

# Bill 15 (2022) Testimony

**MISC. COM. 103**

BUD -

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2022 11:45 AM  
**Subject:** Budget Testimony

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## Written Testimony

Name               lynne matusow  
Phone  
Email               lynnehi@aol.com  
Meeting Date      03-30-2022  
Council/PH  
Committee         Budget  
Agenda Item       Bill 15  
Your position on  
the matter         Support  
Representing       Self  
Organization

I support the following amendment to bill 15:

Written  
Testimony

add \$250,000 - for security cameras and surveillance systems on City property (to be administered by Dept. of Design and Construction), including a proviso that states: "Plan, design, construct, inspect and install new security cameras on City street lights located in Chinatown and Downtown, including but not limited to the following locations: N. Hotel St./Fort Street Mall, N. Hotel St./Bethel St., N. Hotel St./Nuuanu Ave., N. Hotel St./Smith St., N. Hotel St./Maunakea St., N. Hotel St./Kekaulike St., N. Hotel St./River St., Pauahi St./River St., Pauahi St./Maunakea St., Pauahi St./Smith St., N. King St./River St., N. King St./Kekaulike St., N. King St./Maunakea St., N. King St./Smith St., S. King St./Nuuanu Ave., S. King St. Bethel St. as advised by the Honolulu Police Department." This measure augments 2020 and 2021 appropriations that upgrade HPD's camera systems within its Chinatown Substation, and are intended to replace the 26 cameras attached to city street lights (many of which are not-functioning).

Testimony  
Attachment

Accept Terms  
and Agreement    1

IP: 192.168.200.67

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2022 9:31 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

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**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.

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.

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**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.

Testimony Mahalo,  
Attachment Eric Wong (808)371-0016  
Accept Terms and Agreement kamheights@gmail.com

1

IP: 192.168.200.67

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**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

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**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

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2022 11:52 AM  
**Subject:** Budget Testimony  
**Attachments:** 20220328115226\_Testimony\_Against\_the\_Ala\_Wai\_Canal\_Bridge\_for\_July\_8\_2021\_extra\_info.docx

## Written Testimony

Name Laura Ruby  
Phone  
Email lruby@hawaii.edu  
Meeting Date 02-03-2022  
Council/PH Committee Budget  
Agenda Item Bill 15 (2022)  
Your position on the matter Oppose  
Representing Self  
Organization

March 28, 2022

Dear Councilmember Calvin Say,

I am very disappointed that you have continued to support the proposed bridge over the Ala Wai Canal at the Ala Wai Park edge of the Canal--please see Bill 15 (2022).

Written Testimony This is the second time you have continued to place funding in the C&C budget for the proposed bridge. How many times have I and others testified and met with you and yet you continue. Is it your approach that federal money, no matter what for, should be sought? Is it your approach that the planners/designers do not have to be made accountable--please see the many concerns I have posted over the recent years, and not one of them has been addressed or explained? Have you queried these planners about any of our community concerns? Did you get concrete answers from them and are you holding Meredith Soniat and others accountable for this months/years' delay in presenting answers to the public? And why have your requested follow-ups not been shared with the public?

An example: the planning/design bridge public meetings have been very obtuse and very narrowly defined. It's last meeting was a "silo" narrowly allowing only Section 106 comments about the historic canoe Malia, though a number of community properties, Ala Wai Park, the Ala Wai School, the historically eligible properties on both sides of the Canal could not be addressed. I do not believe that this proposal/design team has answered the historical requirements and silently hopes that SHPD will just check off the boxes to further development funds.

Is it your approach that untold millions of future C&C financial obligations for the bridge will have to be dealt with down the line? (Are we reminded of HART plans and on-going financial requests?)



Sincerely,  
Laura Ruby  
366-0847  
lruby@hawaii.edu

Testimony  
Attachment 20220328115226\_Testimony\_Against\_the\_Ala\_Wai\_Canal\_Bridge\_for\_July\_8\_2021\_extra\_info.docx

Accept  
Terms and 1  
Agreement

IP: 192.168.200.67



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

**ORDINANCE**

**BILL**

**15 (2022)**

**A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE**

PROJECT NUMBER	FUNCTIONS, PROGRAMS & PROJECTS	WORK PHASE	SOURCE OF FUND	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
1989123	SALT LAKE BOULEVARD WIDENING Acquire land, design, construct and inspect roadway improvements.	10,000 L 10,000 D 2,000,000 C 10,000 I	2,030,000 HI	2,030,000
1991064	UTILITY SHARE EXPENSES Pay for utility company's share of construction costs.	100,000 C	100,000 CP	100,000
<b>FACILITIES MAINTENANCE</b>				
2018087	RECONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALKS Construct and inspect sidewalk improvements.	1,800,000 C 200,000 I	2,000,000 GI	2,000,000
<b>TRANSPORTATION SERVICES</b>				
2019026	INTERMODAL CONNECTIVITY IMPROVEMENTS Plan, design, construct and inspect sustainable intermodal connectivity improvements.	200,000 P 3,913,000 D 3,600,000 C 400,000 I	5,000,000 GI 3,113,000 FG	8,113,000
2003223	WAIPIO POINT ACCESS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS Provision of matching funds to construct and inspect improvements on Waipio Point Access Road from Farrington Highway to Pearl Harbor Bike Path.	2,000,000 C 500,000 I	1,500,000 HI 1,000,000 CP	2,500,000
<b>BRIDGES, VIADUCTS AND GRADE SEPARATION</b>				
<b>DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION</b>				
2020105	ALA WAI BRIDGE Design a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over the Ala Wai Canal.	2,640,000 D	528,000 HI 2,112,000 FG	2,640,000
1998520	BRIDGE REHABILITATION AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS Acquire land, design, construct and inspect bridge improvements at various locations.	5,000 L 1,445,000 D 5,050,000 C 50,000 I	6,550,000 HI	6,550,000

July 4, 2021

Laura Ruby—a resident of Moiliili for over 40 years.

**#7 Oral Testimony Against the proposal and funding for the Ala Wai Canal Bridge and associated pedestrian and bicycle pathways.**

This testimony registers my and 100 other Mo'iili'i/mauka of the Ala Wai Canal community members. We wish that no more C&C funds be allocated for the design or planning stages for the bridge over the Ala Wai Canal—and no future allocations for the construction of a bridge.

--To our knowledge, no community members were asked about the design or planning stage of this bridge.

--The State Historical Preservation Division (SHPD within the DLNR) has not submitted either a 6E or 106 assessment at the outset of this project;

--In this time of fiscal challenges this bridge proposal is neither necessary nor urgent. There were no additional major maintenance or security costs spelled out in the EA.

Some of the hidden and on-going expenses that the C&C will have to bear are:

1—relocation of University Avenue storm drain and box culvert with its outflow into the Canal;

2—the additional police forces on both sides of the Canal that will need to patrol the bridge and park area for miscreants and mo-ped drivers;

3—the police or other enforcement that will need to issue citations for cars parked in the Ala Wai Park parking lot using it as a cheap way to get to Waikiki so that the parking can be used by the Waikiki Surf Club for canoe and kayak practice and events, community gardeners, Makule team players, tai chi groups and general park users;

4—the additional security detail that will need to be on duty for the safe passages of the students at Ala Wai School;

5—the security detail that will need to lock and open chainlink gates at both ends of the bridge each night as the Ala Wai Park closes at 10 pm;

6—the additional fencing surrounding the bridge to keep out the houseless population and the maintenance crew to clean the area; and I'm sure many more hidden costs that will become burdensome to the C&C budget.

7—many park trees lost

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Laura Ruby

September 1, 2021

Laura Ruby—a resident of Moiliili for over 40 years.

Testimony Against the proposal and funding for the Ala Wai Canal Bridge and associated pedestrian and bicycle pathways.

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6—the additional fencing surrounding the bridge to keep out the houseless population and the maintenance crew to clean the area; and I'm sure many more hidden costs that will become burdensome to the C&C budget.

7—many park trees lost

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Laura Ruby

808 366-0847

[lruby@hawaii.edu](mailto:lruby@hawaii.edu)

Re: Response to the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act—Bridge over the Ala Wai Canal 9-3-2021 and 6E

September 5, 2021

Dear Suzanne Case,

The whole “20210902\_0300159\_Ala Wai Bridge\_Section 106 Effect Determination Letter” minimizes the intrusion of the bridge on the historic Ala Wai Canal. It is apparent at the outset that the Hawaii Federal-Aid Division (the letter writer writing on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration, in cooperation with the State of Hawai‘i Department of Transportation and the City and County of Honolulu’s Department of Transportation Services) is not fully informed or intentionally skirts the impacts on the historic Ala Wai Canal and Ala Wai Park.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (NHPA) requires that each federal agency identify and assess the effects its actions may have on historic sites and buildings. Under Section 106, each federal agency must consider public views and concerns about historic preservation issues when making final project decisions.

After an undertaking is identified, federal agency stakeholders should follow these (abbreviated) four steps to fulfill Section 106 requirements (I will address the lack of compliance with these four steps):

1. Consult with the appropriate members of the general public with an economic, social or cultural interest in the project.
2. Identify eligible and National Register of Historic Places historic properties that may be affected by the project.
3. Assess and consult to establish if stakeholders of the historic resources are adverse. to the project.
4. Resolve adverse effects by developing and evaluating alternatives that could avoid, minimize, or mitigate the project’s impacts on historic resources. The result of consultation may be a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), a legally binding document.

#### The Historical Nature and Characteristics of the Ala Wai Canal

Historical Ala Wai Canal is a waterway of professionally-dressed native blue stones (possibly quarried locally at the Mō‘ili‘ili Quarry). Capstones, as often seen on entry ways to Hawai‘i houses built in the 1920s surmount the Canal stair accesses. A portion of the bridge project will eclipse this masonry work.

#### Human Scale and Viewing Planes

I create large, interactive public sculptures. When creating the artwork and when teaching and lecturing, I stress the importance of understanding human scale and the importance of understanding the built environment’s relation to human scale. This bridge project is out-sized above and beyond the Canal’s environmental surroundings. People feel diminished by the over-built structure.

Further the bridge documents emphasize that both sides of the Canal have viewing planes but these are very narrowly defined. That is, the tower and bridge are disruptors of the wide panoramic views from all angles in the Canal, and in the surrounding park, school, and residential properties.

#### Bridge Bulwarks Intruding on the Historical Canal

The “*Makai Landing*” concrete bulwark located on the Waikīkī side of the Canal is planned to be approximately 12.5 feet high (two to three times the height of a person). Visualize the possible edifice when walking, riding a bicycle, or driving along Ala Wai Boulevard with the edifice blocking your view. There are no sight lines or viewing planes in this location. If switchbacks are designed for ADA compliance then the length of the concrete bulwark along Ala Wai Boulevard would be approximately 48 feet long, or the approximate length of a hook-and-ladder fire truck. Visualize this length of one hook-and-ladder fire truck blocking your view. If the switchbacks are spread out then the concrete bulwark extends to approximately 96 feet (two fire engines), or even to approximately 144 feet (three fire engines). The planners/designers appear to have tried to make this concrete bulwark stanchion have as small a footprint as possible to fit the limited space between Ala Wai Boulevard and the Canal itself. But the drawings show the bridge cantilevered over the Canal itself, thereby obscuring part of the historic masonry riprap of the Canal sides.

The “*Mauka Landing*” has the same 12.5 high elevation (two to three times the height of a person). And the *mauka* landing width (including a 20-foot bridge walkway and two 20-foot wide stanchion footprints) will be approximately 60 feet. The length of the bridge off- ramp will be approximately 150 feet for ADA purposes (a race path for skateboards and mopeds). The bridge is a disruptor in the “Eligible for the State and National Historic Registers” Ala Wai Park. This *mauka* huge concrete and earth bulwark, will block all park users’ sense of human scale and viewpoint perspective. All views will be blocked. The *mauka* side will also have a number of structural pylons, as well as the tower further obstruct the viewing planes. From a park-users, or street, or school, or community gardens, or canoe clubs *hālau* points of view, the challenged views will be through chain link fences necessary for safety or security from vagrants. The bridge appurtenances will dwarf the park users.

Passage from the Diamond Head side of the proposed bridge to the ‘Ewa side will mostly be blocked by the concrete wedge-shaped bulwark. To surmount the bridge incline, the rerouted park walk/bike path will have to extend at least 60 ADA feet on each side of the bridge. On each side of the bridge off-ramp huge earthworks/landfills will be needed for the inclined path. It will likely need the removal of now-mature trees. The entire bridge and its appurtenances intrude into the historical spaces of the Ala Wai Canal and the Ala Wai Park.

#### The Historic *Malia* Canoe

The Ala Wai Park *hālau* is *Malia*’s first permanently secure place. I believe that this site in the park was designed by the Frank Fasi administration (responsible for so many of Honolulu’s park developments), designed to give a permanent home to the historic cultural practice of canoe paddling. The FHWA incorrectly stated that because of earlier moves, the *Malia* has no

permanent home, but now, and into the future it has a home in the *hālau* in Ala Wai Park. (This canoe *hālau* is one of the oldest *hālau* on O‘ahu, though it will not be in the historical period for some years.)

Additionally, more of the park land will be taken for road access to parking, parking stalls relocation and playground relocation, and will severely cramp the canoe *hālau*. (During celebratory events or racing days, dozens of canoes are transported into the park on trailers needing parking space, and the canoes are laid out next to the grass next to the *hālau* canoes ready for paddling.) This disruption of the historical park will also block one of the gates to the historically eligible Ala Wai School extensively used as a drop-off or walk-in for students and their parents in the morning and afternoon.

Almost certainly, the 10 pm closing of all City & County parks will continue at historical Ala Wai Park. Necessitating secured gates on both sides of the Canal and security guard enforcement.

#### Limited Community Involvement and Lack of Community Consultation

I wrote/edited the book *Mō‘ili‘ili—The Life of a Community*. This is an extensive history of the Mō‘ili‘ili neighborhood including chapters on the lay of the land, the construction of the Ala Wai Canal, and park designations. At various times I have been asked to meet with planners/designers to provide my historical and community knowledge at the outset of the projects’ inception, but there was no such contact with this bridge project. There was a lack of community consultation.

Additionally, I have written 18 successful nominations for the State and National Historic Records. 3 other nominations have been approved for the State Historic Record and are pending at the National Park Service, and 3 nominations are in-progress.

Also, I am a stakeholder in the immediate Mō‘ili‘ili locale: I am an owner at Ala Wai Cove, 509 University Avenue. But, Ala Wai Cove was not listed in the bridge project’s assessments or documents. There was no consultation with the owners of this building. Additionally, the height of the tower exceeds the height of our building. And the width completely blocks our views of the ocean and Canal.

I am knowledgeable of Criteria A-D and the Integrity Classifications, and Ala Wai Cove is eligible under A and C as the first 10-story medium-rise FHA housing project built in the Mō‘ili‘ili area *makai* of Kapiolani Blvd. It fulfills the aspects or qualities of Location, Design, Setting, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling, and Association that are of primary importance in determining the integrity of this building’s nomination under Criteria A. The Ala Wai Cove building retains its Integrity of L, D, S, M, W, F, A. Overall the primary components of this building are largely intact.

The bridge project document title presented to satisfy Section 106 does not use the word *pono*. But all of the community publicity uses the *Ala Pono Bridge* title. When I suggested at a community meeting that *pono* was a disrespectful use of the Hawaiian word there was a noticeable gasp from audience members (The project managers involved in the meeting would have noticed.).

The mitigation Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is an afterthought. The prescriptive fixes are a minimal nod to possible artworks and historical displays–wallpaper. If this were a primary concern to the bridge project managers they would have used my book as a resource. These mitigation suggestions do not in any way ameliorate the encroachment on the historical Canal or Park, the displacement limiting people's park use or sight lines in the historical Ala Wai Canal or Ala Wai Park areas.

One last word, the *kōlea*–Pacific Golden Plover is on the list of protected birds in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Over the years, I have heard the birds in the evening call out using the Canal as a homing device when returning to our Moiliili parks and fields.

The Section 106 review process is an integral to the assessment of design and planning projects. This bridge project does not meet the Section 106 historical standards.

I will be glad to meet with you to discuss this project which is neither necessary nor urgent. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Laura Ruby  
808 366-0847  
[lruby@hawaii.edu](mailto:lruby@hawaii.edu)





## Written Testimony

Name Ave Wai Tung Kwok  
Phone (808) 398-6638  
Email [avekwok@gmail.com](mailto: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:

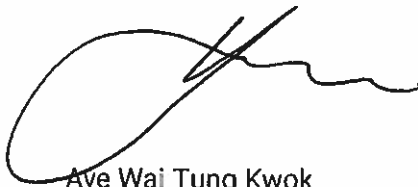
1. Graffiti and have to repaint: 4 times, **\$5,505.00**
2. Broken Entry Doors for Residential Units and replacement: 3 times, **\$11,000.00**
3. Broken Glass for Ground Floor and replacement, 2 times, **\$14000.00**  
(Tenant agreed to pay half)
4. Stolen Camera and replacement: 2 times, **\$1,200.00**
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

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**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

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**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.

Cindy 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.