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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: CITY COUNCIL DEFERS ACTION ON CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST RULES

Yesterday, the Honolulu City Council's Executive Matters Committee deferred Resolution 08-232, introduced by Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu). This charter amendment would have required City Councilmembers to abstain from voting on issues where they have a direct personal financial interest.

"I have long championed strengthening the City's ethics code. Prohibiting elected officials from voting on matters where they have a direct financial interest makes sense and that's why most municipalities, including Kauai, have strong conflict-of-interest rules. Unfortunately, Honolulu's current rules permit Councilmembers to vote on issues where they may have a personal financial interest and that's wrong," stated Councilmember Djou. "I hope the City Council will re-examine this issue soon."

The Executive Matters Committee deferred action on Djou's charter amendment proposal on conflict-of-interest rules and opted to discuss the issue at some later date. Current rules state a City Councilmember may still vote on matters where they have a personal financial interest so long as the Councilmember just discloses such interest prior to voting.

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