

Testimony
Bill 25 (2021)

MISC. COM. 526

EMLA



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

HONOLULU CHAPTER

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Working For A Greater America

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September 21, 2021

To: The Honorable Andria Tupola, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
The Honorable Members, Committee on Executive Matters and Legal Affairs

From: Geoff J. Sogi, President

Re: SUPPORT OF Bill 25, CD1 – RELATING TO ANTI-BIAS AND
INCLUSION POLICY

Aloha Chair Tupola, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)–Honolulu Chapter supports Bill 25, CD1.

Founded in 1929, JACL is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization. Locally our organization works to protect the civil and human rights of all member of our community regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any group effected by bigotry or discrimination.

We thank the Committee for hearing this bill and considering the proposed council draft. This bill demonstrates the commitment by the City and County of Honolulu to formally recognize and support the benefits of having a diverse workforce by adopting an anti-bias policy and requiring an anti-bias training program for city employees. By passing this bill, the City and County of Honolulu would join a number of local private business leaders throughout the state who have acknowledged the overall benefits of training their workforce to prevent bias and nurture diversity.

Bill 25 is especially important at this time when racial tensions are being exposed within our community and we are seeing increased examples of anti-Asian hate and bias across the nation; whether implicit or explicit, we must commit to supporting efforts where we can that curb and address racism, xenophobia, discrimination, and intolerance. We believe this bill is a step in that direction.

We urge the Committee to pass this bill and thank you for considering our testimony in support of Bill 25, CD1.

Respectfully,
Geoff J. Sogi, President
JACL-Honolulu Chapter

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 8:40 PM
Subject: Executive Matters & Legal Affairs Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Dina Shek
Phone
Email dinasf@gmail.com
Meeting Date 09-21-2021
Council/PH Committee Executive Matters and Legal Affairs
Agenda Item Bill 25, CD1
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Written
Testimony

Dear Committee Members,
I strongly SUPPORT Bill 25, CD1 as a critical step towards strengthening Hawaii's workforce to better serve the people of Honolulu. Passing Bill 25 demonstrates a commitment to creating safer and more accessible systems for all by adopting an anti-bias policy and requiring anti-bias training for city employees. As an attorney and advocate in Hawai'i, I have worked for over a decade alongside Micronesian, immigrant, low-income, and other historically excluded communities who experience discriminatory and biased treatment affecting all aspects of daily life. Enacting Bill 25 is the commitment to equity and dignity for all that we need today.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass Bill 25, CD1.

Thank you for your consideration,
Dina Shek

Testimony
Attachment

Accept Terms
and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 4:39 PM
Subject: Executive Matters & Legal Affairs Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Melinda Yamaga
Phone
Email mindayamaga@gmail.com
Meeting Date 09-21-2021
Council/PH Committee Executive Matters and Legal Affairs
Agenda Item Bill 25, CD1
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Chair Tupola, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

Written
Testimony

I am a graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law and an attorney licensed to practice in Hawaii. During my last decade plus as an attorney, I have been dedicated to representing marginalized members of society. It is through this work that I have particularized knowledge of bias and racism, often unintentional, that still exists in our community even amongst those that hold positions of power. Striving to educate while providing an opportunity for increased self-awareness and the tools to improve should always be the goal. The training outlined in this proposal will do just that. This can only be seen as a positive step for a more inclusive, brighter future for our community and I support this measure.

Thank you,
Melinda Yamaga

Testimony
Attachment

Accept Terms
and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:50 PM
Subject: Executive Matters & Legal Affairs Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Van Ohumukini
Phone
Email itaban@yahoo.com
Meeting Date 09-21-2021
Council/PH Committee Executive Matters and Legal Affairs
Agenda Item Bill 25 (2021)
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization Self

Written Testimony

I support this bill. My only reservation is that it may end up like the City's Respectful Workplace Policy ["RWP"] which is left to the discretion of a department's administration whether or not to investigate a complainant's claims and the City's DHR does not provide any external means to address a department's unwillingness to address alleged violations of said policy. [see attached file] Due to this flaw in the RWP, i do not have much faith in a similar policy that will probably be left to the discretion of a department's administration. Accordingly, should the respondent be a division chief, as was my situation, then the department can totally ignore the claims made by a complainant. Again, i am in complete support of this bill, but encourage this committee to "put some teeth into it" so that individuals who seek to utilize the protections of such a bill are not discouraged. Mahalo...

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67