

Resolution 21-34 Testimony

MISC. COM. 138

PIT

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 3:20 PM
Subject: Public Infrastructure and Technology Testimony

Written Testimony

Name lynne matusow
Phone 808 531-4260
Email lynnehi@aol.com
Meeting Date 02-10-2021
Council/PH Committee Public Infrastructure and Technology
Agenda Item reso 21-034
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization retired

Written Testimony This is much needed. There are still neighborhood boards meeting only in person. That reduces public participation. The legislature is conducting meetings via zoom. Participation is way up. Neighbor islanders can participate from home. No travel costs. No parking costs. This is the way of the future.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga
Chair, Public Infrastructure and Technology Committee
City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu Hale, Room 203
Honolulu, HI. 96813

Via Email Only

Re: Resolution 21-34, ACCESS TO MEETINGS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

Dear Chair Fukunaga:

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy. Transparency in government is key to a healthy and strong democracy. Common Cause Hawaii provides the below comments regarding the April 15, 2020 City Council Public Hearing.

Common Cause Hawaii supports Resolution 21-34, urging 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.

Common cause Hawaii sincerely apologizes for the delay in providing you with this supportive testimony pertaining to Resolution 21-34.

Governor Ige's Seventeenth Proclamation Related to the COVID-19 Emergency dated December 16, 2020 and effective until February 14, 2021 at Exhibit F contains beneficial recommendations regarding how boards should hold remote meetings during the pandemic. Common Cause Hawaii requests that the City and County of Honolulu Boards and Commissions, City Council, and other City agencies adhere to Exhibit F of the Seventeenth Emergency Proclamation when holding a remote meeting. See https://governor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2012088-ATG_Seventeenth-Proclamation-Related-to-the-COVID-19-Emergency-distribution-signed.pdf at Exhibit F.

Additionally, Common Cause Hawaii recommends the following guidelines to allow for true public participation and ensure governmental transparency:

- Provide widespread public notice of scheduled government proceedings.
- Provide public access to observe government proceedings via live and recorded video available on government websites.
- Provide public ability to participate in government proceedings via videoconference where possible and, at a minimum, via telephone and submission of written testimony.
- Require all members of the public participating in a meeting or proceeding to be clearly audible and visible at all times, including to the public.

- At the start of the meeting, require the chair to announce the names of any members of the public body participating remotely.
- In the event audio or video coverage of a proceeding or meeting is interrupted, require the presiding official to suspend discussion until audio/video is restored.
- Require all votes to be roll call votes.
- At the beginning of any executive session, require all members of the public body to state that no other person is present or can hear them.
- Record all open sessions of meetings and make such recordings available to the public via a government website.

Common Cause Hawaii sincerely appreciates the opportunity to support Resolution 21-34 and again apologizes for the delay in submitting the testimony. Allowing the public to participate remotely (and safely) at public meetings is vitally important to our democracy. Please do not hesitate to contact me, if you have any questions or concerns.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director
Common Cause Hawaii



From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 6:10 PM
Subject: Public Infrastructure and Technology Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Kathleen M Pahinui
Phone 808-637-8545
Email pahinuik001@hawaii.rr.com
Meeting Date 02-10-2021
Council/PH Committee Public Infrastructure and Technology
Agenda Item Reso 21-34
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Aloha Committee Chair Fukunaga and Committee Members -

I am currently chair of the North Shore NB though I am testifying in my individual capacity today.

Our board has been holding virtual meetings during the shut down and we have received much positive feedback from the community. Once we are allowed to hold in person meetings again, I believe we should be allowed to continue to have a virtual aspect to our meetings including the option to hold either in person or virtual meetings.

Written
Testimony

Many meetings may not need to be held in person. In Person meetings could be focused on larger issues where a virtual meeting is not as effective. (However, this choice should be left to each board as each community has its own needs.)

Given that we have been at this for about a year, the community has gotten used to the convenience and I do not believe will accept going back to only written testimony or in person attendance. They want and like the options and we should be as flexible as possible.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Kathleen M. Pahinui
Waialua

Testimony
Attachment

TO: Members of the Committee on Public Infrastructure and Technology

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
808-395-3233

DATE: Wednesday, February 10, 2021

SUBJECT: Resolution 21-34, Urging Increased Flexibility for Electronic Participation in
and Public Access to City Public Meetings - **COMMENTS**

Aloha Chair Fukunaga and Councilmembers,

Thank you for allowing testimony on Resolution 21-34, which urges greater flexibility in requirements for electronic participation among neighborhood board members and at other public meetings. While I appreciate the ability to testify remotely, I have the following concerns about the current process, specifically at Honolulu City Council meetings.

When all public testimony is taken at the beginning of the meeting, testifiers miss out on important comments that may be made either by councilmembers as they introduce measures or responses from the administration and may not be given enough time to testify if they would like to testify on more than one measure.

For example, in the recent committee meeting regarding the East Honolulu and Central Oahu Sustainable Communities Plans, testifiers did know what the representative from the Department of Planning and Permitting would say during the presentation. Under rules prior to the pandemic, testifiers would have been able to address comments made by the administration, because they would have testified after the presentation was done.

In addition, under current Council procedures, the public does not have the ability to testify on hand-carried floor drafts. While it does not happen often that someone would wish to do so, good public policy would allow for such testimony.

Testifiers may feel that their opinions do not count for much when they are rushed to put several testimonies into one minute or when they are bunched in with dozens of other people testifying on different measures. **I therefore ask the Council to do just as the resolution asks and allow flexibility by offering testifiers the ability to testify after a measure is up for discussion.**