with a better and more complete understanding of protocols used to great effect in other jurisdictions. Such protocols may sufficiently offset the risks of youth organized sports to a level where families may safely choose to have their children participate and reap the substantial and proven benefits that organized sports offers--physical, educational, mental, psychological, and social.

Testimony Attachment  
 Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

# Written Testimony

Name Rebecca Inafuku  
 Phone 808-674-7396  
 Email runnerhyde@yahoo.com  
 Meeting Date 01-12-2021  
 Council/PH Committee Executive Matters and Legal Affairs  
 Agenda Item Resolution 21-18 Creation of Stakeholder Group related to the Safe ReOpening of Outdoor Organized Sports  
 Your position on the matter Support  
 Representing Self  
 Organization

I am writing testimony to voice my support of the Council's resolution to pursue the re-opening of outdoor sports.

I am a parent of two keiki that participated in outdoor sports on Oahu.

Under the previous administration, instead of utilizing science and researching what actually occurs with outdoor sports, they arbitrarily shut down the outside sports and activities. The keiki of Oahu have continued to suffer educationally, socially, and physically because it has been decided it is better to shut down the schools and sports rather than opening these functions within safe parameters b/c the safe parameters cannot be agreed upon.

Science and other states have demonstrated and shown that the rate of transmission of Covid-19 within organized sports is not higher than rates of transmission out in the community. By allowing organized sports to resume within safe parameters, our children will benefit from healthier lifestyles in a number of various categories: mental, physical, social, and physiological.

## Written Testimony

- Please allow our community sports to resume within safe parameters - not just the schools. Science has shown that the younger keiki experience the lowest rate of submission of Covid-19 with the lowest risk of serious complications but yet have not been allowed to play organized sports. The different sports communities should submit plans on the safety protocols they will be implementing so that they can be held accountable if these protocols are not followed.
- Allow families to decide if this is something that they would like their keiki to participate in. There will still be families that do not feel it is in the best interests of their families to participate in these sports. Just as some families have selected in person private schooling and some elected online distance learning, our families should be allowed to choose.

The State and County of Honolulu has sent conflicting messages about what entities are deemed "safe" and are allowed to function and open. The Water Park in Kapolei is open with excited, screaming and happy keiki and families from different households present. Yet, these same keiki are not able to participate in a soccer game or a tennis

match, etc. This does not make sense. The same can be said for the malls open. There are people shopping and standing in close proximity at malls and Costco, etc., but we cannot sit (distanced 6 ft) at an outdoor soccer game.

I am pleased that the new administration is seeking to look into these restrictions and guidelines and determine if there are changes that can be made to allow re-opening of activities that actually promote the health of our keiki/citizens and also contribute to salaries of local coaches.

thank you for your time,

Rebecca

Testimony  
Attachment  
Accept Terms  
and 1  
Agreement

IP: 192.168.200.67

Testimony Of: O'ahu Tennis Association  
Founder: D. Yhale Scott [yhale@oahutennisassociation.com](mailto:yhale@oahutennisassociation.com)  
Vice President: Margie Katrass

Andria Tupola, Honolulu City Council Member, District 1  
(RES21-018) Honolulu Reopening Strategy  
Tuesday 1/12/21

Submission:

In alignment with current ordinances reflected on our Tier System, The O'ahu Tennis Association, a Non-Profit 501©3 organization, is in support of adjusting our Tier System. The consideration is based on criteria that supports non-contact vs contact sports.

We recognize that our case counts have grown in the past few days, however we also believe that these case counts can be attributed to the holiday season. So many of the case counts seem to come from closed areas without deliberate ventilations creating a lesser transmission tolerance. Allowing our student athlete's and adults the opportunities to express themselves through sports, while monitoring outbreaks, gives us a chance to measure relatable groups as trials providing outdoor data factors.

As it relates to Tennis, many of the events being held around the world have experienced less than a 1% percent infection rate. Further emphasizing the personal precautions of each participating participant. Having measures in place to ensure that prevention standard's are consistent, will unilaterally support local COVID-19 guidelines. A few suggestions would be...

- Coach's provide the city with a "call to action" plan on prevention standards
- Routine temperature checks
- Immediate omission of athlete's that present flu like symptoms
- Emphasis on safety protocols during gatherings, i.e., practices
- Data driven analysis on overall effectiveness throughout each Tier
- Compliance

O'ahu Tennis Association would like to offer a "call to action" plan emphasizing the forementioned measures. We believe that starting with small groups (consistent with Tier 2 standards), will support the health, suspend psychological and physiological risks associated with inactivity. Not to mention the ever so important developmental continuance and competitiveness of our student athletes.

