



Commissioners:
Kevin Sakamoto, Chair
Brian Tamamoto, Vice Chair
Diane Peters-Nguyen
Gerald Takeuchi
Kimi Yuen
Malia Espinda
Dee Wakabayashi

WRITTEN SUMMARY FOR AUDIO RECORD

REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
3rd FLOOR, HONOLULU HALE
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

The time references below indicate the point in the audio recording when the stated actions began.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Salary Commission was called to order by Commission Chair Sakamoto at 1:33 p.m. Commissioners Tamamoto, Takeuchi, Yuen, and Chair Sakamoto are present. Commissioners Espinda, Wakabayashi, and Peters-Nguyen are appearing via the WebEx system that is set up in this Chamber. This system allows these members to participate through a video and audio capacity.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

WELCOME BY COMMISSION CHAIR

[1:33 p.m.][19 second mark]

At this juncture, Commission Chair Sakamoto welcomed the Commissioners at the meeting. Commission Chair Sakamoto went over general housekeeping matters relating to conduct at the meeting, including announcing that only written testimony was accepted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 3, 2020, MEETING AND THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2020.

[1:35 p.m.][2 minute, 30 second mark]

Commission Chair Sakamoto asked for a motion to approve and file the minutes of the April 3, 2020 meeting and the Executive Session meeting held on February 28, 2020. A motion was made by Commissioner Peters-Nguyen and seconded by Commissioner Takeuchi.

Salary Commission
Thursday, April 16, 2020

[1:36 p.m.][3 minute, 35 second mark]

The minutes of the regular session of April 3, 2020 and the Executive Session of February 28, 2020 were approved and filed.

Chair Sakamoto skipped agenda Item 3 and move to Item 4, Public Testimony.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

[1:37 p.m.][3 minute, 50 second mark]

Commission Chair reminded the commissioners that public testimony has been restricted to a written format and will be reading the name and a short comment from the testifier. This will allow these comments to become part of the digital minutes.

CHAIR SAKAMOTO READS WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR THE AUDIO MINUTES

[1:36 p.m.][4 minute, 22 second mark]

Mayor Caldwell – “I am advising the Salary Commission that I, as Mayor, and my Cabinet members will be refusing any salary adjustments”

Honolulu City Council – “in light of our present situation, the Honolulu City Council will very likely reject all pay increase recommendations of any amount for City and County elected officials and department heads.”

Councilmember Tsuneyoshi – “salary increases should be deferred”

Councilmember Pine – “now is not the time for top public officials to get pay raises”

Susan Pcola-Davis – Opposes raises

Therese Howe – “Recommends no pay raises for the next year”

Tonya Grace – Urges to forego raises for 2020

Sing Ann Haimoto McShane – “Strongly opposed to the raises”

Common Cause Hawaii – Would want reasonable measures to allow public participation

Sharlene Chun-Lum – “Opposes the recommendation for raises”

Rhonnie Lipke – Urges the cancellation of the proposed 2020 pay raises

Paul Kaye – “should not be getting raises now”

Salary Commission
Thursday, April 16, 2020

Susan Maltere-Htun – “0% salary increases for those positions listed for salary increases”

Denise Webb – “unwise to cut teachers salaries at this time”

Joe Wat – “inappropriate for Honolulu City Councilmembers to take a 3% pay increase”

Konaneakamahina Awo de la Nux – urges to forego for 2020 pay raise

Karen Murray – “City Officials do not warrant a pay raise”

Vern Shibata – “disagree with Salary Commission’s stance on increasing wages”

Natalie Iwasa – “Opposes all pay increases”

Amber Wong – opposes pay cut for teachers

Lynne Matusow – “opposed to any increase in pay”

Jane Fee – “very irresponsible and unethical for any public salaries to be raised”

Margaret Kahoilua – “salaries and salary schedules for Fiscal Year 2020 should be revisited”

[1:40 p.m.][7minute, 19 second mark]

Chair Sakamoto stated that these are the testimony received by 12 noon today and asks for questions.

[1:41 p.m.][8minute, 2 second mark]

Commissioner Peters-Nguyen questions testimony received from individuals out of the county and whether or not there is a process to verify testimony received to be from an Oahu resident.

[1:43pm][10 minute, 11 second mark]

Commissioner Peters-Nguyen notes an absence from Common Cause who opposed the Commissions lack of testimony and wishes it be noted for the record.

Chair Sakamoto states that the Common Cause testimony was read and re-reads Common Cause’s testimony for the record.

VICE CHAIR TAMAMOTO TO MAKE PROPOSAL

Salary Commission
Thursday, April 16, 2020

[1:45 p.m.][10 minute, 32 second mark]

Vice Chair Tamamoto moves to propose recommending a zero percent increase for elected and appointed officials for the City and County of Honolulu.

Commissioner Takeuchi seconds the motion.

[1:47 p.m.][12 minute, 31 second mark]

It was moved and seconded to recommend a zero percent increase for City and County of Honolulu elected and appointed officials.

Commissioners Tamamoto, Takeuchi, Yuen (for those positions she is allowed to vote on), Espinda, Peters-Nguyen, Wakabayashi, and Chair Sakamoto vote in favor.

[1:50 p.m.][16 minute, 20 second mark]

Chair Sakamoto: "Since the Commission has voted for a recommendation of no salary adjustments for elected officials, including the mayor, council members, and prosecuting attorney and the following appointed officials: managing director, deputy managing director, department head, deputy department head, and band director as well as the deputies of the corporation counsel, and prosecuting attorney, I recommend that the remaining items on the agenda be cancelled. Any objections?"

Chair Sakamoto: "Adoption of Resolution and accompanying findings of fact establishing the salaries and salary schedules for Fiscal Year 2021. Said resolution shall be forwarded to the Mayor and City Council pursuant to Section 3-122.2 of the Charter."

RECESS

[1:51 p.m.][17 minute, 51 second mark]

Chair Sakamoto: "Thank you, Commissioners. Pursuant to the City Charter, any action by the Commission altering salaries shall be by Resolution accompanied by Findings of Fact." Since we are not altering the current salaries, no Resolution is required. The transmittal to the Mayor and Council of a Findings of Fact, is recommended to acknowledge this Commission's actions. At this time, I would like to call for a short recess to prepare and pass out the draft Findings of Fact of the Commission."

[Please Note: No audio is heard during the recess, until "Call back to order"]

Salary Commission
Thursday, April 16, 2020

CALL BACK TO ORDER

[2:01 p.m.][28 minute, 55 second mark]

Chair Sakamoto: "The draft Findings of Fact provided to the Commissioners are substantially in the form to be submitted to the City Council and the Mayor."

[2:01 p.m.][29 minute, 12 second mark]

Commissioners proposed changes to the draft Findings of Fact, to include the fact that the commissioners did not deliberate the PIG's three percent recommendation or exceptions, to be submitted to the City Council and the Mayor.

MOTION TO ACCEPT PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FINDINGS OF FACT AND
SUBMIT TO THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE MAYOR

[2:12 p.m.][39 minute, 29 second mark]

Chair Sakamoto asks for a motion to accept the proposed changes to the draft Findings of Fact and to submit the Findings of Fact to the City Council and the Mayor.

Commissioner Peters-Nguyen moved to approve and Commissioner Espinda seconded the motion.

[2:13 p.m.][40 minute, 35 second mark]

Chair Sakamoto asks for a vote: Commissioner Tamamoto, Takeuchi, Yuen, Espinda, Peters-Nguyen, Wakabayashi, and Chair Sakamoto vote in favor.

Findings of fact are approved with noted changes.

[2:14 p.m.][41 minute, 9 second mark]

Chair Sakamoto: "Commissioners, the finalized Findings of Fact have been approved and are ready for your signatures. The Findings of Fact will be submitted to the Mayor and Council prior to May 1, 2020 in accordance with Section 3-122.2 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu."

ADJOURNMENT

[2:14 p.m.][41 minute, 41 second mark]

There being no further business and no objections, Commission Chair Sakamoto asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Tamamoto made the motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Wakabayashi.

Salary Commission
Thursday, April 16, 2020

Chair Sakamoto: "The 2020 Salary Commission has completed its function as set forth under the Charter of the City and County of Honolulu. The members are hereby excused until the convening of the 2021 Salary Commission. Thank you all for your participation this past session and for performing this very important function and service."

"I particularly want to thank and to recognize two members of this Commission whose terms expire early next year and who therefore may not be returning: Commissioner Takeuchi, and Commissioner Yuen. It has been a pleasure serving with you, and in the event you do not return to us, we wish you well."

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m. [43 minute 5 second mark]

Salary Commission
Thursday, April 16, 2020