

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843
www.boardofwatersupply.com



February 10, 2021

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Manager and Chief Engineer

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Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
and Members
Committee on Public Infrastructure and Technology
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 203
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Fukunaga and Members:

Subject: Resolution No. 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.

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) strongly supports Resolution No. 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.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent shutdown, the BWS has looked for ways to ensure public participation in its board meetings and community outreach. We had the unique opportunity with the public hearing for Haiku Stairs in April 2020 to test ourselves, and our technology, to offer as many points of access as possible for the public to testify on what was a very important issue for the community.

Our communications team worked closely with our IT division to provide video and call in options. We also allowed for written testimony to be emailed in during the hearing and offered live stream options on Facebook and Vimeo. We were very proud of our efforts and many community members commended BWS for its efforts to ensure the public had a chance to express their concerns.

Since that time, we have continued with call in and of course written testimony. While we have been airing our board meetings on Olelo (after the fact), we have also continued with live stream feeds on Facebook and Vimeo. We are now looking at live video testimony options as well.

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
and Members
February 10, 2021
Page 2

BWS believes in the public process and this resolution continues to support and encourage the City to refine and improve access to government.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to provide testimony on Resolution No. 21-34.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ernest Y.W. Lau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "Y".

Ernest Y.W. Lau, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer