



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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CALVIN SAY
Councilmember District 5
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April 23, 2021

Mr. Michael Formby, Managing Director
Managing Director's Office
530 South King Street, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: BUDGET COMMUNICATION NO. #14
COUNCIL ARPA PRIORITIES

Dear Mr. Formby,

Per Departmental Communication 232, the City and County of Honolulu is expecting to receive the first tranche of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds no later than 60 days after ARPA enactment. With the expected funds pending, and as we wait to receive the federal eligibility requirements, we have compiled a list of general priorities of council members for your consideration and information. We look forward to a collaborative process and working together.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Calvin K. Y. Say".

CALVIN K. Y. SAY, Chair
Committee on Budget

cc: Department of Budget and Fiscal Services

COUNCIL COM. 190
BUDGET

Affordable Housing and Homelessness:

1. The needed overhaul to address the inequities of access for permits at the Department of Planning and Permitting are underway, but the City must also have a strategic approach in all contracts and programs, like HONU/POST, that are administered through the city to have ensure housing stability instead of being shepherded through a program, wherein accountability to contracted organizations must be provided to the city and vice versa.
2. City needs to support Dept. of Land Management and Dept. of Budget and Fiscal Services in maintaining their database of city properties, its uses and suggested uses to administer programs, meet housing goals, and more.
3. Zoning, including spot-zoning or non-conforming uses in TOD areas must be reevaluated for uniformity and support of the city projects.
4. Both the City Administration and City Council must work together to revisit the Affordable Housing Fund ordinance to reconsider its parameters to ensure that the fund becomes an attractive incentive rather than a deterrent to building affordable housing.
5. Support wraparound services designed to serve people experiencing chronic homelessness through a major prioritization of Permanent Supportive Housing in all Council Districts and ensuring that a concentration is not in just actual Council District.
6. Continue to incentivize and accelerate and identify opportunities that are related to the development of affordable housing.
7. Consider the options that will lead to longer affordability, curb displacement, and/or prevent the loss of affordable housing stocks such as implementing Opportunity to Purchase ordinances, where first right of refusal is offered initially to tenants, then nonprofit organizations, then to the municipality itself. These programs must be vetted thoroughly to be considered and require investment, but affordable housing is a top priority and protections must be made to keep people from falling into experiencing homelessness.
8. Infrastructure for affordable housing:
 - a. Development of affordable housing infrastructure, including but not limited to water, waste water and storm drains, access to technology and renewable energy solutions, transit and road infrastructure, to offset costs for developing affordable housing units on City-owned or City-administered projects.
9. Homeless Individual Assistance—In District 5, we have a large and increasing number of homeless individuals that need assistance not only in housing, but with addictions and mental health issues. I would like meaningful funding dedicated to homeless individual assistance programs and solutions to this problem.
10. Affordable Housing - Oahu has an island-wide problem with the lack of affordable housing inventory and this contributes to the high cost of living for island residents. In District 5, a number of very large development projects are underway but the majority of housing units being constructed will be unaffordable to most residents. I would like a significant amount of Federal funding to acquire or construct affordable housing or to provide subsidies to ease the pressure on our residents.
11. Another Punawai Rest Stop with Level 5 housing upstairs like in Iwilei—preferably somewhere in Central/West Side

12. Expansion of Hale Mauiola (Sand Island) OR temporary shelter/navigation center similar to this one—preferably somewhere in Central/West Side
13. Portion of funding be used for Grants In Aid for non-profits providing services related to addressing homelessness, at-risk of homelessness, substance abuse, and/or mental health

Economic Relief and Small Business Support

1. Provide economic relief for individuals and small businesses:
 - a. Households in Need - Due to high demand, provide household rent and utility relief for qualified residents.
 - b. Small Businesses - Supplement assistance to small businesses should the state not provide sufficient funding for commercial rent relief.
2. Food Assistance
3. Small Business Grants
4. Rent Relief
5. Utility Relief
6. Portion of funding to be used to support continued utilization of the Small Business Relief and Recovery Fund, Household Hardship Relief Fund and the Rental and Utility Relief Program.

Core Services and Infrastructure

1. Improvements to our County Morgue/Medical Examiner's Office in Iwilei
2. City Debt Service Payments
3. Remaining firm in our goals to keep recycling and reuse of waste of all kinds (trash, construction materials, wastewater, sewage, etc.) by the city to low percentages and look towards programs that will allow us to generate revenue instead of spending so much to rid of waste and so we don't have to consider moving funds from Wastewater to Solid Waste funds.
4. Infrastructure Projects – Roads and Parks
5. Just as our population and communities grow, so should our government and its infrastructure. But it hasn't. Making real investments in our utilities and infrastructure. We need to address the major impacts of climate change on our island home and it will take major funding, outreach, time, coordination and more, but many of our infrastructure pre-dates all of the members on the City Council. These will be difficult decisions, but we are way past overdue to do so.
6. It goes without saying that complex jurisdiction issues further hurt than help in the upkeep of our infrastructure, but can pose more public safety issues if properties are unkempt and more. We need to take a look at streams, drainage, waterways, arterial roads, sidewalks, and connectivity to determine if the City must change ordinances, agreements, etc., to bring these core infrastructure up to a city standard.
7. Balance the restoration of budgetary shortfalls with investments to stimulate our local economy and the diversification of jobs that improve our overall quality of life:
 - a. Affordable Housing - Increase the number of affordable housing units on City-owned or City-administered projects to bolster development of affordable housing units on O'ahu.

- b. Federal Grants Team - Build capacity within the Mayor's Office of Economic Revitalization to seek and secure federal competitive grants that support City programs, infrastructure projects, and our overall economic growth and diversification.
 - c. Support Local Agriculture - Establish a local agriculture grants program for small farmers to support food production, including the promotion of new crops, facilitation of innovations in farming methods, and acquisition of farm equipment to increase efficiency.
 - d. Flood Mitigation - Increase funding for City stream and storm drain maintenance to keep up with the increasing frequency of heavy and prolonged rain events.
8. Stream Cleaning – We have heard from the Department of Facilities Maintenance that additional resources are needed to regularly clear streams of vegetation and other objects in an effort to prevent property damage and potential loss of life due to flooding. The rising number of very large rain incidents resulting from climate change justifies that additional staff and equipment resources be dedicated to stream cleaning.
 9. Invest in curbing the impact of climate change in every agency and area of our city government with the metrics to prove it and show our communities that the City leads by example.

Transportation:

1. Pearl Harbor Historic Trail Improvements
2. Waiawa Station (Pearl Highlands) Pedestrian Bridge
3. Pouhala Station (Waipahu) Makai Access

Public Health and Safety

1. Hazard Pay for First Responders and Front Line Workers
2. City government's general priorities and services are for the well-being and quality of life of all people living in Honolulu. Just as access to city resources is tied to socioeconomic conditions, so too are access to quality food, health, housing, jobs, and education. During the pandemic, City government has shown that they can lead (even better than the state) in community-focused health-related services to impacted communities and the City should make relevant changes to embrace health-focused approaches that in the long-run can provide immense social and fiscal benefits.
 - a. Invest in mental and behavioral health as a direct impact on communities' experiences and deterrent to crime/violence.
 - b. Invest in actively engaging inclusive services that have clear and direct methods to closing the gaps instead of just addressing a single-issue (whether it be in grants to nonprofits or partnerships at the state level) for: youth, drug rehabilitation, veterans, gang prevention, LGBTQ+, seniors, immigrant communities and language access, trafficking, domestic violence; as well as paths to housing, jobs, citizenship, and more resources.
 - c. Invest in programs that many Honolulu Police Department Community Policing Teams (CPT) focus on, such as the fundamental role of a public safety agency serving and uplifting local communities through resources, programs and opportunities. Many CPTs

have their ears to the ground and need support in administering these programs that are preventive programs that can essentially minimize the amount of arrests or violence that may occur in the future if these investments in community relationships are not made.

Community Outreach

1. Community Service Initiatives
2. Improving our city and community engagement – Beyond the physical infrastructure, the root of our local government is and will always be the constituents we serve, yet very few residents know much about how our own city government works and still do a poor job of inclusive services and outreach.
 - a. Government is convoluted and taking a look at overhauling and making consistent processes will also better engagement.
 - b. This includes bettering city agencies' technologies to be inclusive, not cumbersome, and just better serve our constituents while making it easier for city agencies to collaborate to begin with.