

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

June 21, 2024

**Committee  
Report No.** \_\_\_\_\_

Honorable Chair and Members  
of the County Council  
County of Maui  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee, having met on June 4, 2024, makes reference to Resolution 24-97, entitled “APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF LORI ANN TSUHAKO AS THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CONCERNS.”

Resolution 24-97’s purpose is to approve the appointment of Lori Ann Tsuhako as Director of Human Concerns, effective July 1, 2024, under Section 8-10.2 of the Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended (“Charter”).

Your Committee notes that voters elected to bifurcate the Department of Housing and Human Concerns into the Department of Housing and the Department of Human Concerns, effective July 1, 2024, as a result of a 2022 Charter amendment.

Your Committee also notes, effective July 1, 2024, Charter Section 8-10.2 provides the following:

- That the Director of Human Concerns position be appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the Council.
- That minimum qualifications for the position include five years of experience in an administrative capacity.
- That qualifications for the director and deputy director may be prescribed by ordinance.

Your Committee received comments from the Mayor and Ms. Tsuhako regarding the appointment before interviewing Ms. Tsuhako.

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The Mayor highlighted Ms. Tsuhako’s experience working for the current Administration, and two prior Administrations, as Director of Housing and Human Concerns. He said Ms. Tsuhako is a balanced, dedicated, and passion-driven leader who helps to create a fair and supportive work environment.

The Mayor added that he and Ms. Tsuhako share the same vision on the Department’s role, which is to address and resolve houselessness, continue wildfire recovery efforts, and enhance collaboration with and empower nonprofit community partners to ensure programmatic partnerships.

Ms. Tsuhako said her interest in continuing to lead the County’s human concerns efforts is to break down barriers for kūpuna and individuals struggling with houselessness, mental health concerns, and economic challenges to improve their quality of life.

Ms. Tsuhako noted that her focus will be on Department projects that are evidence-based. She is committed to working with other agencies and community partners to seek solutions or directing those in need to the proper resources, and she intends to approach her leadership role by being a good listener.

Your Committee noted Charter Section 6-2(5) provides that if the Council does not act within the 60-day period, the appointment will be deemed to be confirmed. Accordingly, your Committee recommended Ms. Tsuhako’s appointment be approved.

Your Committee voted 7-2 to recommend adoption of Resolution 24-97. Committee Chair U‘u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin, and members Cook, Kama, Lee, Sinenci, and Sugimura voted “aye.” Committee members Johnson and Rawlins-Fernandez voted “no.”

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Your Committee is in receipt of Resolution 24-97, CD1, approved as to form and legality by the Department of the Corporation Counsel, incorporating your Committee's nonsubstantive revisions.

Your Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee RECOMMENDS that Resolution 24-97, CD1, as revised herein and attached hereto, entitled "APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF LORI ANN TSUHAKO AS THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CONCERNS," be ADOPTED.

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



\_\_\_\_\_  
NOHELANI U'U-HODGINS, Chair

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# Resolution

**No. 24-97, CD1**

APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF LORI ANN TSUHAKO  
AS THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CONCERNS

WHEREAS, by letter dated May 14, 2024, Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr. notified the Council that he will be appointing Lori Ann Tsuhako as the Director of Human Concerns effective July 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 8-10.2 states that, “The director of human concerns shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the council and may be removed by the mayor”; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it approves the appointment of Lori Ann Tsuhako as the Director of Human Concerns; and
2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor and Managing Director.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

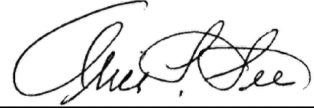


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MIMI DESJARDINS  
First Deputy Corporation Counsel  
County of Maui

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee".

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ALICE L. LEE

Upon the request of the Mayor.