

BILL010(23)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 139

BUDGET (BUD)

BUDGET (BUD) Meeting

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

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Gregory Lui-Kwan	Email: gluikwan@gmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Gregory L. Lui-Kwan AAL LLLC	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 29, 2023 @ 10:11 PM

*Gregory L. Lui-Kwan
925 Uwao Street St.
Honolulu, HI
gluikwan@gmail.com
(808) 225-7677*

March 29, 2023

Re: GIA Funding for Surfrider Spirit Sessions; D-0176 (23)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the City and County of Honolulu Budget allocation to Surfrider Spirit Sessions Grant in Aid for FY23-24.

As a volunteer mentor with Surfrider Spirit Session for eight years, I have seen first-hand the positive effect that our program has had on disadvantaged and at-risk youth. Many of the young people we mentor have lost one or both parents through death through military service, car accidents or natural causes, abandonment, or loss of parental custody because of drug addiction or prison.

The youth in our program benefit from the varied life experiences that our dedicated volunteer mentors have to share. Our current mentor group includes lawyers, social workers, MSW Interns, high school counselors, contractors, PhD physical therapists, RNs, probation officers and State Judiciary employees.

The eight-week training program that Surfrider Spirit Sessions provides is very effective in reaching the youth whom we serve. The level of enthusiasm among the mentors and mentees is high. The atmosphere is unintimidating. The quality and range of topics in group discussion promote a healthy self-image and a respect for others and the environment. The one-to-one contact with our adult mentors, which is lacking in the home life of some of our youth, may very well make the difference as to whether a youngster becomes a productive member of society or becomes an individual lacking in civic, moral and spiritual direction.

I am proud to recommend Surfrider Spirit Sessions for this vital funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Gregory L. Lui-Kwan', written over a horizontal line.

Gregory L. Lui-Kwan