

# Resolution 21-22 Testimony

**MISC. COM. 143**



**Testimony to the City & County of Honolulu City Council  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.  
City Council Chamber, Honolulu Hale**

**RE: HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 21-22**

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

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** City Council Resolution 21-22 to confirm the nomination of Dean Y. Uchida to serve as the Director of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Mr. Uchida has served a distinguished career in both the private and public sectors in the State of Hawaii and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the land and building development industries. His experience working in both the public and private sector bring institutional knowledge that will serve well for the Department of Planning and Permitting.

Mr. Uchida has also formed effective coalitions and led a broad group of stakeholders in order to move issues forward. As a former co-chair of the Chamber's Infrastructure, Transportation, and Quality of Life Policy Committee, Mr. Uchida was engaged with helping to collaborate with members of the committee and helped to determine and recommend the Chamber's legislative priorities for these issue areas.

The Chamber is pleased to provide its support of Mr. Uchida's nomination to serve as the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting. We believe that Mr. Uchida is the right person for this position at a critical time and has the skillset necessary to guide our state and county's economic recovery from the ongoing COVID pandemic through this department.

We respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of this nomination.

Sherry Menor-McNamara  
808-380-2609  
[moh@cochawaii.org](mailto:moh@cochawaii.org)

---

**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 4, 2021 10:39 PM  
**Subject:** Zoning and Planning Testimony

## Written Testimony

Name Kathryn Kane  
Phone 808 285-4284  
Email Kathykca@gmail.com  
Meeting Date 02-05-2021  
Council/PH Zoning and Planning  
Committee  
Agenda Item DPP *Pers 21-22*  
Your position on the matter Oppose  
Representing Self  
Organization

Written  
Testimony

I'd like to say that as a Kamaaina going back to 1865, I'm saddened by the destruction, of our lands on Oahu. Hoapili is starting to take shape. As a kid, we had country. Now so little space between anything. We need someone whose vision is to keep country , country. No more housing. We need ag land to be kept that way. Solar farms do not cut it. We must FEED our population. Dean Uchida is part of the pay to play group. This is not a situation where anyone's pockets are to be greased and my OAHU is destroyed. Pick someone else, with a better, cleaner background. Someone who seeks to keep our ah land just that and find a way to indeed us.

Please DO NOT APPROVE SOMEONE who will enrich his own pockets while our Oahu is destroyed. This is MY ISALND. Mayor Blangiardi must THINK before he makes this choices.

Vote NO on Uchida.

Testimony  
Attachment

Accept Terms  
and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

January 25, 2021

The Honorable Tommy Waters and Presiding Officer  
And Members of the City Council  
City and County of Honolulu  
530 South King Street, Room 202  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: RES21-22  
Relating to the nomination of Dean Uchida  
To serve as the Director of Planning and Permitting

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,

My name is Alana Kobayashi Pakkala and I serve as Chief Operations Officer and Partner of the Kobayashi Group. I am writing without hesitation to express my strong support of the appointment of Dean Y. Uchida as Director of the City's Department of Planning and Permitting.

I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Mr. Uchida for many years. He has the knowledge and understanding of two decades working with private corporations, public agencies and state legislators. I believe that Dean will be dedicated to protecting and improving the City of Honolulu and will have a balanced approach to the challenges that lay ahead for our community. The City's Department of Planning and Permitting will benefit tremendously from his intelligent guidance and direction.

The City and County of Honolulu needs the experience and leadership only Mr. Dean Uchida can provide. I respectfully request your favorable consideration of his appointment.

Sincerely,



Alana Pakkala  
Chief Operations Officer & Partner  
Kobayashi Group LLC

*Blake K. Oshiro, Esq.  
222 S. Vineyard Street, Suite 401  
Blake.Oshiro@808cch.com*

**Support for CR47; Resolution 21-22 DEAN Y. UCHIDA,**  
Director of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu.

Dear Councilmembers -

I write in strong support of the Mayor's Message 21 and Resolution 21-22 seeking confirmation the nomination of Dean Y. Uchida to serve as the Director of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu.

