

**BILL011(23)**  
**Testimony**

**MISC. COMM. 233**

BUDGET (BUD)

## **BUDGET (BUD) Meeting**

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

Support: 4

Oppose: 12

I wish to comment: 1

Name: Stephanie Kendrick	Email: skendrick@hawaiianhumane.org	Zip: 96826
Representing: Hawaiian Humane Society	Position: Support	Submitted: May 11, 2023 @ 03:20 PM

  

Name: Quinn Vittum	Email: quinn@reusehawaii.org	Zip: 96816
Representing: Re-use Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: May 12, 2023 @ 03:58 PM

  

Name: Lena Haapala	Email: lenasfabbrows@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Kokonut Coalition 501(c)3	Position: Support	Submitted: May 12, 2023 @ 07:16 PM

  

Testimony:

To: CM Radiant Cordero, Chair of Budget Committee,

My name is Lena Haapala and I am the President of the Kokonut Coalition. As you know myself, the Kokonut Coalition board members and volunteers have been maintaining the Koko Crater Tramway. We have organized hundreds of community volunteers to help us maintain and restore the stairs for the past several years.

With our public/private partnership with the City, we feel that it's in our best interest to continue maintaining the tramway.

Board members and volunteers consistently do weekly maintenance on the trail to keep it safe for our community and our visitors. We also cut HFD rescues in half with our improvements.

Continued funding with help from the City and donors is a huge part of our success.

The Kokonut Coalition supports the \$140k amendment to continue maintaining the stairs. We support the Chair's recommendation to put the appropriation in the operating budget.

On a personal note: I would like to add a huge Mahalo for your support through this project. You have no idea how much this all means to me/us!

Mahalo,  
Lena Haapala  
President, Kokonut Coalition

  

Name: Joseph Mocarski	Email: strafe@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Kokonut Coalition	Position: Support	Submitted: May 12, 2023 @ 08:04 PM

  

Testimony:

To: CM Radiant Cordero, Chair of Budget Committee,

In 2019 the Kokonut Coalition entered into a public/private relationship to repair the Koko Crater Tram, affectionately known as the "Stairs" by hiking enthusiasts. What we didn't realize at the time was it turning into the largest partnership of its kind in the states history. Coalition members, visitors and locals alike believe it would be in all our best interests to continue to fund this iconic location with an eye on the future.

This continuity of funding will allow us to continue to maintain and improve the safety of the stairs themselves, purchase supplies and maintain the support facility all at extremely low cost to the state due to our vast number of enthusiastic volunteers who use the facility to maintain their health and wellbeing while enjoying the outdoor and stunning icon views of our islands.

As a Board of Director I would like to thank the Committee for considering continued funding for this stunning project. We have

just begun and with your support you will continue to see improvements to the "stairs" in the upcoming fiscal year and hopefully beyond.

The Kokonut Coalition supports the \$140k amendment to continue maintaining the stairs. We support the Chair's recommendation to put the appropriation in the operating budget.

Thank you,  
Joseph J Mocarski

Name: Suzanne Alawa	Email: sue.alawa@gmail.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 13, 2023 @ 01:07 PM

Testimony:

How does a newly elected mayor (my extreme regret) justify such an obscene raise for himself or the city directors given the overall condition of this city? Raises are granted for jobs well done, and extreme raises are only offered when one goes above and beyond, and this is clearly NOT a case of anything going above and beyond except the horrific expense overruns and the abysmal state of the city. Evidently, many in this group think that such raises are deserved and big congratulations are in order. How is it that no one has asked the taxpayers in this city if THEY think such excessive raises have been or ever can be earned given the state of this city? Nothing can justify such raises in they eyes of those who PAY your salaries and suffer the shortcomings on a daily basis. Have any of you driven through Kakaako lately? How about Kalakaua, or any of the streets in the worst condition I have seen in 52 years. Are any of you aware of the struggles that the taxpayers in this city are experiencing daily? I think not. I wholly oppose this bill and the lack of realistic justification behind it. This bill defies reason.

Name: CAROL Williams	Email: Overtaxed808@gmail.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 13, 2023 @ 10:25 PM

Testimony:

I strongly oppose the City Leaders pay raises. You people appointed the salary commissioners therefore, their "recommendation" seems scandalous and this is why we have lost faith in Hawaii's government, WE NO LONGER TRUST PUBLIC SERVANTS and FEEL BETRAYED by the past ones who only gave us LIP SERVICE TO FUND THEIR WEALTH AND THEIR OWN WELFARE. This is so demoralizing.

IT IS SHAMEFUL to even CONSIDER ACCEPTING THAT MUCH OF OUR TAX DOLLARS from the struggling people of Hawai'i. Your great position of power should not be based on your personal welfare. You campaigned to serve the people of Hawaii, NOT to serve yourself.

