

Resolution 21-34 Testimony

MISC. COM. 125

PIT

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 11:23 PM
Subject: Public Infrastructure and Technology Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Sharlene Chun-Lum
Phone 8083542434
Email sharstocks@yahoo.com
Meeting Date 02-03-2021
Council/PH Committee Public Infrastructure and Technology
Agenda Item Res. 21-34
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Aloha Chair Fukunaga and members of the PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY committee,

I am in strong support for Res. 21-34, which urges increased flexibility for electronic participation in and public access to meetings of City and County of Honolulu boards and commissions, City Council, and other City agencies to increase and assure effective citizen participation in local government.

COVID-19 restrictions have definitely limited the way citizens participate in meetings. Those who do not have internet connection and computers or smart phone are not able to participate in presenting their concerns orally. Those that do have the equipment are still sometimes thwarted by glitches with Webex.

Written
Testimony

The practice of having all testimonies at the beginning of the session seems disjointed, especially if there are many items on the agenda that a person wishes to testify about. By the time the Chair gets to the items on the agenda, the related testimonies are sometimes lost in the discussion or vote. It would be better if there was a more user friendly approach to have the testimonies conducted while a measure is being discussed.

Is there another virtual meeting program that would allow this to take place? For example Zoom allows for chat that can be controlled by the meeting administrator.

Could the Council and Neighborhood boards also consider creating meeting hubs on City or State properties where those without computer access could go (with appropriate social distancing and masking) to participate in the discussions ?

Please pass this resolution to encourage efforts to increase better participation of the public in issues that are important to a better community.

Testimony
Attachment

Accept Terms
and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 6:45 AM
Subject: Public Infrastructure and Technology Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Winston Welch
Phone 8085930300
Email winstonwelch@gmail.com
Meeting Date 02-03-2021
Council/PH Committee Public Infrastructure and Technology
Agenda Item Resolution 21-34
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization Organization
The Outdoor Circle

Written Testimony We fully support Resolution 21-34 to increase the ability of community members to participate in public meetings, especially Neighborhood Board meetings and have specific concerns, especially those of a local nature, addressed by officials and elected representatives. The pandemic presents us with an opportunity to meet remotely for these meetings with good results and an ability to be heard and ideas shared in a manner that protects the individual and the public for health concerns, and all public meetings should have an ability to be joined remotely by the public and officials. We know of many instances where meetings have been delayed or cancelled because of the pandemic, and moving to remote meetings provides continuity in governance and the ability for the public to have its concerns heard and addressed in the best manner possible.

Resolution 21-34 exactly addresses these concerns of public access and has our support.

Winston Welch, Executive Director

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67