

RES22-198
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 328

BUDGET

BUDGET Meeting

Meeting Date: Aug 24, 2022 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Venus Rosete-Medeiros	Email: venus@halekipa.org	Zip: 96706-1911
Representing: Hale Kipa, Inc.	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 22, 2022 @ 02:47 PM
Name: Zhizi Xiong	Email: alohadivinedesign@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 24, 2022 @ 08:57 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Dear Chair, vice chair & members of the committee,</p> <p>I testify in strong support of the resolution as a concerned citizen. This lease's location is in Ewa Beach and it will be through the organization Hale Kipa. Hale Kipa is a multi-service organization specializing in work with at-risk youth and their families. Hale Kipa provides opportunities and environments that strengthen and encourage youth, families and communities to realize their potential and social responsibility.</p> <p>Hale Kipa is currently licensed as a child-placing agency by the DHS Department of Human Services. A child placement agency is a service provider for child welfare. A child placing agency removes a child from the home and places it in foster care. It is important to support organizations like Hale Kipa.</p> <p>For organizations like Hale Kipa to get multiple leases to service special needs clients not only helps the state & city to service the most vulnerable of our society, but it also enhances the quality of social services to be provided. We often look at policy & law as a means to regulate something. But when a resolution or legislation is drafted to provide something for the people, with an understanding and compassionate heart towards all people, perhaps it is then that it is aligned with the Hawaii constitution which governs us.</p>		



August 22, 2022

The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair and Presiding Officer
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of Resolution 22-198

Aloha Chair Waters and members of the Honolulu City Council,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Hale Kipa, Inc., in strong support of Resolution 22-198. Since 2002, Hale Kipa has leased the City's Special Needs Housing site at 95-1015 Maka'aloa Street in West Loch Fairways. We seek to renew this lease with the City & County of Honolulu to continue to provide housing and a skill-building program to young men, ages 18-22, transitioning out of homelessness. We screen all potential residents and rule out those who are in psychiatric crisis. Placements are voluntary. Those who enter the program agree to abide by program rules and expectations, which include continuing their education or locating employment. Hale Kipa employs a Live-In Resident Advisor who is there evenings, overnights, and most of the weekend days. A Case Manager works with the residents on a weekly basis. Hale Kipa's Facilities Manager ensures that the home is kept in good repair.

Founded in 1970, Hale Kipa has focused on the needs of children and youth and has grown from its humble beginnings as an emergency shelter for females on Oahu to become a statewide, nationally accredited agency with 20 programs responsive to the ongoing needs of Hawaii's high-risk youth and young adults, ages 5-27, and their families. Hale Kipa's vision is that youth and families will be able to thrive at their fullest potential while being socially responsible humans; its mission is to *provide opportunities and environments that strengthen and encourage youth, their families, and communities to actualize their potential and social responsibility*. We accomplish this through a

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Executive Staff

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Jaquie Kelley-Uyeoka, Deputy CEO
Gwen Okamoto, CFO
Dori Tyau, Director of HR & Training
Tracy Janowicz, CAO
Ellen Wright, CPD & Clinical Supervisor
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Neighbor Island Liaison





HALE KIPA

program continuum that includes street outreach, intensive mentoring, independent living, foster care, intensive in-home, shelter, sex trafficking prevention and others. While much of our programming responds to the needs of higher-risk youth in the juvenile justice, child welfare, and child and adolescent mental health systems, many efforts are focused on prevention of system involvement or reaching out to the 'abandoned' youth. Our purpose is to 'catch' youth whenever we meet them to assist them rediscover their strengths, realign their trajectory, identify dreams and goals, and assist them on the path to healing and success.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any further questions, comments, and/or concerns at (808) 589-1829 x100 or via email at venus@halekipa.org. We sincerely appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Mahalo,

Venus Kau'iokawēkiu Rosete-Medeiros
Chief Executive Officer