

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Voting Members:

Carol Fukunaga, Chair; Kymberly Marcos Pine, Vice-Chair  
Ikaika Anderson, Stanley Chang, Breene Harimoto

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Committee Meeting Held  
January 14, 2014

Honorable Ernest Y. Martin  
Chair, City Council  
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Public Safety and Economic Development, to which was referred Resolution 13-296 entitled:

“RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER HAPPY,  
M.D. TO SERVE AS THE MEDICAL EXAMINER OF THE CITY AND COUNTY  
OF HONOLULU,”

reports and follows:

The purpose of this Resolution is to confirm the appointment of Christopher B. Happy, M.D. as the Medical Examiner of the City and County of Honolulu.

A public hearing on Communication MM-167 from Mayor Kirk Caldwell informing the Council of Dr. Happy’s temporary commission and requesting the Council’s consideration of Dr. Happy’s permanent appointment was held on December 11, 2013.

No public testimony was presented at your meeting of January 14, 2014. However, Dr. Happy provided brief summaries of his experience and goals, and expressed his willingness to serve the people of Honolulu.

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**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON     JAN 29 2014    

COMMITTEE REPORT NO.     2

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In response to inquiries on whether the current level of staffing, training, facilities, and equipment met the Department of Medical Examiner's needs with regard to re-accreditation, Dr. Happy explained that the reason that Honolulu lost its accreditation was due to the City and County of Honolulu not having a board certified forensic pathologist. As an anatomic and forensic pathologist certified by the American Board of Pathology, with experience in Medical Examiner's Offices in San Francisco, Milwaukee, New York and other cities, Dr. Happy appears to have the necessary credentials to enable the City to successfully regain its accreditation by the National Association of Medical Examiners this year.

Your Committee also heard Dr. Happy's confidence with the current staff at the department. He also expressed his appreciation for the City's establishment of a deputy chief's position and noted his plans to begin the recruitment process soon.

While he believes that the Medical Examiner's facility is in good condition, Dr. Happy noted that he would be pursuing grant funds to upgrade the x-ray equipment. He also stated that the body storage areas will need to be expanded to keep pace with the needs of Honolulu's growing population.

Your Committee finds that Dr. Happy meets the requirements to serve as the Medical Examiner and thanks him for his willingness to serve the City and County of Honolulu.

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CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

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COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2

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Your Committee on Public Safety and Economic Development is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 13-296, and recommends its adoption. (Ayes: Fukunaga, Anderson, Harimoto – 3; Noes: None; Excused: Chang, Pine – 2.)

Respectfully submitted,



Committee Chair

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**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON JAN 29 2014

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2