

BILL012(23)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 232

BUDGET (BUD)

BUDGET (BUD) Meeting

Meeting Date: May 15, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 0

Oppose: 1

I wish to comment: 1

Name: Alexander Gaos	Email: agaos808@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Ewa Neighborhood Board #23	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 11, 2023 @ 02:11 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>Please receive a cordial greeting on behalf of myself and the Ewa Beach Community. As a current member of the Ewa Neighborhood Board #23 and having served in this role (and as co-Chair) for several years, I respectfully draw your attention to a Capital Improvement Project included in Agenda Item Bill 12 that addresses much needed improvements to Oneula Beach Park in Ewa Beach.</p> <p>Given its size, beautiful white-sand beaches, and unparalleled views of the south shore of Oahu and Diamond Head, Oneula Beach Park has the potential to be a world-class park and the gem of Ewa Beach. Nonetheless, the park remains severely underdeveloped and virtually none of the infrastructure projects outlined in the park's 2001 Master Plan have been initiated. The explosive population growth experienced in Ewa Beach over the past two decades has increased the urgent need to improve infrastructure and amenities at the site. Public beach areas are extremely limited in Ewa Beach is the burgeoning residential population is disparate for quality marine recreation areas.</p> <p>Although CIP projects focused on multiple infrastructure improvements to Oneula Beach Park have been pursued in the past, such an approach has been overly-ambitious and thus largely unsuccessful. During a recent meeting attended by City Councilmember Andria Tupola, Hawaii State Representative David Alcos, Department of Parks and Recreation Deputy Director Khaulani Puu, community members, and others, it was agreed that a more step-by-step approach would be prudent as individual improvement components are more likely to be supported and executed within a reasonable time frame.</p> <p>It was jointly agreed that the priority one project would be to design and develop a comfort station (i.e., restroom facility) in the central area of the park. This area is by far the most utilized portion of the park and currently does not have any permanent bathroom infrastructure in the area.</p> <p>The CIP funds being requested for Oneula Beach Park within Bill 12 are to advance the design and development of this comfort station, which would be a major first-step in achieving the Oneula Beach Park we all envision and which could be a major attraction for the area. Given Ewa is the fastest growing area in the State of Hawaii and has also recently included developments such as the Wai Kai wavepool and associated restaurants (adjacent to Oneula Beach Park), improving Oneula Beach Park is a logical move on behalf of the state. Doing so would also be an important step to improve the lives of keiki and kupuna in a portion of Oahu that has traditionally been marginalized, thus would promote equity across our island home.</p> <p>On behalf of myself and my community, I strongly ask you to support this project and urge the release of funds once the project has been approved.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>Alexander R. Gaos, PhD Member Ewa Neighborhood Board #23</p>		
Name: Jacque Fukunaga-Kaneshiro	Email: jsbrm@yahoo.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 14, 2023 @ 04:12 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Please do not approve the pay raises for city council. It is a ridiculous amount that should make you all feel horrible. I can see a 2-5% increase over 5 years. With your constituents out there living paycheck to paycheck, this is a major slap in the face. Any council member that votes in favor will likely never be re-elected.</p> <p>The mayor does not deserve a raise either, look at his current salary, it's already extremely high and he really hasn't done</p>		

anything for us, except try to ban law abiding citizens with conceal carry, from carrying in certain areas with signs. Hello! Only law abiding citizens will obey signs! Now the non-law abiding citizens know where they'll be safe! Sorry off track, Besides his base pay look at all the benefits he also receives. There are so many other ways to spend the money.

Take care of the homeless situation first. How?

1. Have shelters available.
2. Enforce park rules and regulations and other regular city laws pertaining to trash, tent, bikes etc.
3. Enforce the laws everyday. As soon as you clear away an area there needs to be constant enforcement to deter homeless from setting up again.
4. This should force or encourage them to go to the shelters.
5. Drug treatment, work skills training and mental health are necessary as well.

This is a decades long plan with multiple agency cooperation, but absolutely necessary.

Mahalo. Again NO raises for city council or mayor. Ridiculous amount.