
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARDS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that neighborhood boards
2 provide easy public access to decision-making on a local level,
3 allowing residents an opportunity to discuss issues affecting
4 more localized areas. Members of neighborhood boards often
5 consider the most basic concerns of residents, such as street
6 parking, local crime statistics, bus routes, and park
7 facilities.

8 The legislature further finds that because many of these
9 concerns require an investment in public funds through the
10 capital improvement program or operating budget allocation, it
11 is appropriate that the neighborhood boards should have an
12 officially recognized role in suggesting capital improvement
13 projects and operating budget priorities.

14 The purpose of this Act is to establish a systematic
15 process in which neighborhood boards can solicit recommendations
16 for capital improvement projects and priorities for the
17 operating budget of the county.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
2 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
3 read as follows:

4 "§46- Neighborhood board; budget recommendations. (a)
5 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, each county mayor shall
6 consider the suggestions for capital improvement projects and
7 operating budget priorities submitted by each neighborhood board
8 in the respective county pursuant to section 92- .

9 (b) After reviewing the respective suggestions for capital
10 improvement projects and operating budget priorities, the county
11 mayor shall provide a written response to each recommendation.
12 The written response shall describe how the recommendation is
13 being included in the mayor's budget submission to the
14 respective county council or, if not, why the recommendation is
15 not being included.

16 (c) Each county council, in its review and approval of the
17 respective mayor's budget, shall consider the mayor's written
18 response to each neighborhood board's recommendations."

19 SECTION 3. Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
20 by adding a new section to part VII to be appropriately
21 designated and to read as follows:



1 "§92- Neighborhood board; capital improvement project;
2 operating budget priorities; recommendations. (a) All
3 neighborhood boards subject to this part shall follow a uniform
4 process and procedure to solicit suggestions for capital
5 improvement projects and operating budget priorities from
6 residents; provided that the processes and procedures shall be
7 determined by the respective county-based commission that
8 oversees neighborhood boards.

9 (b) Public meetings to solicit suggestions for capital
10 improvement projects and operating budget priorities from
11 residents shall be subject to this chapter.

12 (c) Each respective neighborhood board shall provide ample
13 notice to its respective community that suggestions for capital
14 improvement projects and operating budget priorities are being
15 solicited.

16 (d) Once suggestions from the community have been
17 collected, the neighborhood board shall conduct a subsequent
18 meeting for board members to vote on a recommended package of
19 recommendations to be submitted to the respective county mayor.
20 Each package of recommendations shall include a target number of
21 recommendations and a related total value of operating budget



1 suggestions, subject to requirements by the appropriate county-
2 based commission that oversees neighborhood boards.

3 (e) Upon receipt of the package of recommendations
4 submitted pursuant to subsection (d), each county mayor shall
5 include in the mayor's proposed budget a written response to
6 each recommendation, describing how it will be included in the
7 mayor's proposed budget to the county council or, if not, why it
8 will not be included.

9 (f) When the county council reviews, amends, and approves
10 the mayor's proposed budget, the county council shall consider
11 the mayor's written response to each recommendation in the
12 neighborhood board's package of recommendations and decide the
13 final county budget after considering the package of
14 recommendations submitted by the neighborhood board, the mayor's
15 written responses, and the overall fiscal health of the county.
16 If the mayor does not respond to any recommendation included in
17 a neighborhood board's package of recommendations pursuant to
18 subsection (e), the county council shall include that
19 recommendation in the budget, subject to amendment by the county
20 council."

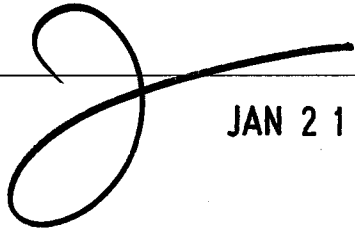
21 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

2

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 21 2025



H.B. NO. 944

Report Title:

Neighborhood Boards; Capital Improvement Projects; Operating Budget; Counties; Recommendations

Description:

Authorizes neighborhood boards to solicit suggestions for capital improvement projects and operating budget priorities from residents. Requires each county mayor to consider and respond in writing to the suggestions for capital improvement projects and operating budget priorities submitted by each neighborhood board. Requires each county council to consider the neighborhood boards' recommendations, the mayor's responses, and county fiscal health in determining the final budget.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

