

Resolution 21-22
Testimony

MISC. COM. 128

ZP



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February 4, 2021

**TESTIMONY ON RESOLUTION 21-22
NOMINATION OF DEAN UCHIDA TO SERVE AS THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
AND PERMITTING**

Aloha Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

Thank you for allowing us to submit testimony in support of Resolution 21-22 nominating Mr. Dean Uchida as the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting.

Mr. Uchida has a tremendous amount of experience and knowledge of Hawaii's land use laws and policies. He has decades of experience in the public and private sector and understands the challenges and opportunities.

As Mr. Uchida was an administrator with the State Dept. of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the Land Use Research Foundation (LURF), he understands the complexities and issues we are faced in Hawaii. Dean was instrumental in the passage of the historic and landmark legislation called Important Ag Lands (IAL). The intent of IAL was not only to protect our best agricultural lands, but it was to promote and incentivize productive and active farming. Currently, the IAL now spans thousands of acres of prime ag lands and involves many farmers and landowners statewide. Dean's active experience in the passage of IAL and many other agricultural policies is a testament to his dedication to improving Hawaii's agricultural community.

We urge you to support the nomination Mr. Dean Uchida as Director of Dept. of Planning and Permitting.

MACNAUGHTON

1288 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

February 3, 2021

Chair Tommy Waters
Honolulu City Council
Honolulu Hale
530 S. King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony in Support of City and County of Honolulu Resolution No. 21-22

Dear Council Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

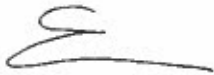
I am writing on behalf of MacNaughton in support of City Council Resolution No. 21-22 that confirms the nomination of Dean Y. Uchida to serve as the Director of the City and County of Honolulu ("**City**") Department of Planning and Permitting ("**DPP**").

By way of very brief background, MacNaughton is a family-owned, full-service real estate firm specializing in multi-family, hotel and commercial development in Hawaii. Over the past 40 years, MacNaughton and its partners have completed ~46 projects in Hawaii, representing ~\$2B in residential homes and ~2.5M square feet in retail space. In this capacity, we have worked closely with DPP and other City agencies and their staff on a wide variety of projects.

We believe that Mr. Uchida has the training, qualifications and experience to be the DPP Director and will serve this City well in that role.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Emily Reber Porter
Chief Operating Officer

MAX J. SWORD & ASSOCIATES, LLC

Government and Community Affairs

P. O. Box 22782 • Honolulu, HI 96823 • 808.927.3700 • mswordconsulting@aol.com

February 3, 2021

Honolulu City Council
Committee on Zoning & Planning
Councilman Brandon Elefante, Chair

RE: Reso 21-22 – Confirming The Nomination of Dean Y Uchida
As Director of Planning & Permitting of the City & County of Honolulu.

Aloha Chair Elefante and Members of the Zoning & Planning Committee.

My name is Max J Sword here in support of Dean Y Uchida to be the next Director of Planning & Permitting for the City & County of Honolulu.

I have had the opportunity to know Dean for over 20 years socially & professionally. I have worked with him while he held positions in government, with the State Department of Land & Natural Resources and in the private sector with the Land Use Research Foundation.

I found that he was approachable and a straight-forward person. He was willing to be collaborative and is a hard worker in addressing issues to get them solved. While some may say that he has been too close to developers, I say that Dean has been fair in my dealings with him and he I know he will be fair in his decisions concerning Zoning & Planning issues.

Dean will make a great addition to the Blangiardi Administration and the City & County of Honolulu, so I urge your unanimous vote for his appointment as the next Director of Planning & Permitting.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit my testimony.



RALPH S. INOUE CO LTD
GENERAL CONTRACTOR

500 Alakawa St., #220E
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

T: 808.839.9002
F: 808.833.5971

License No. ABC-457
Founded in 1962

February 3, 2021

To: The Honorable Brandon J. C. Elefante, Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council Committee on Zoning and Planning

Subject: Resolution 21-22: **Strong Support** of the Nomination of **DEAN Y. UCHIDA** to serve as the Director of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu

MEETING DETAILS

DATE: Thursday February 4, 2021
TIME: 9:00 am
PLACE: City Council Chamber

The Honorable Chair Brandon Elefante and Members of the Honolulu City Council Committee on Zoning and Planning,

I am Lance M Inouye, President of Ralph S. Inouye Co., Ltd. (RSI), a local general contractor. I am writing in **strong support** of the confirmation of **Dean Y. Uchida**, to serve as the Director of Planning and Permitting of the City and Council of Honolulu. The credentials and other testimony before this honorable committee speaks loudly and well of his qualifications for the position. I think it's best for me to speak of his character as a person. Without question, **Dean** is the go-to person if there is a problem that needs to be solved. In spite of the demands on this time as Senior Manager of the Strategic Services Group at SSFM, he always takes the time to help individuals such as me through the subdivision planning and permitting steps to help make our projects become a reality. And that's not all. He has used his skills in helping industry associations such as the BIA and the GCA through the governmental affairs process in our City and State so willingly. He has spent a lot of his years serving in the public sector as well in the Department of Land and Natural Resources with distinction. What is refreshing to me is that he always approaches any task with the overall good of our City and State in mind. The City and County of Honolulu and indeed the State of Hawaii will be the beneficiary of **Dean's** experience and collaborative skills as the Director of the City's Department of Planning and Permitting.

Hence RSI and I personally **strongly support** the appointment of **Dean Y. Uchida** to serve as the Director of Planning and Permitting of the City and Council of Honolulu and urge confirming his nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion of **Dean**.



Mobile: 808.428.8717
Email: lindaschatz@schatzcollaborative.com
Schatzcollaborative.com

February 3, 2021

Via email to: Zoning and Planning Committee

Council Member Brandon J. C. Elefante, Chair
Council Member Esther Kia'aina, Vice Chair
Council Member Radiant Cordero
Council Member Calvin K. Y. Say

SUBJECT: Resolution 21-22 – Nomination of Dean Y. Uchida

Dear Council Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting written testimony to express my full support of Dean Y. Uchida's nomination as Director of Planning and Permitting for the City & County of Honolulu. Dean has been a tireless advocate on land use, zoning, and housing issues for many years. He is not only a strong advocate involved at many levels of government and through his work through trade groups but also as a professional expert in land use issues. His experience having worked for State government and in the private sector puts him in a unique position to integrate quickly with the department to continue the critical work that County staff performs.

Of the two decades I have worked in the real estate development and land use industry I have known Dean Uchida to be strategic, thoughtful, and action-oriented in the work that he does. Dean has the judgement to address tough issues and make decisions that will be critical in shaping the urban landscape and communities across Oahu in this role.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Schatz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Linda Schatz
Principal



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
The Honorable Esther Kia'āina, Vice Chair
Members, City Council Committee on Zoning and Planning

From: Jason C. Chang, President of The Queen's Medical Center, Chief Operating Officer of
The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 4, 2021

Re: Support for Resolution 21-22: Nomination of Dean Y. Uchida

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 1,500 affiliated physicians and providers statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

On behalf of The Queen's Medical Center, I would like to offer our support for Resolution 21-22, confirming the nomination of Dean Y. Uchida to the Director of Planning and Permitting for the City and County of Honolulu. Dean has an accomplished resume that provides him the perspective, capability, and stakeholder confidence to lead the Department at a pivotal time. His background in both public and private land and development initiatives will ensure O'ahu continues to grow responsibly and sustainably. Queen's looks forward to working with the new Director and the Administration.

Thank you for allowing me to provide this testimony in support of the nomination of Mr. Dean Y. Uchida, Resolution 21-22.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.



WARD VILLAGE.

HONOLULU, HI

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Brandon Elefante, Chair
Committee on Zoning and Planning
City Council, City & County of Honolulu
530 S. King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Resolution 21-22 – Nomination of Dean Y. Uchida to serve as the Director of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu

Aloha Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Kia'aina and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Victoria Ward Limited, a subsidiary of The Howard Hughes Corporation, I am submitting testimony in support of the nomination of Dean Y. Uchida to serve as the Director of Planning and Permitting for the City and County of Honolulu.

I've known Mr. Uchida for over a decade. His background and extensive experience on matters related to the Department of Planning and Permitting make him well qualified to serve as the Director. His work history includes positions with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (he received their Manager of the Year award), Hawaii Housing Development Corporation Board of Directors, President of BIA - Hawaii, Member of the National Association of Home Builders, Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation and senior manager positions with SSFM International, Inc. Mr. Uchida has integrity, is a leader, collaborator and doer.

