

CITY CLERK  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

The Honorable Todd Apo, Chair  
Members of the Honolulu City Council  
City and County of Honolulu  
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CITY COUNCIL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Dear Chair Apo and Members of the City Council,

I would like to strongly urge the City Council to confirm Mayor Mufi Hannemann's appointee Dr. Elizabeth Char as Director of the Department of Emergency Services.

I have known Libby Char for nearly 30 years, from her high school days volunteering with the American Red Cross and The Queen's Medical Center, throughout medical school and residency as an emergency physician, and for the past 4 years as our department Director. Even before her appointment, she has long been a dedicated advocate for quality pre-hospital emergency care as an emergency department physician and former Oahu County EMS Medical Director.

Dr. Char has been the first Director in my 26-plus years with the EMS Division to actually have education and experience in emergency medicine. Equally important, she has coupled the division's mission to maintain and improve quality pre-hospital care with a keen awareness of the myriad challenges experienced by our underappreciated and perpetually short-staffed field paramedics. Under Dr. Char's leadership, we have been able to bring to fruition the Junior Paramedic program and the City's first inaugural class of Emergency Medical Technicians trained solely under the auspices of the EMS Division. We were able to add a badly needed Leeward side EMS unit in Waipio and build new quarters for the Wahiawa unit. Both EMS and Ocean Safety Divisions were able to open new Dispatch centers, and next month marks the anticipated start date to break ground for a combined EMS unit/administrative building based at Young and Keeaumoku Streets. Dr. Char's foresight, initiative and approachability has made her a source of hope and inspiration to the Emergency Services Departments' combined divisions of EMS and Ocean Safety. We only wish that all our administrators possessed a fraction of her common sense, resourcefulness and vision.

In short, Dr. Libby Char has been an effective, supportive and forward-seeing leader who has earned the respect of a division whose members are by no means easily impressed. I sincerely hope that the members of the City Council see fit to agree. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully yours,



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