I first met Mr. Uchida when I was elected to the State House of Representatives and he was working at the Department of Land and Natural Resources. As the Land Division Administrator, he had he was responsible for managing the state lands, helping to properly manage and utilize these assets and properties while balancing those uses towards ensuring the protection of Hawaii's natural resources. I later had more detailed, and at times, more impassioned, discussions and interactions with him on issues when he was in the private sector for the Land Use Research Foundation.

Throughout all those years and interactions, I found Mr. Uchida to be highly knowledgeable about issues and very thoughtful in his approach to handling sensitive issues and topics.

Looking more into Mr. Uchida's broad work experience with the private homebuilding and development industry and his involvement with private and government infrastructure and facilities, will give him a broad and unique perspective to that will be valuable leading the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP).

But more importantly, I believe Mr. Uchida is the right person to take on the difficult job of leading change in DPP. The Office of the City Auditor came out with its Report 20-01 "Audit of the Department of Planning and Permitting's Processes for Reviewing Building Permit Applications, Resolution 18-284, CD1, FD1" in January 2020.  
[https://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/oca/oca\\_docs/DPP\\_Permit\\_Processing\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](https://www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/oca/oca_docs/DPP_Permit_Processing_Final_Report.pdf)

A review of the Auditor's recommendations demonstrates that there needs to be fundamental structural and cultural changes to DPP. Leading an organization through such monumental changes requires a leader that is willing and able to challenge existing presumptions and systems, analyze areas and roles that are working and those that are not, and adopt and implement changes that are able to be absorbed and incorporated into the procedures and protocols.

I believe that Mr. Uchida is a leader who can help see that these recommendations are evaluated and then adopted and put into place for the future work of DPP.

I hope that you will look favorably upon his appointment to this position. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.



February 14, 2021

Councilman Tommy Waters, Chair  
Members of the City Council  
City & County of the Honolulu City  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Resolution 21-22 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation of the Appointment of Mr. Dean Y. Uchida to Serve as the Director of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu**

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,

**The Wilhelm Group LLC is in STRONG SUPPORT** of the appointment of Dean Y. Uchida as Director of the City's Department of Planning and Permitting.

Mr. Uchida possesses the background and skills necessary to lead the Department effectively. He has many years of public and private sector experience relating to land use and development issues, including serving as Land Administrator for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation, President of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii, and Vice President for D.R. Horton. He has a deep understanding of the permitting process and his leadership experience will facilitate a smooth transition. We are confident that Mr. Uchida will bring a fair and balanced approach to the Department.

We are pleased to provide support of Mr. Uchida's nomination to serve as the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting. We believe that Mr. Uchida is the right person for this position at a critical time and has the skillset necessary to guide the City and County of Honolulu's economic recovery from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic through this Department.

Accordingly, we ask for your favorable consideration of Mr. Uchida's appointment to serve as the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting.

Mahalo,

Lance Wilhelm  
President



**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 16, 2021

To: The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council

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

The Honorable Chair Tommy Waters and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

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 the Honolulu City Council 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**.

Testimony of  
Pacific Resource Partnership

City Council  
City & County of Honolulu  
Councilmember Tommy Waters, Chair  
Councilmember Esther Kiaʻāina, Vice Chair

Resolution 21-22—Confirming the Nomination of Dean Y. Uchida to Director of Planning and Permitting

Wednesday, February 17, 2021  
10:00 A.M.  
City Council Chamber

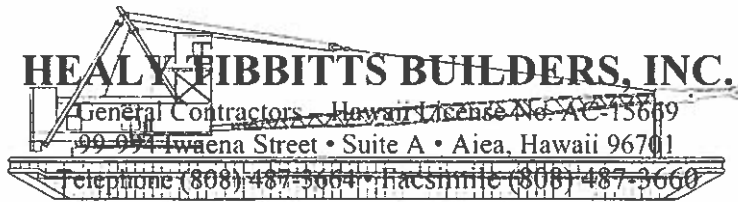
Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kiaʻāina, and Members of the Council.

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) writes is strong support of Resolution 21-22, confirming the nomination of Dean Y. Uchida to serve as the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) of the City and County of Honolulu.

