

BILL056(22)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 477

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Nov 2, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 9

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name: Krystal Shon	Email: Krystal.Shon@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 31, 2022 @ 10:10 PM
Testimony: I approve Bill 56 to give homeowners more flexibility in regards to exemptions on permitting for minor repairs.		
Name: Jessica Chiam	Email: jessica.chiam@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 1, 2022 @ 10:21 AM
Testimony: I support this bill.		
Name: Aaron Chiam	Email: Aaron.Chiam@Yahoo.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 1, 2022 @ 10:32 AM
Testimony: I support this bill in its entirety.		
Name: Mark Rodden	Email: rodde101@outlook.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 1, 2022 @ 12:34 PM
Testimony: I support Bill 56(22) and Andria's effort to relieve some of the burden which is weighing down the permitting process. Can the Council also update us/the public as to what other efforts are being implemented at DPP? For example, are new hires being completed within the three-month timeline the administration put in place versus the six month process it currently takes for onboarding?		
Name: Ma Consuelo Nieva	Email: mconsuelonieva@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 1, 2022 @ 02:15 PM
Testimony: I support this bill!		
Name: Alyssa Pang	Email: alyssamarielang@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 1, 2022 @ 09:24 PM
Testimony: Government to should limit regulations on private homes, I support this bill!		
Name: Yang Yao	Email: yyao2008@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 1, 2022 @ 10:16 PM
Testimony: Please pass Bill 56 CD1. Thank you Councilwoman Tupola for coming up with this much needed bill to help all of us. This bill needs to pass ASAP to provide residents who have been waiting for months to a year for a permit for a simple renovation. It helps reducing DPP's workload too.		

Name: Stefanie Sakamoto	Email: ssakamoto@imanaka-asato.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: BIA Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 2, 2022 @ 07:42 AM
Testimony: BIA Hawaii is in strong support of this measure, and looks forward to the discussion in Committee. Mahalo.		
Name: Ted Kefalas	Email: tkefalas@grassrootinstitute.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Nov 2, 2022 @ 07:49 AM
Name: Dylan Armstrong	Email: dylan.p.armstrong@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 2, 2022 @ 07:51 AM
Testimony: Aloha to Honolulu City Chair Waters, and aloha to the honorable members of the Honolulu City Council: I support Bill 56, which would amend Section 13-3.1 of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, in the section dealing with building permit exemptions. This measure would remove the requirement for a building permit at a \$5,000 threshold for existing structural component replacements of a "similar material." Thank you for your consideration. Best, DPA		



November 2, 2022

10 a.m.

Honolulu City Council Chamber and Videoconference

To: Honolulu City Council

Tommy Waters, Chair

Esther Kia'aina, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: BILL 56 (2022), CD1 — RELATING TO PERMITS REQUIRED.

Comments Only

Dear Chair and Council Members:

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer comments on [Bill 56 \(2022\), CD1](#), which would allow Honolulu County residents greater freedom to repair their homes without obtaining a building permit.

As the Council is aware, the Honolulu County Department of Planning and Permitting faces a backlog of more than 8,000 permits.

This year, on average, the DPP has taken more than 200 days to issue residential permits, and more than 500 days to issue commercial permits.¹

Those numbers are staggering on their own, but they also represent a real human cost.

There is no way to quantify the harm this permit backlog has inflicted, but there is no doubt that fewer kitchens have been remodeled, fewer windows installed and fewer home projects in general initiated because of the delays.

¹ Christina Jedra, "[Efforts To Reform Honolulu's Troubled Permitting Office Face An Uphill Battle. Here's Why.](#)" Honolulu Civil Beat, Oct. 23, 2022.

For construction contractors and workers, the delays have meant a loss of business and a loss of jobs because their customers — businesses and homeowners — did not receive their building permits in a timely manner.

Making matters worse, the costs of the permit delays are being aggravated by snowballing inflation. Businesses and homeowners wanting to renovate their property have seen building material prices skyrocket this year, and labor costs have increased substantially, too.

That is why the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii welcomes Bill 56 as a way to speed up home renovations, make our economy more efficient and get people back to work.

As drafted, Bill 56 would remove the requirement that homeowners obtain permits for repairs costing more than \$5,000 a year. This outdated, arbitrary figure unjustifiably limits homeowners' private property rights and raises the time and cost to complete home repairs.

The \$5,000 figure would be replaced by language allowing homeowners to do basic maintenance on their own homes without a permit.

Such maintenance would include projects “that involve only the replacement of component parts of existing work with similar materials for the purpose of maintenance, without limit as to valuation.”²

In real terms, that means Honolulu County residents could replace their flooring without having to wait 200 days and pay hundreds of dollars of fees for a permit.

Bill 56 would also make it easier to perform basic maintenance and repairs, such as fence repair, painting, countertop replacement and other “interior remodeling that does not affect building square footage or the number of bedrooms or bathrooms.”³

These reforms would all make it simpler for families to repair and renovate their homes.

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii believes this measure would be a good first step toward reforming Honolulu County's beleaguered permitting process, restoring great respect for private property rights and lowering the cost of owning a home.

We wish you all the best in seeing this bill to fruition.

² [HI Bill 56 \(2022\), CD1](#), p. 2.

³ Ibid.

If there is anything we can do to help you in your deliberations, please feel free to reach out to us.

Thank you for your consideration, and aloha.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii