ESTABLISHING CITY POLICIES AND PRIORITIES FOR THE USE OF THE GRANTS IN AID FUND.

WHEREAS, Section 9-205, Revised Charter of the City and County Honolulu 1973 (2017 Edition) ("Charter"), establishes a Grants in Aid Fund to be used by the City and County of Honolulu ("City") to serve as a source of funding for the award of grants in aid to federal income tax exempt non-profit organizations that provide services to economically and/or socially disadvantaged populations or provide services for public benefit in the areas of the arts, culture, economic development, or the environment; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 9-205.7 and Section 6-52.4, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990 ("ROH"), establish a Grants in Aid Advisory Commission ("Commission") to review applications for, and advise the City on projects to be funded with, monies in the Grants in Aid Fund; and

WHEREAS, ROH Section 6-52.4 requires that recommendations made by the Commission regarding expenditures from the Grants in Aid Fund be consistent with the priorities established by the City Council ("Council") by resolution; and

WHEREAS, Council policy governing use of the Grants in Aid Fund was established by the adoption of Resolution 13-24, CD1, which has been amended by Resolution 14-280, CD1, and thereafter by Resolution 17-201; and

WHEREAS, ROH Chapter 3, Article 15, provides that the Council shall periodically review City boards and commissions that are established by the Charter or ROH, including the Grants in Aid Advisory Commission; and

WHEREAS, during its review of the Commission pursuant to ROH Chapter 3, Article 15, the Council found that, among other things, the Council's policy relating to the maximum award of $125,000 per organization per grant set forth in Resolution 17-201 has hindered the Commission's ability to carry out its Charter- and ordinance-prescribed duties, and the Council's other policies set forth in Resolution 17-201; and

WHEREAS, the Council further finds that a maximum award of $200,000 per organization per grant is more appropriate and would better facilitate the Commission's ability to carry out its Charter- and ordinance-prescribed duties, and the Council's other policies set forth in Resolution 17-201; and
WHEREAS, furthermore, on October 3, 2018, the Council adopted Ordinance 18-36 codifying the Age-Friendly City Program ("Program"), which had the stated purpose of establishing an age-friendly City program specifically to encourage and advance the development of programs, services, facilities, and projects that are planned, designed, operated, and maintained to best accommodate resident-users of all ages and abilities, but especially the elderly; and

WHEREAS, the Program's vision and goals include:

- Enabling residents of all ages to actively participate in community activities, keep socially engaged, and stay healthy and active even at their oldest age;

- Reducing barriers to inclusion for and provide the necessary support services to residents who are vulnerable and/or have physical limitations; and

- Requiring safe, affordable, and accessible outdoor spaces, transportation, and housing; and

WHEREAS, given the pivotal role that non-profit organizations play in the implementation of the Program's key goals, the Council also finds that including consideration of the Program's visions and goals when awarding monies from the Grants in Aid fund recognizes the need for community engagement and partnerships and provides resources needed to achieve the vision and goals of the Program; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, the Council wishes to amend its policy relating to the use of the Grants in Aid Fund; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the Council hereby adopts the following priorities to guide the award of monies from the Grants in Aid Fund:

PUBLIC SERVICES

Funds in this category must be used to support qualified public services and programs for the target populations deemed by the City to be most vulnerable, including, but not limited to: seniors, persons with disabilities, children, victims of domestic violence, homeless persons, and those suffering from the effects of substance abuse or poor mental health.
ARTS, CULTURE, COMMUNITY/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Funds in this category must be used to support the sustainable improvement in the well-being and quality of life of local communities, especially low- to moderate-income areas. Projects could include, but are not limited to: the creation, development, and empowerment of community based organizations; providing planning, organizational support, and technical assistance to organizations; supporting financial literacy programs and services; supporting micro-enterprise and business training; and supporting programs that promote cultural or environmental enhancement, protection, or awareness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no organization be awarded more than one grant with a maximum award of $200,000 per fiscal year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each Council district be awarded no less than $250,000 annually to organizations that provide services specific and exclusive to the district; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, starting with the FY 2023 grants solicitation, consideration be given to applicants that incorporate the vision and goals of the Age-Friendly City Program (as codified in Ordinance 18-36), including but not limited to: 1) Enabling residents of all ages to actively participate in activities that keep them socially engaged, healthy, and active; and 2) Removing barriers to inclusion for and providing support services to vulnerable residents and/or have physical limitations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the highest consideration be given to applicants that do not receive other funding or any other form of assistance from the City and County of Honolulu, and while applicants that receive other funding or assistance from the City may apply for grants in aid funding, the extent of funding or assistance already received in relation to services provided must be considered prior to awarding monies from the Grants in Aid Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, notwithstanding any of the foregoing policies, all efforts shall be made to expend all funds available in each fiscal year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon its adoption, this resolution supersedes in its entirety Resolution 17-201; and
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Community Services, and the Director of Budget and Fiscal Services.

INTRODUCED BY:

Ann Kobayashi

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

October 14, 2020

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers