

Resolution 19-325 Testimony

MISC. COM. 20

EMLA

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2020 1:44 PM
Subject: Executive Matters & Legal Affairs Speaker Registration/Testimony
Attachments: 20200120134356_Reso_19-325_Testimony.pdf

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Hawaiian Comm Dev Bd
Phone 8085290404
Email 6kali9@gmail.com
Meeting Date 01-21-2020
Council/PH Committee ExecutiveMatters
Agenda Item 19-325
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Organization
Organization Hawaiian Community Development Board
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment 20200120134356_Reso_19-325_Testimony.pdf
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67



January 20, 2020

**To: Ikaika Anderson, Chair
Ann Kobayashi, Vice Chair & Members of the Council**

**From: Kali Watson
President/CEO
Hawaiian Community Development Board
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

**Re: Hearing on Resolution 19-325
January 21, 2020 at 10:00 am
Honolulu Hale**

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

Dear Chairperson Anderson and Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members:

My name is Kali Watson, President/CEO of Hawaiian Community Development Board, nonprofit affordable housing developer. We have done several affordable housing projects and are familiar with workings and challenges with the existing Department of Planning and Permitting (“DPP”). We oppose Resolution 19-325 which initiates amendments to the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (2017 Edition) to transfer the planning functions of the DPP to two separate Departments: Planning Department and the Department of Land Utilization and Permitting. This just creates more unnecessary bureaucracy and increases costs for additional personnel and admin infrastructure. If the intent is to create a more efficient and timely process for the issuance of permits, along with better enforcement, the real solution is providing additional funding to DPP so it can retain and hire competent personnel to allow DPP to do its job. DPP is understaffed and has difficulty in attracting personnel to work for the City because the pay is too low. Upgrading the online permitting system would also help. DPP can do the job but needs financial help to accomplish its tasks. Therefore, I respectfully urge the Council to provide more administrative funds to DPP instead, and forgo the passage of Resolution 19-325.

Pupuka I Holomua,

Kali Watson
President/CEO
Hawaiian Community
Development Board (HCDB)

Chairman
Richard Soo

Secretary
Jackie Burke

Treasurer
Helen O'Connor

Board Members
Linda Ahue
Puni Kekauoha
Alfred "Bobby" Willing
Duane Hew Len

President/CEO
Kali Watson

Senior VP
Patti Barbee

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2020 8:21 PM
Subject: Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Peter savio
Phone 951-8976
Email Peters@savio.com
Meeting Date 01-21-2020
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item 19.325
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Organization Self
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

The two departments were merged into one department 20+ years ago to create efficiencies and now believe the combination is inefficient. So we are going to split them again to create more efficiencies which will become more inefficient .

I oppose the change because there is no assurance of any change or improvement in the split.

There is a need for improvement in these departments but splitting the departments

is a change with no purpose or guaranty of improvement.

I would suggest that we do what American Savings Bank did in the late 70s.

Written Testimony They were growing rapidly and were looking for efficiencies in their operation. They hired a mainland company that specialized in evaluating operations to decide if the structure was efficient. They also studied the tasks of each department to see where duplications were and whether change was needed.

Instead of splitting one department into two to be more efficient with no plan or basis to implement efficiencies, how would you succeed in becoming more efficient?

I believe the single department will be more efficient than two departments.

Once a professional study is completed, we can then make calculated changes and get real positive changes to become more efficient and provide better services to Honolulu's

taxpayers.

Please consider changing the nature of the resolution and let's get professional help to guide us in the reorganization of the Department of Permitting and Planning as one department or two separate departments as recommended by the suggested study.

Peter Savio

951-8976

Peters@savio.com

Testimony
Attachment

Accept Terms
and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2020 11:48 PM
Subject: Executive Matters & Legal Affairs Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Sharlene Chun-Lum
Phone 8083542434
Email sharstocks@yahoo.com
Meeting Date 01-21-2020
Council/PH Committee ExecutiveMatters
Agenda Item Item 4, Resolution 19-325
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written Testimony This proposal to split the Planning and Permitting departments into two functions seems appropriate now, given the delays the public and commerce experience. As outlined in the resolution, it is important to let the public know the full description of what the departments will oversee, so good decisions can be made in the election.

Testimony Attachment
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67



January 20, 2020

Randall K. Fujiki, FAIA
1100 Alakea Street
25th Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Honolulu City Council
Committee on Executive Matters and Legal Affairs

Subject: Resolution 19-325. Charter Amendment Relating to the Department of Planning and Permitting

Committee Chair Menor and Members of the Committee;

I am Randall Fujiki, former Director of Planning & Permitting and previously the head of the Department of Design & Construction and the Building Departments,

I am submitting this testimony in strong Opposition to Resolution 19-325.

We cannot go back to a prior inefficient and confusing process.

This proposed splitting of the General Planning role of the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) will not solve the concerns of this Resolution. It will make the situation worse by creating more bureaucracy and inefficiencies in the Planning and Permitting process. The key concerns as stated are the permitting and enforcement of large homes (monster) and the updating and approval of the City General Plan and the Community Sustainable and Development Plans.

While this Resolution was spawned as means of addressing the permitting and inspection of large detached dwellings is an important issue, it should not warrant the splitting of DPP.

The bifurcation of DPP has nothing to do with this issue. Rather monster home regulations are a complex issue that requires priority, staffing, updated regulations and legal support to prevent this abuse of the land use codes. I understand this is an important priority for DPP and one that they are actively addressing..

A critical issue for Development will be the addition of another huge layer of Permitting by separating DPP. This will require Developers to get approvals from two Departments that may have different priorities and directions. They could then create negotiations between two Departments with no clear leader and direction. Ultimately this will add more time to Development. This was a major problem before DPP and the need to process approvals and permits with Departments with different priorities and issues like the former Departments of Planning, Public Works, Wastewater, Transportation, Building and Land Use.

Again, I offer cautionary lessons in reverting to separation of Planning and Permitting. Keeping DPP whole, allows for more transparency for the public and accountability.

I urge you to file Resolution 19-325.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



Randall K. Fujiki, FAIA