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 12:33 PM  
**Subject:** Council Testimony

# Written Testimony

Name	Chad Owens Jr
Phone	808-450-1635
Email	Chadowensjr8@gmail.com
Meeting Date	01-12-2021
Council/PH Committee	Council
Agenda Item	RE21-018
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing	Self
Organization	
Written Testimony	
Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Agreement 1	

IP: 192.168.200.67

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 1:12 PM  
**Subject:** Council Testimony

## Written Testimony

**Name** Arian Hoxha  
**Phone** 3039440330  
**Email** Ahoxha@rushsoccer.com  
**Meeting Date** 01-12-2021  
**Council/PH Committee** Council  
**Agenda Item** Resolution for organized sports  
**Your position on the matter** Support  
**Representing Organization** Organization  
Hawaii Rush Soccer Club

**Written Testimony**

To whom it may concern,  
Dear honorary,  
On behalf of our organization I would like to express our strongest support to the effort being put forth to present a resolution on allowing organized youth sports to resume.  
Hawaii Rush is confident and optimistic that a collaborative effort amongst all youth organizations and leagues could reach a more than sufficient and reliable level of safety, meeting all public health requirements needed to keep any potential spread of COVID in check and isolated to minimum.  
We have been working for months now to establish safe and controlled training environment under the current restrictions and have had 100% success on keeping the membership safe and isolated from any cases that directly or indirectly affected several groups/teams. Our inner club policies worked very well on identifying, isolating and tracing everyone involved. Our communication system was able to advise everyone swiftly and maintain the protocols until the case(s) were no longer a threat to the community.  
Our policies and membership agreements enable us to cooperate well with parents and families avoiding the need to enforce rules at the training or competition venues.  
We have established a very good working relationship with the leagues and other competitors, allowing us to install the necessary policies and safety rules embraced by all.  
This cooperation proved very effective during the period that we were allowed to play back in June and July of 2020. There were zero cases or outbreaks that were linked directly with the league or training environment.

Given that we represent a significant number of kids that play the sport in the state (over 1100 members in 4 different islands) with about 700 members in Oahu alone, we feel compelled to respectfully ask that we are given the opportunity to cooperate on establishing a safe way to return to playing and allowing the kids to get back to enjoying the game.

We look forward to being part of this effort from all the members of the community involved and especially support this Nobel leadership initiative from Councilmen Tupola.

Testimony  
Attachment  
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and Agreement 1

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CAUTION: Email received from an EXTERNAL sender. Please confirm the content is safe prior to opening attachments or links.

Aloha,

This message was intended for the Executive management meeting today. I misread the date that the meeting was taking place. Below is my written testimony that I submitted for next month's meeting. However, I want to make sure that members of the council have the option to look at the written testimony beforehand.

My name is Christian Arakawa, spokesperson for Pali Lanes Bowling Center in Kailua. I am stating both my personal support and the business support of resolution 21-18. We are also working in conjunction with "Save Oahu Bowling Centers".

Since the COVID-19 outbreak struck in March I feel that bowling alleys have constantly been left out of the conversation on safely reopening. Time and time again we have reached out to the mayor (at the time the mayor was Kirk Caldwell) and he did not let us in on any decision-making processes that directly affect our business. While he took meetings and listened to the concerns of other major businesses (restaurants, tourism, gyms, and others) he refused to listen to the bowling businesses.

I have been on the news on several different occasions describing how the COVID-19 restrictions on bowling alleys were just not fair at all. Hawaii news now reports on August 7, 2020 "You have gyms and bowling alleys open the same day. We're following the protocols, the one with the clusters gets to stay open, the one with absolutely no cases or clusters is forced to closed for a month," said Arakawa. This is just one example out of many that show the city council and the mayor not working with the bowling business in particular.

I write this in strong support as I feel this is a great opportunity that will bring the bowling businesses to the negotiating tables. We know our business better than anybody else. We are the ones who stand to lose the most. We are the ones who are serving our community through bowling. Specifically, prior to COVID-19 Pali lanes would host over 400 special needs kids and adults each week. We can no longer do this due to COVID-19 restrictions. Let us go back to serving our community safety. Let us have a voice at the table.

Mahalo Nui Loa,  
Christian Arakawa

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Mahalo Nui Loa,  
Christian Arakawa  
Spokesperson for Pali Lanes  
Chair, Outreach & Social Media  
(808) 469-6390 (cell)  
(808) 261-0828 (work)  
Letting the good times roll since 1961!

# Written Testimony

Name Dr. Lauren Dawson  
 Phone 8082270206  
 Email ldawson@cnspllc.com  
 Meeting Date 01-12-2021  
 Council/PH Committee Executive Matters and Legal Affairs  
 Agenda Item youth sports  
 Your position on the matter Support  
 Representing Self  
 Organization

As a psychologist, I have seen first hand the significant toll that the COVID-19 pandemic has taken on mental health. There has been an alarming increase in anxiety and depression among our youth that has resulted in significant mental distress, including the extreme and tragic outcome of suicide. Mental health cannot be separated from physical health and overall immunity that is known to be compromised by stress.

Written  
Testimony

In our efforts to curb the effects of one disease, COVID-19, the restrictive policies currently in place are actually causing new illnesses with far reaching consequences that truly have a much more dire impact on our community, particularly our youth, than the virus itself. The ability to participate in sports is a much needed outlet for our youth with considerable benefits: the opportunity to burn off stress and decrease psychological dysfunction, overall physical health to counteract the risks of being sedentary and online, increased engagement and commitment to academics with long-term consequences for their future, the ability to socialize with peers and to work as a team toward shared goals, and a sense of hopefulness with an eye toward the future.

Early in this pandemic, a 15-year-old boy killed himself because he could not see beyond the restrictions of the pandemic and felt hopeless that life would ever go back to "normal." We all need a sense of normalcy and hope, and our youth need it most of all because they literally lack the neurological development to think abstractly and see beyond the troubles of today.

Moreover, youth sports can be played safely (there are many proven protocols already in practice across the country), and I strongly encourage this council to support the return of sports for our keiki for the mental, physical and social benefits that far outweigh the risk of COVID-19.

Testimony  
 Attachment  
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 and 1  
 Agreement

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