



RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A REVIEW OF AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE POLICY AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL CONTINGENCY ALLOWANCE.

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2003, the Honolulu City Council ("council") established an annual contingency allowance ("ACA") for each councilmember to be used "... to cover discretionary expenses in carrying out his/her duties as an elected official." Administrative Manual of the Honolulu City Council, paragraph 1 ("administrative manual"); and

WHEREAS, according to the council's administrative manual, discretionary expenses connected with council duties include "expenditures incurred when carrying out official duties or activities; enhancing accessibility to, and communication with, the community and constituents; and carrying out the public's expectations of a councilmember's role and responsibility to the community and constituents."; and

WHEREAS, for fiscal years 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009 and 2009-2010, the amount of funds appropriated for each councilmember for contingency expenses was \$9,920, \$12,000, \$18,011, \$18,111, and \$17,222, respectively; and

WHEREAS, in Advisory Opinion 2010-2 ("opinion"), the Honolulu Ethics Commission ("Commission") reviewed the reimbursements to a councilmember from the ACA; and

WHEREAS, as reported in its opinion, the Commission found that the councilmember violated the standards of conduct by charging for meals in circumstances where:

1. The councilmember paid less for the meal than the amount the councilmember charged the city;
2. The councilmember's justification for the meal was false;
3. The meal was not directly related to the councilmember's duties;
4. The meal was with the councilmember's personal business associates; or
5. The meal was with the councilmember's family members;

and



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WHEREAS, among the Commission's recommendations in its opinion was that the council review the ACA policy and amend the language to reduce the likelihood of similar problems recurring, and specifically recommended that the council:

1. Clarify the ACA policy to narrow and better define the categories of expenses that are permitted; and
2. Adopt a process to examine reimbursement requests that will ensure that there is a valid government purpose and an auditable justification for each requested reimbursement. This should include a process by which a reimbursement request may be denied;

and

WHEREAS, the mission of the city auditor is to promote accountability, fiscal integrity and openness in city government; examine the use of public funds, evaluate programs and activities; and provide timely, accurate and objective analyses, options and recommendations to decision makers in order to ensure that the city's resources are being used to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of the public; and

WHEREAS, the council finds that a review of the ACA in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission is warranted, necessary and timely to ensure that the opportunities for future violations in the city's standards of conduct are minimized, and to improve and maintain public confidence in the integrity of government; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the city auditor is requested to review and make recommendations to improve the policy and procedures relating to the use and expenditure of the council's annual contingency allowance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, due to the importance of this task, the city auditor give this request high priority in the scheduling of its work plan; and



RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the city auditor and the Ethics Commission of the City and County of Honolulu.

INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten Signature]

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

MAR 12 2010

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
C E R T I F I C A T E

RESOLUTION 10-73

Introduced: 3/12/10 By: TODD APO

Committee: COUNCIL

Title: RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A REVIEW OF AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE POLICY AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL CONTINGENCY ALLOWANCE.

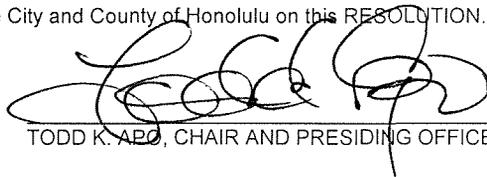
Links: [RES10-73](#)

CC-42 DJOU - RE-REFERRAL OF RESOLUTION 10-73 FROM EXECUTIVE MATTERS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS TO COUNCIL FLOOR.

COUNCIL	3/17/10	RESOLUTION 10-73 ADDED TO THE AGENDA.							
ANDERSON	Y	APO	Y	CACHOLA	Y	DELA CRUZ	Y	DJOU	Y
GARCIA	Y	KOBAYASHI	Y	OKINO	Y	TAM	Y		
RESOLUTION 10-73 ADOPTED									
ANDERSON	Y	APO	Y	CACHOLA	Y	DELA CRUZ	Y	DJOU	Y
GARCIA	Y	KOBAYASHI	Y	OKINO	Y	TAM	Y		

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.


BERNICE K. N. MAU, CITY CLERK


TODD K. APO, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER