

Resolution 21-34 Testimony

MISC. COM. 140

PIT

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 9:49 PM
Subject: Public Infrastructure and Technology Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Sharlene Chun-Lum
Phone 8083542434
Email sharstocks@yahoo.com
Meeting Date 02-10-2021
Council/PH Committee Public Infrastructure and Technology
Agenda Item Res. 21-34, CD1
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Aloha Chair Fukunaga and members of the PIT committee,

I am Shar Chun-Lum, a retired tax payer from Halawa and a founding member of Save Ala Moana Beach Park. Prior to the COVID-19 restrictions, I frequently attended Council Committee meetings and meetings of the full council to testify on various issues. Most notably, our fight to keep Ala Moana Beach Park the People's Park required faithful attendance, sometimes requiring the whole day and into the night. I believe it was the collective efforts of supporters being there to present our concerns and answer questions raised by the Council members that made the difference in keeping Ala Moana the People's Park without additional unnecessary costly projects.

Written
Testimony

Due to COVID-19 concerns, it is no longer possible for citizens to attend in person to plead their causes. I applaud the effort to allow for citizen participation through electronic means, however, the experience is sometimes hampered by dropped calls, the inability to see a speaker, having all the testimony come at the beginning of a meeting, etc.

I submitted testimony earlier in support of Res. 21-34. I further support this CD1 which presents additional examples from the State Legislature of good practices that allow for more citizen participation in public meetings including neighborhood board, Honolulu City Council, and meetings of boards and commissions.

The Legislature utilizes Zoom as their platform and has detailed instructions to make the participants more successful when presenting their points. They also provide for those who need assistance or may not have internet capabilities in their home. These steps make the process of civic engagement more inclusive.

I hope these good practices can be adapted for Council Meetings as well. After all, Council

Citizen participation in our government is vital if, according to the Preamble of the City Charter, "...the people of the City and County of Honolulu...seek to achieve in our time that righteousness by which the life of our land is preserved..."

May I further suggest that the City Council webpage stating how people may participate be updated to reflect the latest guidelines and that the Council adapt the most user friendly means for allowing for participation.

Please pass Res. 21-34, CD1.

Mahalo.

Testimony
Attachment
Accept Terms
and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 11:18 PM
Subject: Public Infrastructure and Technology Testimony
Attachments: 20210209231800_RESO_21-34_CD-1_-_CF1_testimony_BruceLum.pdf

Written Testimony

Name Bruce Lum
Phone 808 237-9120
Email brlum@mac.com
Meeting Date 02-10-2021
Council/PH Committee Public Infrastructure and Technology
Agenda Item Resolution 21-34 CD-1 -CF1
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization N/A

Bruce Lum
99-546 Iwaiwa Street
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

February 9, 2021

Committee on Public Infrastructure & Technology
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu Hale
Honolulu, HI 96813

Written
Testimony

Re: I strongly support of Resolution 21-34 CD-1 - FD1
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.

Aloha kākou Chair Fukunaga, Vice-Chair Andria Tupola and committee members.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this resolution, because I believe that providing reliable and elegant toolsets to accommodate meaningful engagement between the County of Honolulu and the public, is central to building effective laws and government deliverables to ensure a safe, robust and vibrant county.

COVID 19's disruptions to civic engagement and government communications has been staggering and challenging at all levels of government and public engagement. Despite the

high level of comfort and confidence that so many of the public had developed for engaging government in the pre-COVID era, the current method of testifying and discussing via web conferencing technologies/platforms has at times been un-nerving, intimidating, chaotic and off-putting. Fix this or they will stop coming.

The challenge faced, of recent, by government, business, education, health providers and the like has been daunting, because the-bird-in-hand tool has not gone smoothly. The un-anticipated issue has clearly been the achievement of seamlessness and elegance (no rude interfaces) across diverse and dissimilar venues — eg, business-to-public, the haves-and-the-have-nots, the tech adept-to-the tech-challenged, the bold and the shy.

In the quest of effective communications, the challenges faced, as described above, is translating into a significant erosion in civic to government engagement, reduced message efficacy, inefficient use of time, duplication of work, chaos about how things work, etc, etc.

I believe, by seasoned experience, that now is the most apropos time to adopt technologies that are democratic and ubiquitous vs proprietary and insular. I say this because, if the web conference technology of choice encourages vs discourages then communications will be achieved. After all is said and done, isn't the proof of success in communications that the message was received and understood?

In conclusion, I am in full support of Resolution 21-34 CD1 - FD1, for it heads the City Council in the direction to deliver successful technologies in its quest to achieve responsible, reliable, efficient and effective communications between all stakeholders and providers of city services and support, via virtual conferencing, that allows seamless integrations of voip (telephony), video streaming, internet and web communications.

Mahalo to Chair Fukunaga for introducing this resolution and to all PIT members for considering the passing of Resolution 21-34 out of committee.

Respectfully and appreciatively,

Bruce Lum

Testimony
Attachment

20210209231800_RESO_21-34_CD-1_-CF1_testimony_BruceLum.pdf

Accept Terms
and Agreement

1

IP: 192.168.200.67

Bruce Lum
99-546 Iwaiwa Street
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

February 9, 2021

Committee on Public Infrastructure and Technology
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu Hale
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Respectfully and appreciatively,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bruce D.S. Lum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bruce Lum