Mr. Uchida's commitment to public service; understanding of the challenges and need for affordable housing in the City and County of Honolulu; extensive knowledge of the construction industry; experience in both the private and public sectors; and personal integrity renders him well suited to serve as Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting.

Therefore, PRP is pleased to offer our strong support for Mr. Uchida's confirmation as Director of DPP.





February 16, 2021

Councilman Tommy Waters, Chair  
Members of the City Council  
City & County of the Honolulu City  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Resolution 21-22 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation of the  
Appointment of Mr. Dean Y. Uchida to Serve as the Director of Planning and  
Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu**

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,

Healy Tibbitts Builders, Inc. is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the appointment of Dean Y. Uchida as Director of the City's Department of Planning and Permitting.

Mr. Uchida possesses the background and skills necessary to lead the Department effectively. He has many years of public and private sector experience relating to land use and development issues, including serving as Land Administrator for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation, President of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii, and Vice President for D.R. Horton. He has a deep understanding of the permitting process and his leadership experience will facilitate a smooth transition. We are confident that Mr. Uchida will bring a fair and balanced approach to the Department.

We are pleased to provide support of Mr. Uchida's nomination to serve as the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting. We believe that Mr. Uchida is the right person for this position at a critical time and has the skillset necessary to guide the City and County of Honolulu's economic recovery from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic through this Department.

Accordingly, we ask for your favorable consideration of Mr. Uchida's appointment to serve as the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting.

Very truly yours,  
Healy Tibbitts Builders, Inc.

Rick Heltzel  
President

17 February 2021

Bruce A Coppa  
President  
Capitol Consultants of Hawaii LPP  
222 South Vineyard Street , Suite 401  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Support for CR47; Resolution 21-22 DEAN Y. UCHIDA,  
Director of Planning and Permitting of he City and County of Honolulu.  
Dear Councilmember's -

Dear Councilmember's

I humbly as for your strong support of the Mayor's Message 21 and Resolution 21-22 seeking  
Confirmation the nomination of Dean Y. Uchida to serve as the Director of Planning  
and  
Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu.

I have known Dean for over 20 years and can speak to his good character,  
trustworthiness and competence for the position and role he has been nominated  
for. Dean is a person of high integrity and sincerity in his commitment to make  
Honolulu and a better place for all.

Deans' extensive background in land management, home building industry and  
infrastructure give Dean a working knowledge of the challenges facing the  
Department of Planning and Permitting.

As our uncertain economic situation faces government leaders, his work experience  
will provide him with a diverse perspective for the problems facing our city.

Based on the forgoing, I highly recommend your favorable consideration of Mr. Dean  
Uchida for the above position. He is a person who will get the job done at a time  
when our city economy needs revitalization, cost control and effective leadership in  
government service

Should you have any questions , please feel free to contact the undersigned

Very truly yours

Bruce A Coppa

SWINERTON



841 BISHOP STREET  
DAVIES PACIFIC CENTER, SUITE 500  
HONOLULU, HI 96813

February 16, 2021

LIC#: BC - 3753

Councilman Tommy Waters, Chair  
Members of the City Council  
City & County of the Honolulu City  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Resolution 21-22 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation of the  
Appointment of Mr. Dean Y. Uchida to Serve as the Director of Planning and  
Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu**

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,

Swinerton Builders is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the appointment of Dean Y. Uchida as  
Director of the City's Department of Planning and Permitting.

Mr. Uchida possesses the background and skills necessary to lead the Department  
effectively. He has many years of public and private sector experience relating to land use and  
development issues, including serving as Land Administrator for the Department of Land and  
Natural Resources, Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation, President of the  
Building Industry Association of Hawaii, and Vice President for D.R. Horton. He has a deep  
understanding of the permitting process and his leadership experience will facilitate a smooth  
transition. We are confident that Mr. Uchida will bring a fair and balanced approach to the  
Department.

We are pleased to provide support of Mr. Uchida's nomination to serve as the Director of  
the Department of Planning and Permitting. We believe that Mr. Uchida is the right person for  
this position at a critical time and has the skillset necessary to guide the City and County of  
Honolulu's economic recovery from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic through this Department.

Accordingly, we ask for your favorable consideration of Mr. Uchida's appointment to  
serve as the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting.

Sincerely,

SWINERTON

Aaron Yamasaki  
VP, Division Manager

M-143



February 17, 2021

**IN SUPPORT**

**Resolution 21-22 Dean Y. Uchida to Serve as Director of the Department of  
Planning and Permitting**

Aloha Chair Waters and Council Members,

My name is Shane H. Peters, President of Peters Communications.

I respectfully submit this letter in strong support of Mr. Dean Y. Uchida's nomination to serve as the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP).

I have known Dean for many years and am highly confident that he has the skills, experience and acumen to lead this important agency.

From his background leading efforts to uphold regulations for conservation lands while at the Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources to his role as policy advocate at the Land Use Research Foundation, he is uniquely qualified to understand and navigate the complex duties and responsibilities of DPP.

As Honolulu grapples with the many challenges ahead, I believe Dean will be a strong ally of both the Council as well as the Administration in seeking solutions, not barriers to progress. Furthermore, I know Dean to be a man of high character and integrity.

For these reasons, I urge the council to confirm Mr. Uchida to lead this vital agency.

**808.421.9879 | [shane@peters-comm.com](mailto:shane@peters-comm.com)**

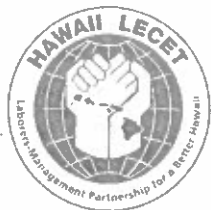
---

**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2021 9:02 AM  
**Subject:** Council Testimony

## Written Testimony

Name	Lynn McCrory
Phone	8086398442
Email	lmccrory654@gmail.com
Meeting Date	02-17-2021
Council/PH Committee	Council
Agenda Item	21-22
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing	Self
Organization	
Written Testimony	
Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Agreement 1	

IP: 192.168.200.67



## **HAWAII LABORERS-EMPLOYERS COOPERATION AND EDUCATION TRUST**

650 Iwilei Road, Suite 285 · Honolulu, HI 96817 · Phone: 808-845-3238 · Fax: 808-845-8300

**February 16, 2021**

### **HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL**

**City Council Chamber**

**Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

**DATE: Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

**TIME: 10:00 a.m.**

### **TESTIMONY ON RESOLUTION 21-22 – CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF DEAN Y. UCHIDA TO SERVE AS THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

**To Council Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina and members of the Honolulu City Council:**

Hawaii LECET is a labor-management partnership between the Hawaii Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 368, its' 5000+ members and its' 250+ unionized contractors. The Laborers' International Union of North America is the largest construction union in the United States.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Resolution 21-22, which seeks to confirm Dean Y. Uchida as the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting for the City and County of Honolulu. Dean has extensive experience in planning and construction, having worked in the construction industry for close to 20 years. In addition, he has held leadership positions in government and the private sector, as a past Director for the Hawaii Housing and Development Corporation, former Vice President for D.R. Horton and past Executive Director for the Land Use Research Foundation.

The Department of Planning and Permitting will benefit greatly from Dean's institutional knowledge of Hawaii's policies regarding land use and development. His experience in the construction industry will enable him to effectively implement new ideas to assist with streamlining processes and effect positive change. For these reasons, Hawaii LECET supports Dean's nomination as the Director for the Department of Planning and Permitting for the City and County of Honolulu. Thank you for your consideration.

With respect,

Hawaii Laborers-Employers Cooperation & Education Trust

Joy Kimura  
8088453238  
[jkimura@hawaiiilecet.org](mailto:jkimura@hawaiiilecet.org)

1065 Ahua Street  
Honolulu, HI 96819  
Phone: 808-833-1681 FAX: 839-4167  
Email: [info@gcahawaii.org](mailto:info@gcahawaii.org)  
Website: [www.gcahawaii.org](http://www.gcahawaii.org)



# GCA of Hawaii

GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

Quality People. Quality Projects.

February 16, 2021

Councilman Tommy Waters, Chair  
Members of the City Council  
City & County of the Honolulu City  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Resolution 21-22 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation of the Appointment of Mr. Dean Y. Uchida to Serve as the Director of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu**

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,

The Legislative Committee of the General Contractors Association of Hawaii is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the appointment of Dean Y. Uchida as Director of the City's Department of Planning and Permitting.

Mr. Uchida possesses the background and skills necessary to lead the department effectively. He has many years of public and private sector experience relating to land use and development issues, including Land Administrator for the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation. He has a deep understanding of the permitting process and his leadership experience will facilitate a smooth transition. We are confident that Mr. Uchida will bring a fair and balanced approach to the Department.

Accordingly, we ask for your favorable consideration of Mr. Uchida's appointment to serve as the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting.

Sincerely,

Rick Heltzel  
Chair, Legislative Committee



KING & NEEL

February 15, 2021

Councilman Tommy Waters, Chair  
Members of the City Council  
City & County of the Honolulu City  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Resolution 21-22 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation of the Appointment of Mr. Dean Y. Uchida to Serve as the Director of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu**

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,

King & Neel, LLC is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the appointment of Dean Y. Uchida as Director of the City's Department of Planning and Permitting.

Mr. Uchida possesses the background and skills necessary to lead the Department effectively. He has many years of public and private sector experience relating to land use and development issues, including serving as Land Administrator for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation, President of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii, and Vice President for D.R. Horton.

We believe that Mr. Uchida is the right person for this position at a critical time and has the skillset necessary to guide the City and County of Honolulu's economic recovery from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic through this Department. We are confident that Mr. Uchida will bring a fair and balanced approach to the Department.

Accordingly, we ask for your favorable consideration of Mr. Uchida's appointment to serve as the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting.

Sincerely,

John N. Bustard  
Senior Vice President



► TOGETHER WE BUILD SUCCESS

February 16, 2021

Councilman Tommy Waters, Chair  
Members of the City Council  
City & County of the Honolulu City  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Resolution 21-22 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation of the  
Appointment of Mr. Dean Y. Uchida to Serve as the Director of Planning and  
Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu**

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,

Nordic PCL Construction, Inc. STRONGLY SUPPORTS the appointment of Dean Y. Uchida as Director of the City's Department of Planning and Permitting ("DPP").

Mr. Uchida possesses the experience and skillset necessary to lead the Department effectively. He has many years of public and private sector experience relating to land use and development issues, including serving as Land Administrator for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation, President of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii, and Vice President for D.R. Horton. He has a deep understanding of the permitting process and his leadership experience will facilitate a smooth transition to help the optimization efforts at DPP. We are confident that Mr. Uchida will bring a fair and balanced approach to the Department.

We believe that Mr. Uchida is an excellent candidate for this position at a critical time and has the skillset and leadership necessary to guide the City and County of Honolulu's economic recovery from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic through the important role he would hold at DPP to advance development plans.

Accordingly, we ask for your favorable consideration of Mr. Uchida's appointment to serve as the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting.

Yours truly,

NORDIC PCL CONSTRUCTION, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen Kaneshige", is written over a horizontal line.

Glen Kaneshige  
President

**NORDIC PCL CONSTRUCTION, INC.**

1099 Alakea Street, Suite 1600

Honolulu, HI 96813

P: 808.541.9101 F: 808.541.9108 [www.nordicpcl.com](http://www.nordicpcl.com)

Leonard K.P. Leong  
Vice President

February 16, 2021

Councilman Tommy Waters, Chair  
Members of the City Council  
City & County of the Honolulu City  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Resolution 21-22 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation of the  
Appointment of Mr. Dean Y. Uchida to Serve as the Director of Planning and  
Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu**



Dear Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,

Royal Contracting Co., Ltd is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the appointment of Dean Y. Uchida as Director of the City's Department of Planning and Permitting.

Mr. Uchida possesses the background and skills necessary to lead the Department effectively. He has many years of public and private sector experience relating to land use and development issues, including serving as Land Administrator for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation, President of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii, and Vice President for D.R. Horton. He has a deep understanding of the permitting process and his leadership experience will facilitate a smooth transition. We are confident that Mr. Uchida will bring a fair and balanced approach to the Department.

We are pleased to provide support of Mr. Uchida's nomination to serve as the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting. We believe that Mr. Uchida is the right person for this position at a critical time and has the skillset necessary to guide the City and County of Honolulu's economic recovery from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic through this Department.

