

REQUESTING THE HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE ON RESOLUTION 23-82 RELATING TO COUNCIL PAY RAISES.

WHEREAS, Honolulu’s neighborhood boards were established to “increase community participation in the decision-making process of government”, especially on controversial matters that citizens - on all sides of an issue –may call for accountability; and

WHEREAS, the annual salary of City Council members is scheduled to increase from \$68,904 to \$113,304, and \$76,968 to \$123,288 for Council Chair, on July 1, 2023, unless seven council members vote to adopt Resolution No. 23-82 by June 24 to reject the pay raise; and

WHEREAS, (NB name & no.) believes that an extra-large council pay raise at this time, should have accountability, by conducting a public hearing and a vote on Res. 23-82, because Council positions are still officially part-time while average wages have increased slowly, if at all; and

WHEREAS, the findings of the Honolulu Salary Commission did not account for the impact of the pay raise on Council members retirement which would boost the lifetime pension of an individual on the current Council by over \$500,000, an annual increase of \$22,697; and

WHEREAS, the Salary Commission makes annual recommendations on salary increases, if any, for Council members and various executive branch leaders, and may submit a report next year to address salary impacts on pensions and the full- or part-time nature of the Council position, and make another pay recommendation; and

WHEREAS, we believe that independent of whether members agree or disagree on the Council pay issue, accountability is of utmost importance to civic life and that includes a public hearing and vote on Resolution 23-82; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the (NB name & no.) that this body requests the Honolulu City Council to accept accountability for the over 60% proposed increase in their salaries, and hold a public hearing and vote on Resolution 23-82 before June 24, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council Chair is requested to refer Reso. 23-82 to the Executive Matters and Legal Affairs Committee for at its June 20 meeting; but if not so referred, a majority of the Council is requested to direct the City Clerk to place the resolution on the Council’s June 7 meeting agenda for appropriate action, including referral to committee, hearing, and decision-making; and a majority of the Council is requested to schedule a special meeting of the Council for decision-making on the resolution by June 24; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council, the Mayor, and the Chair of the Honolulu Salary Commission.

Introduced by:

Date of Adoption:
