



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS ANNOUNCED

HONOLULU, HI, January 5, 2009 – Today, Honolulu City Council Chair Todd K. Apo announced the new Council Committee assignments, which will begin with next week's committee meetings.

“In an effort to provide greater efficiencies and productivity to the Council's committees, we have reduced the number of committees from eight to six. The goal is to set a structure that allows the Council to best handle the issues and legislation before it, while being cognizant of the desire for public input and participation. I think we have all found that certain committees were being delayed because of the eight committee structure. This was not fair to the members, the public or the administration. I hope that this new structure will improve our efficiencies at the Council for everyone,” commented Chair Apo.

The major changes in chairmanships include Councilmember Nestor Garcia chairing the Budget Committee, Councilmember Gary Okino chairing the Transportation and Planning Committee, Councilmember Charles Djou chairing the Executive Matters and Legal Affairs Committee, and newly-elected Councilmember Duke Bainum chairing the Public Infrastructure Committee, which will primarily handle waste water, solid waste, and many of the matters handles by the City's Department of Facility Maintenance.

“In recognizing the importance of the island's transportation systems, including the rail mass transit project, we have combined the Transportation and Planning jurisdictions. We understand that our transportation decisions today will affect the long term development and planning of our island. In an effort to focus on these related impacts, we have put these issues together in one committee,” stated Chair Apo.

Matters before the eliminated committees, Intergovernmental Affairs and Affordable Housing will be reassigned to the other committees as appropriate.

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