
Bill 14 (2022) Testimony

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2022 11:40 AM
Subject: Budget Testimony

Written Testimony

Name lynne matusow
Phone
Email lynnehi@aol.com
Meeting Date 03-30-2022
Council/PH Committee Budget
Agenda Item bill 14
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization Self

I support the following amendments to bill 14:

Written Testimony

adding at least \$1,000,000 from current expenses shall be provided to financial assistance (reimbursement of claims) for Chinatown businesses that sustained property damages from crime-related vagrant activities during 2020-2021 through monies from American Rescue Plan.

Add proviso to current expense that at least \$250,000 shall be appropriated to support prosecuting attorney's Weed and Seed Program in Chinatown-Kakaako.

Add \$279,820 for positions and salaries to support and increase public outreach and training for ordinance 19-4 and funding of a vacant position.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2022 10:51 AM
Subject: Budget Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Raymond Miyashiro
Phone
Email miyashiro3@gmail.com
Meeting Date 03-30-2022
Council/PH Committee Budget
Agenda Item Bill 14 (2022) Proposed CD1
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Written Testimony I write in SUPPORT of the Proposed CD1 amendment to Bill 14 (2022) Relating to the Executive Operating Budget and Program for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 relating to Ordinance 19-4 Fire Safety compliance for n additional TWO positions and salaries for a vacant position in Fire Prevention Division (HFD).

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 9:30 AM
Subject: Budget Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock

Phone

Email Clskwock@gmail.com

Meeting Date 03-30-2022

Council/PH Committee Budget

Agenda Item Bill 14 & Bill 15

Your position on the matter Support

Representing Organization

Organization Chinatown Business & Community Associatiin

Dear Chair Calvin Say and Members - it is important to seed money and fund items listed in Bill 14 and 15 relating to

1. Vandalism losses by owners/ lessees
2. Weed and Seed as a needed resource to combat crimes and clean up Chinatown
3. Provide funding for Chinatown cameras - so very needed for years.
4. Security patrol funding for our neglected and crime infested buildings and garages
5. Overall HPD manpower needs and training for those serving in Chinatown where the needs are quite demanding, extra training on sit lie enforcement, trespass laws, violent, mentally unstable drug/ alcohol related homeless individuals hurting commerce and public safety, etc

Written Testimony We applaud our City Admin and City Council Members under this new era to work at implementing new resources to effect needed restoration of public trust, faith that sufficient funding is provided to initiate & sustain these bare bone programs.

You stand to be remembered for taking these bold and necessary steps to clean up our Chinatown community. You won't be forgotten.

Much Aloha and Mahalo for your visions and commitment,

Chu Lan Shubert- Kwock
Chinatown Business & Community Association (CBCA)
808-391-4350
Clskwock@ gmail.com

Testimony Attachment

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 12:13 PM
Subject: Budget Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Charles T. Lee
Phone
Email Success881@hawaiiantel.net
Meeting Date 03-30-2002
Council/PH Committee Budget
Agenda Item BILL 14 CD1 (2022)
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization Self

Written Testimony
Aloha,
I fully support and encourage the City Council of Honolulu to support Bill 14 CD1 (2022). I fully agree that the HFD needs this additional Staff funding to support the LSE/Condo Sprinkler Requirements. I believe that HFD is currently understaffed for this project and unable to handle the workload with the LSE/Condo Sprinkler Requirements.
Mahalo
Charles (Chuck) Lee

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 2:08 PM
Subject: Budget Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Eric Wong
Phone
Email kamheights@gmail.com
Meeting Date 03-30-2022
Council/PH Committee Budget
Agenda Item Bill 14 and Bill 15
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Aloha Chair Calvin Say, etal,

Please note my support of Bill 14 and 15 towards restoring Honolulu's Chinatown vitality.

For the many years, things kept getting worse and worse for residents, shopkeepers and visitors in Chinatown. As someone who works here 5 days** a week, we are hopeful and believe a better future is in store for Chinatown ahead.

We applaud this new era of City Administration in working as effectively in executing on fresh initiatives and programs sorely needed to bring our community back to safer times.

Written Testimony Chair Say, we both grew up here and fondly reminisce the good old days enjoying what Chinatown has to offer. Times have change of course, however evolving changes should not include more criminal activities.

I hope you stand to be remembered for taking bold and necessary steps to clean up, fight for Honolulu's 'jewel'. Yes it can only get better with the necessary focus, initiatives and the funding proposed

Mahalo for your time and consideration to support Bill 14 and Bill 15.

Eric Wong (a fellow Crusader)
(808) 371-0016

** I work in Chinatown, Monday to Friday as a building property manager.

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 2:46 PM
Subject: Budget Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Eric Wong
Phone
Email kamheights@gmail.com
Meeting Date 03-30-2022
Council/PH Committee Budget
Agenda Item Bill 14 and Bill 15
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization Aloha Chair Calvin Say, etal.

Written Testimony Just to clarify my previous testimony submitted; I am asking for your support of Councilmember Carol Fukunaga's CD-1 Amendments to Bills 14 and 15.

Mahalo,
Eric Wong (808)371-0016
kamheights@gmail.com

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 3:40 PM
Subject: Budget Testimony

Written Testimony

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Name | Taylor Mancini |
| Phone | |
| Email | thebarclay808@gmail.com |
| Meeting Date | 03-30-2022 |
| Council/PH Committee | Budget |
| Agenda Item | CD1 amendment to Bill 14 (2022) |
| Your position on the matter | Support |
| Representing | Self |
| Organization | |
| Written Testimony | increase public outreach and training for Ordinance 19-4 |
| Testimony Attachment | |
| Accept Terms and Agreement 1 | |

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 8:26 PM
Subject: Budget Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Susan Lai Young
Phone
Email suelaiyoung@gmail.com
Meeting Date 03-30-2022
Council/PH Committee Budget
Agenda Item Bill 14 (2022) Proposed CD1
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Written Testimony

Thank you for the opportunity to support the proposed CD1 for Bill 14(2022) which allocates \$279,820 to add positions and funding to support HFD assistance to condos (to be administered by HFD). It also adds a proviso that states "add two positions and salaries to support and increase public outreach and training for Ord 19-4." It also funds a vacant unfunded position to increase public outreach and training.

These positions are critical in the effort to promote fire safety in condos and apt buildings that are struggling to comply with enhanced fire safety protocols. Enacting fire safety mandates and protocols are important. But more important is the commitment to these safety measures by providing positions and funding to get the job done. Thank you for the opportunity to support your efforts.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 4:49 PM
Subject: Budget Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Oren Schlieman
Phone
Email oren@infografik.como
Meeting Date 03-30-2022
Council/PH Committee Budget
Agenda Item Bills 14 and 15: Chinatown
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

I am writing to support the creation of a \$1M fund to provide financial assistance/reimbursement of property damage claims. The amount of vandalism has increased dramatically over the past two years. Broken windows and doorways and defaced buildings litter Chinatown.

Written Testimony The \$250K proposed for replacing the non-functioning Chinatown Police Security Cameras is long overdue.

These two items, in concert with the efforts by the City, HPD and the Prosecutors office to turn Chinatown around would be a timely and valuable investment of taxpayer dollars.

Mahalo, Oren Schlieman

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 6:30 PM
Subject: Budget Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Mark Merriam
Phone
Email mark@alohagraphics.com
Meeting Date 03-30-2022
Council/PH Committee Budget
Agenda Item Bill 14 & Bill 15
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

I own and manage a business in the Chinatown area since 1996. I have seen good times and bad times. The opportunity to transform and revitalize Chinatown should not be missed. Residents and visitors should be welcomed to a safe, healthy and vibrant Chinatown.

I strongly support the CD1 amendments for Bill 14 and Bill 15.

Written Testimony

Business loss by property damage has impacted my business and so many others. Criminal activity seems to be increasing.

The Weed and Seed program is beginning to show positive results and these need to continue. Security and surveillance will support efforts to clean up the Chinatown area.

The Chinatown community is special, a unique blend of old and new. Ethnic groups from around the world, living and working together. Chinatown needs to be protected and nurtured.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67



Written Testimony

Name Ave Wai Tung Kwok
Phone (808) 398-6638
Email avekwok@gmail.com
Meeting Date 03-30-2022
Council/PH Committee Budget
Agenda Item Bill 14 and Bill 15
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Aloha Chair Calvin Say, etal,

I am here to strongly support **CD-1 Amendments to Bills 14 and 15** to add the funding for Chinatown public safety to the Mayor's FY 2023 budgets as follows:

CD1 amendments for Bills 14 and 15 include:

- **\$1,000,000 - add funding to provide financial assistance/reimbursement of claims** (to be administered by Office of Economic Revitalization). The proposed CD1 amendment adds a proviso that states: *"At least \$1,000,000 out of current expenses shall be appropriated and distributed by the Office of Economic Revitalization to provide financial assistance (reimbursement of claims) for businesses located in Chinatown that have sustained property damages from crime-related vagrant activities during 2020-2021 through use of monies from the American Rescue Plan Act (PUB. L. 1172)."*

Since 2018, I became an owner at 102 North Hotel Street. It sounds good for a first generation Chinese and own a Chinatown treasure! However, it has not been easy investment for me.

A normal investor is investing money and worry free. It is definitely not the case in Honolulu Chinatown. Instead, you have to know someone on the street, you have to fight hard at your story front and you have to survive on a daily basis.

We have 7 tenants in a very busy cornea of North Hotel and Maunakea Street. We have great traffic on a daily basis so we should have a very easy business life. The issue is not the traffic to the business, the issue is how much I have to maintain the building after the constant vandalism, which are facing by **EVERY**

owner, business, and resident in Chinatown. Here are my three years damage payouts by Homeless to my building and cost to fix for just for a 1000 SF of 102 North Hotel Street property:

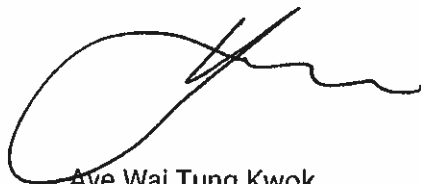
1. Graffiti and have to repaint: 4 times, **\$5,505.00**
2. Broken Entry Doors for Residential Units and replacement: 3 times, **\$11,000.00**
3. Broken Glass for Ground Floor and replacement, 2 times, **\$14000.00**
(Tenant agreed to pay half)
4. Stolen Camera and replacement: 2 times, **\$1,200.00**
5. Homeless Dumping Excrement and Urine, Cleaning Up and Disinfecting: 12 times, **\$5,600.00**
6. Rubbish from River of Life Meal Boxes, and Clean Up: Countless, cleaning contract raised \$200 per month x 12 months x 3 years = **\$7,200.00**
7. Stolen Goods and Loss: 5 times, **\$680.00**

Dear Council Members, if you add up the total. I could use the money to paint my building 4 times, now it went down to the drain.

Being a long-time residence in Hawaii, we love peace and prosperity. This is not 1960 Hong Kong or 1990 LA Chinatown. People come to Chinatown for a reason, the unique culture, the great Dim Sum, the variety choice of goods and services, the unique products that you can't find in Safeway and Walmart. This unique cultural take years to build, and could well destroy overnight. Chinatown becomes a center of the spread. Who's next, the downtown and others.

We need to stop the fire and help the business. We appreciate your effort to control the homeless population. But more important is not to scare the investors, owners and business to give up what they believe in.

Mahalo for your time and consideration to support Bill 14 and Bill 15.



Ave Wai Tung Kwok
(808) 398-6638

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 8:29 AM
Subject: Budget Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Lee Stack
Phone
Email Chinatownimprovementdistrict@gmail.com
Meeting Date 03-29-2022
Council/PH Committee Budget
Agenda Item Bill 14 & 15 CD1
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization
Organization

Written Testimony The Chinatown Improvement District, a 501(c)3 charitable organization working to improve conditions in the Chinatown area since 2011 supports Bill 14 & Bill 15 CD1 which includes appropriations for the following: Weed & Seed programs, aid to small businesses who have experienced property damage from vagrant activities and funding for security camera systems in the district. Property damage (primarily in the form of broken windows) has continued to occur into 2022 as the City has slowly opened up for business once again.

Testimony Attachment
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 10:26 AM
Subject: Budget Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Christine Trecker
Phone
Email CHRISTINET54@GMAIL.COM
Meeting Date 03-30-2022
Council/PH Committee Budget
Agenda Item Bills 14 & 15 CD1
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization

Written Testimony

I strongly urge councilmembers to support CD1 amendments to Bills 14 and 15. It is heartbreaking to walk down Chinatown streets and see the devastating impacts of Covid and property damage from crime-related vagrant activities on so many small businesses. These amendments are critical to putting Chinatown businesses back on their feet as well as protecting the community from crime. Many of us want to feel safe on the streets in Chinatown again and the amendments in CD1 to help fund the Weed and Seed Program and strengthen Chinatown's surveillance systems are important steps in the right direction. Please support the CD1 amendments!
Thank you.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67



Testimony in Support of City Funding for Chinatown Public Safety

29 March 2022

Aloha Budget Committee Members,

Our citizen's group, Chinatown Watch, SUPPORTS amending the City's FY23 budget to fund:

- **Financial assistance/reimbursement of claims for businesses located in Chinatown that have sustained property damage from criminal and vagrant activities**
- **Prosecuting Attorney's Weed & Seed program in Chinatown-Kakaako and other districts**
- **Security cameras and surveillance systems on City street lights located in Chinatown and Downtown, and upgrade of HPD's camera systems within its Chinatown Substation.**

We wholeheartedly support all efforts by Mayor Blangiardi's administration to correct the two most serious ongoing threats to the safety and health of our community, which are:

- 1) the overconcentration of homeless, mentally ill and substance addicted people living freely in our public spaces without sanitation and with few restrictions or consequences, and
- 2) the flagrant illegal drug trade conducted openly around the clock.

These 2 problems are obviously inter-related in that addiction-prone homeless people are an easy, reliable customer base for the drug dealers as well as a distraction and an easy target for blame. Because River of Life Mission has been feeding them, and various social service agencies "care" for them, the chronically service-resistant mentally ill and drug-addicted homeless are enabled to keep living unsheltered - in the easiest place on Oahu to buy drugs. How this dynamic has devastated Chinatown is well documented. We are grateful that our Mayor and his Team are taking concrete steps to change it. In the meantime, there is still an urgent need to improve public safety here.

Please fund these much needed services in FY23:

WEED & SEED: In that it DIRECTLY targets the illegal drug trade, Weed & Seed is crucial for improving public safety in Chinatown.

HPD CAMERAS: The lack of a functioning HPD security camera system in Chinatown (20 of 26 cameras inoperable) is one reason that few perpetrators of crimes here are held accountable. This has been an issue for years, with lack of funds being the primary explanation for the inability to upgrade and maintain an up-to-date camera system. A modern, integrated system of police cameras with block-by-block coverage and recording/storage capability will help HPD connect the dots when crimes are reported. It will certainly decrease HPD's reliance on individual businesses having camera footage, which may or may be available or usable.

REIMBURSEMENT OF VANDALISM COSTS: Financial assistance to defray the costs of vandalism will be a blessing to the many Chinatown shop owners who've been victimized by criminals and vagrants. Attached to this letter is a copy of the Civil Beat article from January 2022: *Is Everything Fair Game Now for Vandals in Chinatown?* Smashing window is just one form of the chronic vandalism that plagues our Chinatown business owners, large and small.

Thank you all for your serious consideration of the much-needed funding for Chinatown.

Respectfully,
Fran Butera, *Chinatown*

Commentary

Denby Fawcett: Is Everything Fair Game Now For Vandals In Chinatown?

Broken windows at the police station and many Chinatown businesses signal increasing disorder in the historic downtown neighborhood.

By Denby Fawcett

January 18, 2022 · 8 min read

"There are too many broken windows," says Chinatown boutique owner Roberta Oaks.

OPINION

Oaks lists the shops and service providers in her immediate Nuuanu Street neighborhood where suspected vandals have shattered glass windows in the last two months.

The most surprising example I saw when walking through Chinatown Wednesday was the vandalized window on the front door of the Honolulu Police Department's Chinatown substation.

HPD's shattered window — now held together with strips of red tape — is a highly visible symbol of the disorder that continues to distress residents living or working in Chinatown.

Criminologist Janet Davidson — a Chaminade University professor and a Chinatown resident — says the police station's shattered front window shows how lawless it has become. She says it sends a powerful message to others who might be watching that everything is fair game.

And if you are a Chinatown business owner you have to wonder: when someone is brazen or crazy enough to break the window of the police station, could your storefront be next?

A 40-year-old woman was arrested at the scene at 8:40 p.m. on January 8 and charged with criminal property damage for allegedly shattering the police station's window, according to acting HPD Maj. Calvin Sung.

In an email, Sung says the woman received medical treatment for cuts to her hand and that no police officers were injured.

According to Sung, the Chinatown police substation has been vandalized before. He says last year culprits spray-painted the outside walls of the station with graffiti.

Property damage in Chinatown has increased 20% in the last two years, Sung says, with 443 cases of criminal property damage, including windows and store fronts, in the Downtown-Chinatown area. That's up from 2020, when there were 371 cases.

But he says the number of cases in 2020 was atypically low due to Covid-19 emergency restrictions that kept people out of public spaces.



The shattered window at the entrance to the Honolulu Police Department's Chinatown substation is perhaps the most troubling sign of increasing vandalism in the community

Looking at the shattered glass panel at the police station made me think of the **broken windows theory** popular with law enforcement officials in the 1980's and 1990's.

The theory says visible signs of lawlessness — such as untended piles of garbage, graffiti and vandalized windows — create an environment of disorder and neglect that encourages more crime. It suggests that if the low level criminals are arrested and convicted, and visual order is restored, crime will be reduced.

But recently, critics have discredited the broken windows theory, pointing to overzealous police who have misused it to arrest disproportionate numbers of poor people and minorities for low-level crimes with no resulting decrease in overall crime.

Maybe the visual disorder in Chinatown is just that, disorder, instead of a prompter to more serious crimes. But it is a frustrating and terrible reality for many Chinatown businesses.

Chad Hiyakumoto, owner of APB Skateshop on the corner of River and North King streets, says the windows of his skateboard shop have been broken by vandals more than 12 times since March 29, 2019.

Currently six windows are broken and have not been repaired by the landlord. Some have remained broken for more than a year. A few of the windows have been busted multiple times by different culprits.

Most of the attacks recorded on his security tape appear to be by angry people who have no intention of entering the store, he says. But on three occasions people have managed to break in to steal merchandise. Police have arrested only two of the thieves.

"I am at my wit's end. I don't know what to do," Hiyakumoto said in a phone call Sunday.



"We need help. Something needs to be done. We are getting broken into. We are getting windows smashed.

It is making owning a business down here very difficult. This is the worst I have ever seen it."

The APB Skateshop in Chinatown has had its windows broken more than 12 times in the past three years.

Hiyakumoto has been in the skateboard business in Chinatown for 20 years.

The store has been attacked two times so far this month. On January 4 the store's security camera videotaped a well-dressed man drinking a beverage then going around the corner to wait until nobody was around and coming back with a hammer to break the window.

The most recent attack was on Friday with security tape showing a young man with a machete in the early morning hours smashing one of the store windows.

Vandals have used everything from skateboards to fire extinguishers to wrenches to break the glass.

Hiyakumoto says when the window-breaking started three years ago the property owner repaired the damaged windows. But after so many different glass breaks, she found it cheaper to cover up the damaged windows with plywood while seeking a more permanent solution.

The building's property manager, Robert Cooper, said instead of continually trying to repair the glass, they are looking for a protective window covering such as metal bars to try to stop the vandalism for good.

Common signs of disorder in Chinatown are the dirty streets, graffiti and broken windows. There is also the sad sight of stores that have not yet been attacked but are proactively boarded up with plywood for protection in case vandals target them next.

"It's a bunker mentality," says Chinatown business owner Oren Schlieman.

Chidy Yokoyama says a vandal whacked a metal bar through the front window of her jewelry store on Nov. 20. The store, Ginger13 at 22 S. Pauahi St., is now partially covered with plywood while she waits for replacement glass that's delayed by the current shipping backlog on the West Coast.

Yokoyama says replacement glass and its installation will cost about \$7,000. She says police officers came when the window was broken but she has not heard from them since.

"It's terrible. With our businesses getting attacked more has to be done," she said.

Customers can enter Yokoyama's store now but only after ringing a buzzer on the front door to be let in.

The same day Yokoyama's store was vandalized, Mark Merriam, the owner of AlohaGraphics on Hotel Street, says his business was hit by a rock-throwing vandal whom he chased to the Chinatown police substation where officers arrested him.

Court records show the suspect, Clinton Hill, was found guilty of criminal property damage in December and is scheduled to be back in court for a restitution hearing February 3.

But business owner Merriam says he doesn't expect to get any restitution because Hill appears to have no means of support.

“We need help. Something needs to be done.” — APB Skateshop owner Chad Hiyakumoto

Merriam has been in business in Chinatown for 25 years and says has no plans to leave despite having his windows broken four different times in the last two years.

He says an empty commercial space next to him that used to be a Love's Bakery outlet also was vandalized in November and another vacant space where Walgreen's used to be on Hotel Street had its window cracked.

“I want Chinatown to be a vibrant place with not as many vacant properties and more people coming to walk around again. If more people were out shopping and eating in restaurants it would make it difficult for vandals to break windows,” he said.

But with the uncertainties of the pandemic, not many entrepreneurs are eagerly jumping in to start new businesses in Chinatown, especially in its current degraded condition.



On Nuuanu Avenue, Black Cat Tattoo's large window was shattered last year. Business owners are having trouble getting replacement glass due to supply chain shipping problems.

Shay Haas, the co-owner of Black Cat Tattoo on Hotel and Nuuanu, says the shop's window was maliciously smashed in November. The large glass pane is not fixed yet and glistens in the sun looking like a spider web with multiple lines of cracked glass.

Tattoo artist Haas says it is frustrating because it's going to cost \$2,500 to replace the window and yet the man who broke the glass is still out on the street.

I guess the most worrisome part of this wave of vandalism is that the trashing of Chinatown has persisted for so long that some residents and government officials seem to be looking at the disorder as normal.

“Chinatown is such a rich historic venue. It's a shame to see it become a neglected community,” says criminologist Davidson.

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:36 PM
Subject: Budget Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Karl Rhoads
Phone
Email rhoads5@capitol.hawaii.gov
Meeting Date 03-30-2022
Council/PH Committee Budget
Agenda Item Bill 14 (2022)
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Self
Organization
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67



March 29, 2022

The Honorable Calvin Say, Chair
Honolulu City Council Committee on Budget
530 S. King St.
Honolulu Hale, Rm. 202
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: **Special Meeting March 30, 2022 at 9:00am; Bill 14 (2022)**

Dear Chair Say:

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of the proposed CD1 amendments to Bill 14 (2022), Relating to the Executive Operating Budget and Program for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023:

- \$1,000,000 – adding funding to provide financial assistance in the form of reimbursement of claims for businesses located in Chinatown that have sustained property damage from crime-related vagrant activities through use of monies from the American Rescue Plan Act (PUB. L. 1172).
- \$250,000 – adding funding for the Weed and Seed program through use of monies from the American Rescue Plan Act (PUB. L. 1172).
- \$279,820 – adding positions and funding to support the Honolulu Fire Department's assistance to condos.
- \$250,000 – adding funding for security cameras and surveillance systems on City property located in Chinatown and Downtown.

As an area legislator, this type of funding is needed to safeguard the vitality of Chinatown and Downtown. The proposed funding will protect its residents and support its businesses.

With warmest aloha,

Karl Rhoads
Senate District 13
State Capitol, Room 204 – Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: 586-6130
E-Mail: senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov
Bill 14 (2022) / Testimony 2022



Karl Rhoads

Karl Rhoads
Senate District 13
State Capitol, Room 204 – Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: 586-6130
E-Mail: senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov
Bill 14 (2022) / Testimony 2022



Written Testimony before the
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET
Wednesday March 30, 2022 9:00 AM

**RE: BILL 14 – EXECUTIVE OPERATING BUDGET FOR FY 2023
& Bill 15 EXECUTIVE CAPITAL BUDGET FOR FY 2023**

Aloha Committee Chair Say and Committee Members:

Trees for Honolulu's Future is a nonprofit organization with a vision for an appropriately tree-shaded island that preserves and enhances our quality of life, especially in the face of climate change.

We are supportive of the proposed spending in our area of interest/expertise, the Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) urban forestry budget. In particular, we are pleased that *"Increase urban tree canopy cover on O'ahu through departmental and through building and supporting partnerships."* has been identified as a goal by DPR in their departmental briefing to this Committee earlier this month.

We also note and thank this Council for passing CIP funding last year for two projects that will further this goal: 1) the Kaimuki Tree Demonstration Project; and 2) Design Master Plan for a Tree Farm at the Patsy T. Mink Central Oahu Regional Park. In the first instance, the initiative will concentrate planting so as to have a demonstrable, and positive, impact on community. With regard to the second, without appropriate nursery stock and taking action today, we won't be able to plant tomorrow; planning for the tree farm is a smart investment in the future.

No surprise to any of the committee members, trees create multiple benefits well documented by research. Trees create shade and use evapotranspiration to lower temperature. Trees also recharge groundwater and decrease surface runoff protecting our reefs. Trees trap pollutants and store CO₂. Trees calm traffic. They are critical infrastructure. Numerous jurisdictions have recognized this and are making tremendous progress in greening their cities while providing necessary infrastructure.

Former Vice President Al Gore said it best when he wrote in the September 20, 2019, New York Times: *"And so far, the best available technology for pulling carbon dioxide from the air is something called a tree."*

In closing, we thank those within DPR and the Administration along with the Council in working to make Honolulu a more livable and resilient city.

Mahalo,

Daniel Dinell, President

HONOLULU is HOT TREES are COOL

Visit us: www.TreesForHonolulu.org Contact us: info@TreesForHonolulu.org Voice/Fax/Text: 808-707-6353
P.O. Box 12051, Honolulu, Hawaii 96828

TO: Members of the Budget Committee of the Honolulu City Council

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
808-395-3233

DATE: Wednesday, March 30, 2022

SUBJECT: Bill 14, City Operating Budget
\$1.3 Million Haiku Stairs - **OPPOSED**

Aloha Chair Say and Councilmembers,

Thank you for allowing testimony on Bill 14, which sets the city's operating budget for next fiscal year.

I oppose the \$1.3 million to remove the Haiku Stairs. When my boys were young, I looked forward to the day I would be able to take them hiking on the Haiku Stairs. Now that they're old enough, you're putting funding toward tearing them down. While I understand some people have disturbed residents in the area and disobeyed the law, there are many others who would like to legally hike the Stairs and support the effort of the Friends of Haiku Stairs.

I am concerned that tearing down this resource would set a precedent for other hikes such as Kuliouou, Koko Crater Stairs and the Pillbox in Lanikai. (I have watched a precedent in action, after Bill 11 from 2012 banned commercial activities in Kailua Parks.)

Last year the city included \$1 million in its CIP budget to tear down the stairs. One year later, and the cost has already increased 30%.

Rather than spend much-needed taxpayer funds on tearing down the stairs, please work with the Friends of Haiku Stairs on an alternative that will allow residents to legally hike the stairs.

Please remove the \$1.3 million from Bill 14.

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 2:59 PM

Subject: Budget Testimony

Written Testimony

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Name | Colleen Hoomana |
| Phone | |
| Email | colleen@ifshi.com |
| Meeting Date | 03-30-2022 |
| Council/PH Committee | Budget |
| Agenda Item | CD1 amendment to Bill 14 (2022) |
| Your position on the matter | Support |
| Representing Organization | Organization Integrated Facilities Services Hawaii |
| Written Testimony | HFD provides such a valuable resource to our condominium and townhouse associations to keep residents up to date with life safety inspections and tips. (Ordinance 19-4) |
| Testimony Attachment | |
| Accept Terms and Agreement | 1 |

IP: 192.168.200.67