September 17, 2020

Council Chair Ikaika Anderson
Vice Chair Ann Kobayashi
City and County of Honolulu
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Anderson and Vice Chair Kobayashi:

I am writing to ask you to immediately stop the appointment process for Councilmember Ikaika Anderson’s replacement. The current process defies Honolulu City Council tradition and more importantly, lacks community input from the very people that this member will represent.

In the past, when Council seats were temporarily vacated by both Charles Djou and Trevor Ozawa, the City Council allowed the community to nominate their replacements. Neither of these Councilmembers influenced the decision of the council or respected the public process.

Twenty-seven candidates were nominated to fill the Djou vacancy and 19 candidates were nominated to fill the Ozawa vacancy. The nominations then went through a public and transparent process. Mr. Mike Formby, who filled the Ozawa vacancy, served for just a few months.

Last Wednesday, Chair Anderson unexpectedly announced his intended resignation to the Council. Within hours, a resolution was introduced naming his successor, his own staff member.

This sudden resignation has caused tremendous stress within the City, the City Council, and the community, and has spawned many conspiracy theories during an already-stressful time in our history.

As many of our constituents are suffering through this pandemic, it is important for us as leaders to show stability and to behave in an open, transparent process that encourages our constituents to have faith in the people they elected to represent their interests.

Now, more than ever, people need not only hope, but the belief that their council members will lead them with the utmost integrity, keeping their welfare at the top of our minds.

I wish Chair Anderson the best in his future endeavors and I thank you for your service to the people of O‘ahu.
During this difficult time in history, let’s all end our terms with honor and integrity. Doing the right thing, right now, is of utmost importance.

Please proceed with Mr. Anderson’s replacement in an open and transparent process that allows the community to make their own nominations and to proceed as we have so respectfully done in the past, allowing those candidates to make their case to the council. The public deserves no less from us.

With Aloha,

Kymberly Marcos Pine
Councilmember, District 1

cc: Glen Takahashi
    Office of the City Clerks