

BILL011(23)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 137

BUDGET (BUD)

BUDGET (BUD) Meeting

Meeting Date: Mar 30, 2023 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name: Karen Radius	Email: karenradius@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Surfrider Spirit Sessions	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 29, 2023 @ 11:12 AM

Testimony:

I am a retired Family Court Judge and the President of the Board of Directors of Surfrider Spirit Sessions, a grass-roots community driven non profit that pairs at risk boys and girls with healthy volunteer mentors. We teach the youth to surf but even more importantly use surf, the ocean environment and Hawaiian culture as a hook to get kids involved and introduce them to valuable life lessons. We have also expanded our community service reach and extended school break opportunities. See our website at www.surferspirit.org. Our kids are facing serious challenges in school, home and community. Watching them realize their own strengths and potential and seeing their horizons expand is a blessing for them and for our community at large.

We are named as a GIA grant recipient for FY23-24. We appreciate the work of the GIA Advisory Commission in reviewing the numerous applications they received from many organizations. We highly support their decision to include Surfrider Spirit Sessions as an approved grantee. We welcome council members and /or their staff to stop by the beach and meet us and our great staff, volunteer mentors and kids. Our thanks also to the Council members as they review the entire City budget and all its components and complexities.

Name: Meta Dunn	Email: meta@surferspirit.org	Zip: 96734
Representing: Surfrider Spirit Sessions	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Mar 29, 2023 @ 08:46 PM

Testimony:

We would like to thank the Grants In Aid Advisory Commission for your work in reviewing all of the proposals that came in for the FY24 Grants In Aid funding cycle and the recommendations you made to the City Council in regards to the submitted proposals. As part of the Tier 2, Public Service - Youth category for the Grants In Aid FY 2024 cycle, Surfrider Spirit Sessions (SSS) requested funding to continue our 8-week Spirit Surf Programs and expand our reach through additional out of school time options and monthly activities. Our proposal has been included in the recommendations, for which we are truly grateful.

Since 2006, we have been dedicated to building healthy communities by supporting adjudicated youth and youth facing barriers through holistic, ocean-based mentoring programs, experiential ina-based awareness education and cultural activities.

SSS works with adjudicated and at risk youth ages 13-18 to provide an uplifting space for youth to focus on values & behaviors that are healthy and to connect them to the land, the culture, & other adults and youth who will support them on a positive path.

We currently do this through

8 week surf mentoring

Community days

Jr Mentor program

Additional funding through the Grants In Aid program will allow us not only to continue this important work, but also to expand our services so that we can continue to create safe spaces for youth to feel heard, to connect, and to be able to express themselves without judgment. This work is instrumental in boosting youth's self image, building resiliency, making healthy decisions, and reducing incidences of truancy, recidivism, substance abuse, acts of aggression, depression and anxiety.

Again, we thank you for your recommendation of our GIA application to ensure that these vital programs are able to continue.

Should you want to learn more about our work, please visit our website at www.surferspirit.org or contact me at meta@surferspirit.org or 808.554.8805.

Sincerely,

Meta Dunn

Executive Director

Name: Racquel Achiu	Email: rhachiu@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 30, 2023 @ 07:20 AM

Testimony:

Aloha, my name is Racquel Achiu, North Shore. I am in support of Bill 10, specifically amendments relating to Emergency Services/Ocean Safety addition of 16 positions and funding for salaries to implement the extended lifeguard services known as 4/10's from Dawn to Dusk as currently required under Chapter 2 Article 9 Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2001. This effort is

especially significant for our Tower Guards at various locations throughout the Island. Mahalo