

# Resolution 21-22 Testimony

**MISC. COM. 153**



February 16, 2021

Chair Tommy Waters  
Vice-chair Esther Kia'aina  
Honolulu City Council  
530 South King Street, Room 202  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: Confirming the Nominations of Dean Y. Uchida to Serve as the Director of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu**

**Hearing date: February 17, 2021 at 10:00 AM**

Aloha Chair Waters and members of the Council,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of the selection and confirmation of Dean Y. Uchida for the Director position of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu. NAIOP Hawaii is the local chapter of the nation's leading organization for office, industrial, retail, residential and mixed-use real estate. NAIOP Hawaii has over 200 members in the State including local developers, owners, investors, asset managers, lenders and other professionals.

NAIOP Hawaii members have had the pleasure of working with Dean during his 11 years as the Senior Project Manager of SSFM International, Inc. NAIOP members have also collaborated with Dean in his capacity as Chair of the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce Land Use and Transportation Committee and as a board member of the Hawaii Housing Development Corporation. In these roles, Dean has brought significant knowledge of planning principles and project management allowing him to overcome any difficulties he has encountered. Dean has exemplified a unique attention to detail by consistently striving to improve financial oversight and focusing on the socioeconomic issues associated with executing complex projects.

Dean's experience includes wide variety of projects including the first multi-agency project on State owned lands leading to the construction of affordable housing and juvenile counseling facilities. He has exemplified the ability to engage with governmental agencies to secure land use entitlements and negotiate agreements for projects such as the first master planned community to integrate the City's High Capacity Transit Project. It will be essential to have a Director with Dean's skills, knowledge and experience to guide development in the City for many years to come.

Chair Tommy Waters  
Vice-chair Esther Kia'aina  
February 16, 2021

We strongly support your selection of Dean Y. Uchida for the Director position of the Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Camp', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Catherine Camp, President  
NAIOP Hawaii

**HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
February 17, 2021**

**RESOLUTION 21-22  
Department of Planning and Permitting Director Nomination**

Concerns within the larger community have been plentiful relating to this particular appointment, and while I do not know Mr. Uchida and have nothing against him personally, major concerns center on the heavily-weighted baggage he brings to this forum as a former lobbyist for the Land Use Research Foundation – the developer's lobbying group.

The concerns are these:

- The telling avalanche of special-interest support from the Development industry, including heavy-duty developers and construction and development contractors.
- The Development industry's constant calling out for relaxed zoning regulations and requirements especially within DPP; their push to build up to property lines, as we have experienced with monster houses; and their ultimate demands for increasingly higher and denser buildings within our established communities and neighborhoods, culminating with their seeking and receiving numerous variances from the City Council to achieve these purposes.

The prospective DPP director's application states that he will be primarily responsible for:

“Developing and amending the General Plan and Development Plans,  
Process land development permits & entitlements (i.e. zone change,  
SMA, variance [sic], etc.).” (emphasis added)

In 2020, the Kailua community found it necessary to rise up and defend their established community and protective zoning regulations to succeed in halting a misplaced Kawainui development project. As of the last City Council meeting the North Shore community achieved a vastly improved Ko'olaupoku Sustainable Community Plan, together with communities from Kahala to Hawaii Kai now securing an improved East Honolulu Sustainable Community Plan; and the Primary Urban Center Development Plan review is also imminently forthcoming with its established guidelines and some beneficial environmental improvements that should not be compromised.

Over the years, many striving to protect our established communities from over-development have succeeded together with the City Council to maintain our land use protections and zoning laws. But with this nomination we fear that the island that is our home and legacy for future generations will suffer from excessive changes that this appointment portends.

We would strongly object to these important plans for O'ahu's future and established zoning laws being watered down, streamlined, or compromised with variances galore once this candidate is at the helm of DPP with the thrust of his supporters in the Development industry.

**O'ahu's established communities must be respected,  
and protective zoning laws must be honored  
– not compromised or diluted.**

Testimony provided by Michelle Matson

- Diamond Head, Kapahulu St. Louis Heights Neighborhood Board,  
Planning & Zoning Committee Chair
- O'ahu Island Parks Conservancy, President
- DLNR Diamond Head Citizens Advisory Committee, Secretary

Testifying Individually for the purposes of this hearing.



# LiUNA!

## TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII LABORERS' UNION LOCAL 368

1617 Palama Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

February 16, 2021

**PETER A. GANABAN**  
*Business Manager/  
Secretary-Treasurer*

**ALFONSO OLIVER**  
*President*

**JOBY NORTH II**  
*Vice President*

**TONI FIGUEROA**  
*Recording Secretary*

**JAMES DRUMGOLD JR.**  
*Executive Board*

**ORLANDO PAESTE**  
*Executive Board*

**JOSEPH YAW**  
*Executive Board*

**MARTIN ARANAYDO**  
*Auditor*

**RUSSELL NAPIHA'A**  
*Auditor*

**MARK TRAVALINO**  
*Auditor*

**ALFRED HUFANA JR.**  
*Sergeant-At-Arms*

**RE: 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**

Council Chair Waters, Vice-chair Kia'aina, and Councilmembers,

The Hawaii Laborers' Union Local 368 and its 5,000 thousand working and retired men and women across the state of Hawaii supports nomination of Dean Y. Uchida to serve as the Director of Planning and Permitting.

We feel that Mr. Uchida's long history in the on the private end of construction industry will not only benefit the City and County of Honolulu, but the residents of this county as well.

Therefore, the Hawaii Laborers' Union Local 368 supports the nomination of Dean Y. Uchida as Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting for the City and County of Honolulu, and respectfully requests that this council do the same.

Respectfully,

Ryan Kobayashi

Hawaii Laborers' Union Local 368

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