



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

July 13, 2025

Richard Oshiro, Chair
Neighborhood Commission
925 Dillingham Boulevard, Suite 160
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Dear Chair Oshiro:

My name is Brian Black. I am the Executive Director of the Public First Law Center, a nonprofit organization that promotes government transparency. We write to offer an idea for consideration.

As you may be aware, the Honolulu Charter Commission has started meeting and will soon start taking proposals. Recognizing that neighborhood boards are a grassroots reflection of City residents, Public First considered how to responsibly give that local representation a stronger voice in City government. Our attached proposal would provide the neighborhood boards – as a collective – an opportunity to require public debate of an issue at City Council.

We offer this idea only as a catalyst for thinking about how the neighborhood boards may serve a more active function within the City and County of Honolulu.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Brian Black". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

R. Brian Black
Executive Director

cc: Lloyd Yonenaka, Executive Secretary

Enclosure: Proposal



This proposal provides Neighborhood Boards – collectively – with an opportunity to proactively require that the City Council consider an ordinance or resolution. Neighborhood boards currently serve in a largely advisory role, but reflect a broad cross-section of the local population. If a majority of the neighborhood boards have a concern, that issue should be addressed by the City. While the proposal would not require that the Council adopt a proposed ordinance or resolution, it would require that the Council give the matter a public hearing.

NEW PROVISION

Section __-__. Neighborhood Boards -

When a majority of the neighborhood boards adopt the same proposal for an ordinance or resolution, the chair of the city council shall introduce the proposal, and the council shall provide at least two readings on the proposal.