

Resolution 21-34 Testimony

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From: CLK Council Info
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Written Testimony

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Meeting Date 02-17-2021
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item Resolution 21-34
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization Self

Aloha Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

Written Testimony

My name is Dave Watase, a resident of Honolulu who has been actively attending several Neighborhood Boards over the past few years and have testified several times before the City Council. I've seen first hand the increase in public participation especially at the Neighborhood Boards with online and phone participation using webex. Just a last week the Diamond Head Neighborhood Board had their monthly meeting and it went for over 3 hours with up to 63 participants. The only thing you may have to fear is more public participation may require you to spend more of your time because webex makes accessibility easier and there is the potential on hot topics to have public testimony go long. It makes it easier for those working and those who have transportation issues to participate. City Hall can be over an hour drive for some folks, plus parking, plus the waiting makes the whole process a deterrent. On the upside for the Councilmembers is that it is so much easier to cover several monthly Neighborhood Boards either at your office or home or on the road. I've found going to them in person month after month and year after year very rewarding but very taxing to do in person all the time. I will say, in person is always best but webex is a nice convenience discovered during Covid-19 and we should keep it and enhance it. That was a great article in Sunday's February 13, 2021 StarAdvertiser "Honolulu City Council resolution promotes use of virtual meetings". I've read testimonies previously submitted at the committee meetings and agree with Bruce and Shar Lum and Winston Welch who are in support as well. Please support Resolution 21-34.

Mahalo,
Dave Watase

Testimony
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