

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE MATTERS

Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; Ann H. Kobayashi, Vice-Chair; Todd K. Apo, Romy M. Cachola,
Charles K. Djou, Nestor R. Garcia, Barbara Marshall, Gary H. Okino, Rod Tam, Members

Committee Meeting Held
August 24, 2006

Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Executive Matters, to which was referred Resolution 06-291,
entitled:

“ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE EFFECTIVENESS AND
EFFICIENCY OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD SYSTEM,”

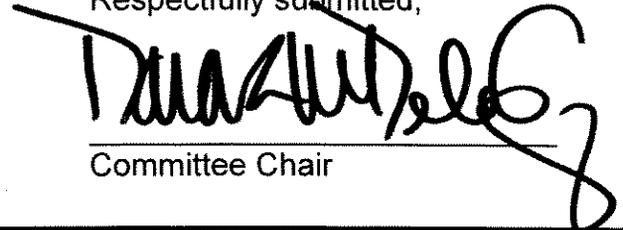
introduced on August 17, 2006, reports as follows:

The purpose of this Resolution is to establish a task force to review the
effectiveness and efficiency of the Neighborhood Board system and to advise the
Council on changes that are needed to the system’s structure and operations.

Your Committee has amended the Resolution to a CD1 version to reflect the
Committee’s decision to have seven Council appointed members to the task force. The
names of these task force members will be transmitted to the Council through a
memorandum.

Your Committee on Executive Matters is in accord with the intent and purpose of
Resolution 06-291, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form
attached hereto as Resolution 06-291, CD1. (Ayes: Dela Cruz, Apo, Cachola, Djou,
Garcia, Kobayashi, Marshall, Okino, Tam - 9; Noes: None.)

Respectfully submitted,



Committee Chair

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON SEP - 6 2006

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 420



RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, the city's neighborhood board system ("system"), which was established by charter in 1972, presently consists of thirty-two active neighborhood boards on Oahu and a nine-member neighborhood commission ("commission") that assists in the formation, planning, operations and evaluation of the neighborhood boards; and

WHEREAS, the charter further provides that neighborhoods and neighborhood boards are to be established in accordance with a neighborhood plan, and that they are to increase and assure effective citizen participation in the decisions of city government; and

WHEREAS, the council appropriated \$1,039,853 to support the commission in FY 2007; and

WHEREAS, an audit of the neighborhood board system, released in August 2006 by the office of the city auditor, concluded that the system was not fulfilling its mission "due to its disjointed structure and operational deficiencies;" and

WHEREAS, some of the audit findings on the system's disjointed structure include: 1) lack of measurable goals and objectives; 2) lack of clear lines of authority and accountability; 3) problematic staffing of the neighborhood commission; and 4) conflicting sunshine law requirements and practices; and

WHEREAS, some of the audit findings on the commission's operational shortcomings reveal: 1) failure to revise the neighborhood plan in a timely manner; 2) inadequate evaluation or reporting on neighborhood board effectiveness; 3) poor handling of complaints and an inadequate board member training program; and 4) ineffective budgeting procedures and management of board expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the audit also states that some neighborhood boards: 1) are unable to attract enough candidates to fill board seats; 2) suffer from high absentee rates; 3) are unable to meet quorum requirements; and 4) have had some lapses in sunshine law compliance as well as the lack of decorum among some board members; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, the neighborhood boards have served as a liaison between residents and their respective elected officials on issues and concerns that affect individual neighborhoods; and



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, because of the reliance on the neighborhood board system to communicate resident interests and problems, the council believes that the audit's findings and recommendations should be further studied and appropriate action taken to improve, alter, or even eliminate the system; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that a task force be established to review the effectiveness and efficiency of the neighborhood board system and to advise the council on changes that are needed to the system's structure and operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of eight members, seven of whom shall be appointed by the presiding officer of the council and that the executive secretary of the neighborhood commission shall serve as the eighth ex officio, non-voting member; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is charged with examining and reporting to the council the pertinent issues and concerns raised by audit and all other aspects of the neighborhood board system including, but not limited to:

- 1) Elimination of the system;
- 2) Increasing the power and authority of the system;
- 3) Compensating board members;
- 4) Consolidating or reorganizing the number of boards in the system;
- 5) Reviewing the salary of commission employees; and
- 6) Reviewing the meeting schedule of the boards to determine whether it should be changed to once every other month;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force submit its findings and recommendations on each of the issues raised in the previous paragraph and any other issues the task force deems relevant to the council by December 31, 2007; and



RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the mayor, the executive secretary of the Neighborhood Commission and every neighborhood board.

INTRODUCED BY:

Charles Djou

Gary Okino

Todd Apo

Barbara Marshall

Donovan Dela Cruz

Ann Kobayashi

Romy Cachola

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

August 17, 2006
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers