

From: Bob [bob2222@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2006 9:58 AM
To: Djou, Charles
Cc: 'Michael peters'; 'louis erteschik'; david chen
Subject: Resolution 06-291

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HONOLULU, HAWAII

Aloha Charles,

May I offer my support for your proposed Task Force to evaluate the Neighborhood Board System.

If the Neighborhood Board System is eliminated we will save over a million dollars a year but I think we will lose a very valuable tool for both Council and Administration to keep up with the pulse of the community. It may even cost more tax dollars to do meetings with the community on issues such as transit, tax reform and all of the other issues routinely discussed at the neighborhood board level.

A few very early thoughts.

Key to the Neighborhood Board System is the Neighborhood Plan. The audit clearly identified the major problems with the system generate with the lack of an adequate plan for the Neighborhood Commission Office and the Boards to follow. I would recommend that a contractor be hired to update the plan for review by Corporation Council at the earliest date.

The Sunshine Law cuts both ways. My board attempts to follow sunshine but it sometimes prevents us from getting the information we need to make logical decisions. Our attempts to modify the language during the last session were not successful but we will try again. The training issue could be solved by issuing a book or disk to all members who have not attended the formal training, which seems to be reading the pamphlet to the audience and having them sign a statement that they will abide by the contents.

The first Hanneman Executive Secretary was appointed late into the process and while she attempted to learn her job, attended at least one board meeting will all active boards, held two chair meetings with all chairs, she was hit with problems generated by boards before she was totally prepared to solve them. The movement of about one half of the staff to Kapolei reduced her "command and control" of the office in a dramatic manner. The public did not agree with changing the patronage workers to regular workers so complaints about the patronage issue are a moot point. Our new Executive Secretary faces the same problems but at least has a full Neighborhood Commission to provide her with input on the issues.

The Waikiki Board is on its third Neighborhood Assistant. The first quit, the second could not do the job and we now have the most senior of the old NAs. This is probably what has happened with the rest of the boards.

I am asking several of the WNB to join me on a committee that will review the audit, neighborhood plan and reso 06-291. We hope to have a report ready for the full board early next year and will forward a copy to your office.

Mahalo for your time,

Bob Finley

Misc. Com. No. 1328

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