The City will be well served to have Mr. Uchida serve as the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting. We respectfully request your favorable action. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

Race Randle
Victoria Ward Limited
By The Howard Hughes Corporation

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
Committee on Zoning and Planning
City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Elefante and Members of the Planning and Zoning Committee:

Re: Resolution 21-22
Nomination of Dean Y. Uchida to Serve as the Director of Planning and Permitting

Please accept my written testimony in **strong support of Dean Y. Uchida** to serve as the Director of Planning and Permitting.

Having known and worked with Mr. Uchida for nearly 25 years, I believe that he is the right person for the job. As the Chief Planner for the Hawaii Housing and Development Corporation, I've had the opportunity to work with Mr. Uchida on various projects. I find him to be collaborative and forward-thinking, and possesses a deep understanding of land use, planning, and permitting issues. On a personal level, Mr. Uchida is honest, compassionate, and has a great sense of humor.

I respectfully request your confirmation of Dean Y. Uchida. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Janice Takahashi

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 8:57 PM
Subject: Zoning and Planning Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Larry McElheny
Phone (808) 638-8484
Email lkmcelheny@gmail.com
Meeting Date 02-04-2021
Council/PH Committee Zoning and Planning
Agenda Item Resolution 21-22
Your position on the matter Comment
Representing Self
Organization

Monster houses, illegal short term rentals, zoning and building code violations, illegal sea walls, agricultural CPRs, a complex and lengthy permitting process or flat out corruption—no matter what the issue—there is the widely held opinion that DPP is not functioning as it should in a healthy society.

Written Testimony

DPP's after the fact permitting and lax enforcement regime disregards the ongoing impacts of un-permitted and illegal development and rewards bad actors. Due to this pattern and practice of inadequate enforcement, we citizens are unable to rely on DPP to protect our future quality of life.

We need an environmentally sensitive and socially responsible DPP Director—someone with the courage and integrity to stand up to the powerful pro-growth / pro-development interests that apparently control this island. Someone with the wherewithal to begin solving the multitude of critical issues at DPP.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 5:15 PM
Subject: Zoning and Planning Testimony

Written Testimony

Name John Cheung
Phone (808)848-2032
Email john@ccengineeringhawaii.com
Meeting Date 02-04-2021
Council/PH Committee Zoning and Planning
Agenda Item RESOLUTION 21-22 – NOMINATION OF DEAN Y. UCHIDA.
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Written Testimony

Honorable Chair and Members,
i have known Mr. Uchida over 10 years. I first worked with him when he was the Project Manager for the Renovation of Johnson Hall at UH Manoa. i found him to be very knowledgeable in the technical and contractual issue of the job. Later, I served on the Government Relations Committee, BIA where he was the Chair.
i feel that he is qualified for the position as the Director of Planning and Permitting, and will serve the City well.
Respectfully submitted,
John Cheung

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 7:47 PM
Subject: Zoning and Planning Testimony

Written Testimony

Name K.Piltz
Phone 8085288200
Email kpiltz@chunkerr.com
Meeting Date 02-04-2021
Council/PH Committee Zoning and Planning
Agenda Item 21-22
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization Self

Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee on Zoning and Planning,

I strongly support the confirmation of Dean Uchida to serve as the Director of Planning and Permitting (DPP) of the City & County of Honolulu.

Written Testimony

I have known Dean for many years and believe that he has a lot of knowledge and skills to lead DPP. Dean has been a leader in many of the positions that he has held throughout his career. I believe that he has keen insight that will be a major asset for both DPP and for working with the general public.

Thank you for this opportunity to support Dean Uchida's confirmation as Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting, and for this opportunity to testify.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 7:09 PM
Subject: Zoning and Planning Testimony

Written Testimony

Name David Ray Mulinix
Phone 8082398276
Email dave.mulinix@juno.com
Meeting Date 02-04-2021
Council/PH Committee Zoning and Planning
Agenda Item Res21-22 DPP Nominee Dean Uchida
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Organization
Organization Our Revolution Hawaii

Written Testimony
On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 7,000 supporters and members statewide, we oppose the appointment of Dean Uchida to head of the Department of Planning and Permitting. This is due to concerns about Mr. Uchida being a former lobbyist for the developer's lobbying group the Land Use Research Foundation. Given Uchida's development ties and employment history, there is an extreme conflict of interest in this appointment.

