



May 8, 2020

**ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE & REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE WILL ACCEPT
REMOTE PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

The Select Committee on Economic Assistance and Revitalization will conduct its first meeting on Wednesday, May 13, at 10:30 a.m. in Council Chambers at Honolulu Hale, and the public will be able to testify remotely during a council proceeding for the first time.

The mission of this committee is to identify and make recommendations on how best to use \$387 million received by the City via the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. The federal funds must be used by the end of the year for expenditures due to COVID-19 public health emergency.

The committee, chaired by Councilmember Tommy Waters and Council Vice Chair Ann Kobayashi as its vice chair along with Councilmembers Brandon Elefante, Carol Fukunaga, Joey Manahan, and Ron Menor, intends to learn from O‘ahu residents suffering from the state’s economic downturn caused by the pandemic.

“People are hurting like never before and that’s why this committee must quickly identify how we can help them,” said Chair Waters. “We need to understand the depth of their financial despair and how so many families, businesses and communities are adversely impacted.”

As always, the public is welcomed to take part in the legislative process. To provide more opportunities for participation, the Honolulu City Council has implemented a system to accept oral testimony remotely. Persons wishing to participate in that format can visit www.webex.com, click “Join,” enter meeting number 964081839, and complete the registration process. Registrants will receive an email that contains links and information on joining the meeting by either phone or video conference. Remote testifiers are strongly encouraged to register at least 24 hours before the start of the meeting.

More information on how to submit written or oral testimony can be found by going to these web sites: <http://www.honolulu.gov/council/default.html> and <http://www.honolulucitycouncil.com/>

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