

January 18, 2022

Aloha Reapportionment Commission Oahu Advisory Council,

I am Lisa Bishop, a resident of Oahu. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today.

I am very grateful that the Technical Committee chose to reinstate Makapu'u Point as a natural geographic boundary between HD 51 and HD 18 (old HD 17) as they redrew maps with the revised, final extraction numbers.

However, the new Senate plan does not recognize Makapu'u Point as a natural geographic boundary, and does not align entire House Districts into Senate Districts as directed by the Hawaii State Constitution. The Constitution calls for representative districts to be wholly included within one senate district if practicable. With 17 Oahu Senate Districts and 34 Oahu House Districts, it is both required and practicable to achieve this mandate.

The Oahu Advisory Council is supposed to report and support the wishes of Oahu residents who testify before the Council and the Reapportionment Commission. Although most of the Oahu Advisory Council Members have not been engaged in the Reapportionment Process, those of us testifying have been engaged in the process for months and have reasonable grounds for opposing certain decisions made by the Technical Committee without a good explanation. Some testifiers like Bill Hicks have even demonstrated that residents can draw redistricting maps, not just members of the Technical Committee. What makes it complicated is trying to ensure political incumbents retain their seats - which is why the Technical Committee has drawn Senate maps that include portions of up to 6 House Districts despite the fact that this does not meet the requirements of the State Constitutional or HRS.

I therefore urge you to listen to Oahu residents who have dedicated countless hours over the last few months to this process, and respect our a-political testimony requesting two simple things:

- 1) Respect Makapu'u Point as a natural boundary for Oahu Senate Districts as has been done for House Districts; and
- 2) Abide by the Hawaii State Constitution and HRS and assign only two House Districts to each Senate District. Bill Hicks has proven it can be done, so the Technical Committee has no excuse not to.

As members of the Oahu Advisory Council, you must reflect our recommendations. Please have the courage to speak for us.

Lisa Bishop
Oahu resident, homeowner, taxpayer and voter

From: [Gordon Aoyagi](#)
To: [OE.Elections.Reapportionment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony for Reapportionment Commission Meetings (Jan 20, 21 and 22) and Oahu Advisory Committee (Jan 18)
Date: Monday, January 17, 2022 10:09:55 PM

Dear Election Office:

The following letter is submitted as testimony for the Reapportionment Commission scheduled to meet on Jan 20, 21 and 22 and for the Oahu Advisory Committee meeting of Jan 18. Thank you for directing this testimony to the appropriate location for consideration.

Sincerely,

Gordon Aoyagi

December 17, 2022

Dear Chair Mugiishi and Reapportionment Commissioners,

I am Gordon Aoyagi, a resident of Honolulu and reside in Manoa. I am an interested citizen and have submitted oral and written testimony previously to the Commission about the proposed Reapportionment Plan. Thank you for your time and dedication to the reapportionment process in finalizing redistricting plans for the State of Hawaii. I commend you for sitting patiently through hours of meetings and public testimony, your responsiveness and your commitment to fulfilling the responsibilities for your appointment to the Commission.

Community opposition to proposed redistricting plans have focused initially on perceived failings of the Commission's plan to maintain compact and cohesive communities within a district and a failure to use natural geographic and recognized features such as using Ka'ena Point and Makapu'u Point as boundaries. The Commission responded to many of the community concerns and largely addressed many of these issues in its recent Revised Proposed Reapportionment Plan for House Districts. However, there are a few remaining issues raised in recent public testimony - Papakolea, Mililani, Pearl City and Waikale. If consideration could be given to making some adjustment to boundaries in these four (4) areas in response to community concerns, there could be widespread community consensus in supporting the adoption of the Revised Proposed Apportionment Plan for House Districts.

Coming to a consensus first on the House Redistricting Plan demonstrates community and Commission collaboration on the most complicated task of the Commission - House Districts having the largest number, yet smallest geographically, of representative districts, 34, for Oahu local, state and congressional government institutions. Using the Commission's Revised Proposed Reapportionment Plan for House Districts as the foundation for making adjustments where practicable in the four above mentioned areas accepts the knowledge, experience and wisdom of the Commission's Technical Committee for redistricting.

The points of contention between the community and the Commission have involved respective opinions on the applicability of provisions for reapportionment cited in State Constitution. It may be worthwhile to revisit those provision at this time. Section 6, Article 4 of the Hawaii Constitution states: "Upon determination of the total number of members of each house in the state legislature to which each basic island unit is entitled, the commission shall apportion members among the districts therein and shall redraw district lines where necessary in such manner that for each house the average number of permanent residents per member in each district is as nearly equal to the average for the basic island unit as practicable. In effecting such redistricting, the commission shall be guided by the following criteria:

1. No district shall extend beyond the boundaries of any basis island unit.
2. No district shall be drawn as to unduly favor a person or political faction.
3. Except in the case of districts encompassing more than one island, districts shall be contiguous.
4. Inso far as practicable, districts shall be compact.
5. Where possible, district lines shall follow permanent and easily recognized features, such as streets, steams and clear geographical features, and where practicable, shall coincide with census tract boundaries.
6. Where practicable, representative district shall be wholly included within senatorial districts.

7. Not more than four members shall be elected from any district.
8. Where practicable, submergence of an area in a larger district wherein substantially difference socio-economic interests predominate shall be avoided.

Upon adjustment to the four areas of concern - Papakolea, Mililani, Pearl City and Waikēle - and through mutual accommodation and general consensus on acceptability of the steps taken to address the four areas in the TC's Revised Redistricting Plan, it can be stipulated that compliance with Article 4, Section 6 of the Hawaii has been achieved to the extent practicable as accepted by the Commission and community representatives and the community endorses the Revised Proposed Reapportionment Plan for the House.

Then the Commission can focus on #6 Where practicable, representative districts shall be wholly included within senatorial districts and #2 No district shall be drawn as to unduly favor a person or political faction. The 2020 Census was propitious for Oahu in having 34 House Districts and 17 Senate Districts so that each Senate district will have two House districts. The next process is then to align two adjacent and appropriate House Districts into a single Senate District. It follows then that Congressional District boundaries can be drawn so House and Senate Districts fall wholly within these redrawn Congressional districts.

I urge favorable consideration and Commission adoption of this methodology. It can be timely implemented. It involves collaboration and communication between the Commission and community to arrive at consensus in incremental forward moving steps to achieve State Constitutional compliance for the redistricting of the whole.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gordon Aoyagi