Testimony Attachment
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

**CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON ZONING AND PLANNING MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2020
9:00 AM**

**Resolution 21-22
Testimony re. DPP Nominee Uchida**

Aloha Committee Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Kia'aina and Committee Members Cordero and Say:

Concerns within the larger community are plentiful relating to this particular appointment, and while I do not know Mr. Uchida and have nothing against him personally, major concerns center on the heavily-weighted baggage he brings to this forum as a former lobbyist for the Land Use Research Foundation – the developer's lobbying group.

The concerns are these:

First, the telling avalanche of special-interest support from the Development industry, including heavy-duty developers and construction and development contractors.

Second, the Development industry's constant calling out for relaxed Zoning regulations and DPP requirements; their push to build up to property lines, as we have experienced with monster houses; and their ultimate demands for increasingly higher and denser buildings within our established communities and neighborhoods, culminating with their seeking and receiving zoning variances from the City Council to achieve these purposes.

The prospective DPP director's application states that he will be primarily responsible for:

"Developing and amending the General Plan and Development Plans. Process(ing) land development permits & entitlements (i.e. zone change, SMA, variance (sic), etc."

In 2020, the Kailua community found it necessary to rise up and defend their established community and protective zoning regulations to succeed in halting a misplaced Kawainui development project. As of the last City Council meeting the North Shore community achieved a vastly improved Ko'olau Loa Sustainable Community Plan, together with communities from Kahala to Hawaii Kai now seeking to secure an improved East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan. Further, the Primary Urban Center Development Plan review is also forthcoming with its established guidelines and some beneficial environmental improvements that should not be compromised.

Over the years, many concerned constituents striving to protect our established communities from over-development have succeeded together with the City Council to maintain our land use protections and zoning laws. But with this nomination we fear that the island that is our home and legacy for future generations will suffer from excessive changes that this appointment portends.

We would strongly object to these important plans for O'ahu's future and established zoning laws being watered down, streamlined, or compromised with variances galore once this candidate is at the helm of DPP with the thrust of his supporters in the Development industry.

**O'ahu's established communities must be respected,
and protective zoning laws must be honored
– not compromised or diluted.**

Respectfully,

Michelle S. Matson

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 9:31 AM
Subject: Zoning and Planning Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Kris Hui
Phone 808-380-1894
Email kris.hui@brookfieldpropertiesdevelopment.com
Meeting Date 02-04-2021
Council/PH Committee Zoning and Planning
Agenda Item 21-22
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization Self

Dear Chair Elefante and esteemed members of the Zoning & Planning committee,

I would like to express my support for Mr. Dean Uchida to serve as the Director of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu.

Written
Testimony

As Director of DPP, the position of service requires leadership, of which Mr. Uchida possesses. After decades of working in the public and private sector, Mr. Uchida has a successful record of accomplishment. In addition, Mr. Uchida is a strong communicator, a trait necessary to work together with city council, boards, commissions, civic groups, city departments, the administration, and the public. Further, Mr. Uchida will bring forth problem solving and solutions and work together with all groups to tackle issues to improve the development and implementation of future growth management, land use, economic development, utilities and infrastructure, housing, transportation, parks and open space, facilities, community benefits, and other plans and codes to meet the City and community's needs. The diversity of his background and experience will also be well received, in the backdrop of the covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Uchida's nomination as the Director of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu.

Aloha,

Kris Hui

Testimony
Attachment

Accept Terms
and Agreement 1

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 10:52 AM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Nina Reppun Carey
Phone 808-734-8108
Email ulala@hawaii.rr.com
Meeting Date 02-04-2021
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item DPP Director Nominee D. Uchida *Rego 21-22*
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Self
Organization

Written Testimony

I believe nominee Uchida is an inappropriate choice for DPP Director. DPP processes need 'cleaning up' since too many variances are already allowed. A proclaimed pro-development leader is too likely to relax zoning laws meant to prevent over-development. DPP's leader must instead be a supporter of grassroots community-developed plans such as East Honolulu Sustainable Community Plan and Primary Urban Development Plan. Please find a more moderate leader who will balance public v. development needs.
Mahalo.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67