Accordingly, we ask for your favorable consideration of Mr. Uchida's appointment to serve as the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting.

Leonard K.P. Leong  
8088399006  
[lokeleong@twc.com](mailto:lokeleong@twc.com)

February 15, 2021

The Honorable Tommy Waters  
Chair and Presiding Officer  
And Members  
Honolulu City Council  
530 South King Street, Room 202  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Subject: Resolution No. 21-22 Confirming the Nomination of  
Dean Y. Uchida to Serve as the Director of Planning  
and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu**

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

I am testifying in favor of the nomination of Mr. Dean Y. Uchida to serve as the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) of the City and County of Honolulu.

I have known of Mr. Uchida, from the mid 1980's, in my work as a planner with the Department of General Planning, City and County of Honolulu. He had a very successful career at the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), rising to the level of Land Division Administrator of the Land Division, the highest Civil Service level position (Division Chief). Mr. Uchida was well respected by his staff and by the Development Community.

My first interaction with Mr. Uchida was in the early 1990's when I represented the YMCA in a Conservation District Use permit to expand their recreational camp in Mokuleia. Mr. Uchida was fair and helpful in overseeing the review and approval of this Permit, with conditions that protected the Conservation District while allowing for recreational uses to support the youth involved in the YMCA.

Before becoming Land Division Administrator, Mr. Uchida was involved in developing the State's first industrial park at Sand Island, Oahu, negotiating the initial development agreement with both the developer and lender for the industrial park. This industrial park was developed at a cost of \$24 million of private sector funds.

The master lease was for 73 acres of land at Sand Island for industrial purposes with a term of 55 years, commencing on July 1, 1992 and expiring on June 30, 2047. The rent was for about \$4,900,000 a year, due in semi-annual payments. The Sand Island Business Association tenants maintain and operate the industrial park.

The DLNR's current annual lease rent of \$8 million from the Sand Island industrial park goes into a Land Development Special Fund. That fund is the sole source of revenue for the division and for the DLNR's Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands, and it also supports the Commission on Water Resource Management and other agencies. Not to put pressure on Mr. Uchida, but it would be nice if he could develop a revenue source to help the City fund DPP operations.

Honorable Tommy Waters  
Page 2

Mr. Uchida served the State well and protected the Conservation District in his various positions at the DLNR for 18.5 years. He went on to continue his Planning Career for another 16.5 years in the private sector as Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation, Vice President, Ho'opili D.R. Horton-Schuler Division and Senior Project Manager at SSFM International, Inc.

Mr. Uchida's extensive leadership experience in Planning in the public and private sector will serve him well in his new position as the Director of DPP.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Kurahashi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a stylized "H".

Keith Kurahashi  
P.O. Box 62027  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96839



**S & M SAKAMOTO, INC.**  
GENERAL CONTRACTORS

February 16, 2021

Councilman Tommy Waters, Chair  
Members of the City Council  
City & County of the Honolulu City  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Resolution 21-22 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation of the  
Appointment of Mr. Dean Y. Uchida to Serve as the Director of Planning and  
Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu**

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,

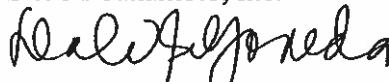
S & M Sakamoto, Inc. is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the appointment of Dean Y. Uchida as Director of the City's Department of Planning and Permitting.

Mr. Uchida possesses the background and skills necessary to lead the Department effectively. He has many years of public and private sector experience relating to land use and development issues, including serving as Land Administrator for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation, President of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii, and Vice President for D.R. Horton. He has a deep understanding of the permitting process and his leadership experience will facilitate a smooth transition. We are confident that Mr. Uchida will bring a fair and balanced approach to the Department.

We are pleased to provide support of Mr. Uchida's nomination to serve as the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting. We believe that Mr. Uchida is the right person for this position at a critical time and has the skillset necessary to guide the City and County of Honolulu's economic recovery from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic through this Department.

Accordingly, we ask for your favorable consideration of Mr. Uchida's appointment to serve as the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting.

S & M Sakamoto, Inc.

  
Dale S. Yoneda, President

---

**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2021 12:50 PM  
**Subject:** Council Testimony

## Written Testimony

Name Larry McElheny  
Phone (808) 237-9354  
Email lkmcelheny@gmail.com  
Meeting Date 02-17-2021  
Council/PH Committee Council  
Agenda Item CR-47 Reso 21-22  
Your position on the matter Comment  
Representing Self  
Organization

Aloha Council Members

Here's the problem :

A significant portion of our economy is based on the utterly false premise that never ending growth is possible. An economic model based on never-ending growth cannot continue.

Written  
Testimony

The mess at DPP will not be solved by streamlining the permitting process as is being advocated for by the development industry.

Before voting to confirm Mr. Uchida, please secure his firm commitment that he will focus primarily on implementing a strict and effective enforcement regime at DPP, as opposed to merely streamlining the permitting process. Isn't permitting without enforcement essentially meaningless ?

Mahalo nui,

Larry McElheny  
(808) 237-9354

Testimony  
Attachment

Accept Terms  
and Agreement 1

---

**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2021 1:59 PM  
**Subject:** Council Testimony

## Written Testimony

Name K. Piltz  
Phone 8085288200  
Email kpiltz@chunkerr.com  
Meeting Date 02-17-2021  
Council/PH Committee Council  
Agenda Item 21-22  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization

Chair Waters and Members of the City Council:

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

**HAWAII OPERATING ENGINEERS  
INDUSTRY STABILIZATION FUND**



Affiliated AFL-CIO  
DPEIU - S - AFL-CIO (S)

*Uniting our strengths and working together  
for a better tomorrow.*

February 16, 2021

Honorable, Tommy Waters, Honolulu City Council, Chair  
Honorable, Esther Kia'aina, Honolulu City Council, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the Honolulu City Council

**RE: RESOLUTION 21-022 – CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF DEAN Y. UCHIDA TO SERVE AS THE  
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.**

Aloha Chair Waters,

My name is Pane Meatoga III and I am the Community Liaison for the Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund (HOEISF). We are a labor management fund representing 3000 unionized members in heavy engineering site work and 500 general contractors specializing in heavy site work and vertical construction. The Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund submits this letter of strong support of Resolution 21-022, confirming the nomination of Dean Y. Uchida to serve as the director of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu.

As a former administrator with the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), a former administrator of the Land Use Research Foundation (LURF), and as a past President and Government Relations Chairman for BIA-Hawaii, Mr. Uchida showcased his wealth of knowledge and experience in the land management and construction industries. He possesses priceless institutional knowledge in both the government and private sectors, which will serve him extremely well in DPP.

In addition to his experience, Mr. Uchida is 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 with trade groups, but also 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.

DPP has struggled with issuing permits in a timely manner, something which has severely hampered the building industry in Hawaii. Mr. Uchida's problem-solving nature and dedication will surely be integral towards identifying the problem areas within DPP which are in need of change.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this nomination. We would appreciate the council's favorable consideration of confirming Mr. Dean Y. Uchida as the Director of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pane Meatoga III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Pane Meatoga III  
Community Liaison  
Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund



KAPOLEI

February 1, 2021

The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair  
and Members of the City Council  
Honolulu City Council  
Honolulu Hale  
530 S. King Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

Resolution 21-22  
Relating to the Nomination of Dean Y. Uchida to serve as the  
Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting

It is with great pleasure that I submit my testimony in support of Mr. Uchida's nomination.

Throughout his career in construction and planning, Mr. Uchida has demonstrated a thorough understanding of the construction industry and civic planning, and has advocated for policies to promote the construction of safe and affordable housing and responsible community growth.

Mr. Uchida has a thorough knowledge of planning and permitting issues that stems from his almost 20 years of leadership experience, holding positions in government, non-profit, and private construction, including as Hawaii Housing and Development Corporation Director, President of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii, Vice President at D.R. Horton, and Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation.

Mr. Uchida has shown the ability to build consensus with building industry and community stakeholders, an attribute that is needed to bring new ideas to streamline Department services and plan for our community's future growth. For these reasons, we are in strong support of Resolution 21-22

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Kelly  
President