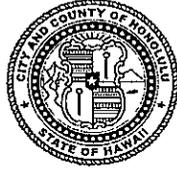


NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION OFFICE
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR



J. THOMAS HEINRICH
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

March 29, 2012

TO: Representative Jerry Chang, Chair, and Members
Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources

RE: **HCR 169** Urging the Counties to Develop and Implement Community
Concerns Councils in Rural Areas

TO BE HEARD: Friday, March 30, 2012 11:00 AM Conference Room 325

Aloha, Chair Chang and Members of the Committee:

The Neighborhood Commission Office (NCO) is responsible for the Neighborhood System as established by Article XIV of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu. Integral to Oahu's Neighborhood System are the 33 neighborhood boards and their 439 elected members. The purpose of the boards is "to increase and assure effective citizen participation in the decisions of government" (RCH §14-101).

The Administration of the City and County of Honolulu has no position on HCR 169. However, the NCO is intrigued by the concept of "community concerns councils" -- especially as the idea as expressed in HCR 169 is apparently limited to seven elected members and rural areas with a population of 10,000 or less.

The NCO is willing to serve as a resource for both the State Legislature and the counties in further exploring the possible implementation of elective boards to promote civic engagement and citizen participation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify concerning HCR 169.

J. Thomas Heinrich, Executive Secretary
Neighborhood Commission Office
City and County of Honolulu