

BEFORE THE BOARD OF ETHICS

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

In the Matter of the Petition by

Roger Christie,

Petitioner.

PETITION NO. 2022-11

ORDER DISMISSING PETITION

Initial Review: October 12, 2022

ORDER DISMISSING PETITION

By Petition dated July 28, 2022, with the Hawai'i County Board of Ethics (hereinafter "the Board"), Petitioner Roger Christie (hereinafter referred to as "Petitioner") alleged that the following elected and appointed officers and employees of the County of Hawai'i violated Hawai'i County Charter Article XIV Code of Ethics Section 14-1: Mayor Mitch Roth, PIO Cyrus Johnsen, Director Douglass Adams, (ret.) Police Chief Paul Ferreira, Acting Police Chief Ken Bugado, and Council Members: Heather Kimball, Aaron Chung, Sue Lee Loy, Ashley Kierkiewicz, Matt Kaneali'i Kleinfelder, Maile David, Rebeca Villegas, Holeka Inaba, and Tim Richards (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Respondents"). Petitioner's complaint focused on Respondents alleged failures to respond to multiple emails Petitioner sent vocalizing his beliefs and perspectives on the Covid-19 pandemic, vaccinations, and mask requirements.

At its duly noticed meeting of October 11, 2022, the Board reviewed and considered the above-captioned Petition pursuant to Rule 4 of the *Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Board of Ethics*. The Board listened to numerous public testifiers supporting Petitioner's complaint against the Respondent as well as their personal views on the Covid-19 topic. Petitioner appeared in person and provided his testimony to the Board. The Board also received and reviewed evidence and testimony submitted by several Respondents.

Board member Erick Allende moved to dismiss the petition with prejudice finding there was no violation of the Hawai'i County Charter's Code of Ethics and Board member Denise Nakanishi seconded the motion. The Board, having examined and weighed the record and files in this case and the evidence submitted by the Petitioner, and having considered the relevant information presented as well as the Hawai'i County Charter, the Hawai'i County Code, and the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure, unanimously approved the motion to dismiss Petition 2022-11 by a vote of 3-0.

ORDER

Based upon the foregoing, the Hawai'i County Board of Ethics orders that Petition No. 2022-11 is hereby dismissed.

Pursuant to Board Rule 4.9, the Order Dismissing the Petition shall be filed and a copy shall be sent to the Petitioner.

Dated: Hilo, Hawai'i, November 1, 2022

BOARD OF ETHICS, COUNTY OF HAWAII

By Lawrence L. Heintz
LAWRENCE HEINTZ
Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGALITY:

Dakota K Frenz
DAKOTA K FRENZ
Deputy Corporation Counsel