It's disheartening that majority of the kama'ainas can no longer keep up with the over inflated cost of life, everything is beyond affordable! Our community is no longer peaceful or safe for ourselves, our kupunas, keikis, and it does not look bright our future 'ohana generation. What progress has been made in 6 months of work?

How can you and your directors accept this unjustifiable pay raise and that much tax dollars when you know anything over 5% will hurt us. REFOCUS AND DO THE RIGHT THING.

Name: Jacque Fukunaga-Kaneshiro	Email: jsbrm@yahoo.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 14, 2023 @ 04:12 AM

Testimony:

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.

The mayor does not deserve a raise either, look at his current salary, it's already extremely high and he really hasn't done

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.

Name: Lokalia Kaneshiro	Email: lokalia.kaneshiro@yahoo.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 14, 2023 @ 04:15 AM

Testimony:

Until last night full time teachers were the lowest paid in the nation. There was little reward for the teachers of merit who had worked full time for years just to get a raise spread over a period of years. Yes I am aware that they are State employees and our council members are City employees but honestly teachers on the neighbor islands pay more for gas and food than those on Oahu. There was no adjustment for their added cost. I am appalled that one official said that the council member raises were "only 1 percent of the City budget". Wouldn't we all like raises that equal 1% of Honolulu's operating budget! Justifications fall flat in the face of inflation, businesses closing, higher property taxes and slow return of Japanese tourism. Show me what you have accomplished this year before you ask for a raise. We all work longer hours than we expected and some do it 7 days a week just to keep food on the table. Shame!

Name: Carol Pohina	Email: capohina@yahoo.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 14, 2023 @ 11:29 AM

Testimony:

I oppose any pay increase over 4 or 5% as the other 60% short fall would put more hardship on the public. These are elected officials who volunteered to work for the people. Some of which have not done anything to warrant a raise. I do feel the coroner deserves a raise, not sure it should be 60%. Please understand we all work hard to get raises. It should Not be given lightly or freely. Mahalo piha for reading my concerns.

Name: Walter Miske	Email: wchuckm1@yahoo.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 14, 2023 @ 07:25 PM

Testimony:

Look at what the teachers got compared to what you will get. I oppose this raise.

Name: William Sims	Email: Simshawaii@gmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 14, 2023 @ 09:46 PM

Testimony:

I oppose the excessive pay raise for city officials. The pay should not exceed five percent

Name: Elena Jones	Email: elenaj1966@outlook.com	Zip: 96782
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Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 14, 2023 @ 10:31 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Council Members:</p> <p>Please faithfully discharge the duties of your office regardless of personal considerations and put resolutions 23-081 and 23-082 on the council's agenda to be voted on by each council member. The public interest should always be your primary concern. Moreover, the public deserves the right to know where each of you stands.</p> <p>The Salary Commission has done a great disservice to the public when it voted for excessive pay salaries. The public has to pay for these unwarranted raises for the mayor and other top-paying city employees by paying more taxes and fees or by sacrificing funding for public services and programs. This is not the time for raises when the public is struggling to make ends meet with higher food costs and increased property taxes etc.</p> <p>By amending the bill to remove an increase in salaries, these savings could be used for the benefit of the public such as basic public services that have been lacking. For example, keeping our streets clean by removing trash/ bulk items and cutting the weeds. The city has neglected these two basic services. There are so many other public uses for this money instead of paying for raises that benefit only the individual.</p> <p>Benefits and perks of the job etc. were not included as compensation when determining raises. In addition, the salary commission only decides whether or not a raise should be given and how much it will give. It does not offer job analysis or examine job performance, nor does it offer solutions to resolve pay inversions or address the widening pay gap between the least and highest-paid employees. I believe that pay inversions can be prevented not only by increasing salaries but, preferably by establishing salary caps, changing job descriptions and duties, and by abolishing jobs.</p> <p>I believe that the salaries of the city's top-paying employees are overinflated and should be kept in check. Salaries for hard-to-fill positions that require specialized skills and training should be paid more but those positions should be analyzed individually in order to make an adequate assessment.</p> <p>I would like to note that the mayor is currently being paid about \$20k more than the governor of the state of Hawaii. A raise will increase that gap to more than \$43k.</p> <p>Please amend the Bill to remove salary increases or include resolutions 23-081 and 23-082 on the Council's Agenda.</p> <p>Mahalo for your consideration,</p> <p>Elena Jones</p>		
Name: Clyde Hashimoto	Email: chashimoto@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96818-5334
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 14, 2023 @ 11:10 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I do not agree with the excessive proposed raise. I will not vote for any person that accepts this raise. Even if this means voting Republican.</p>		
Name: Karem McLeod	Email: looli79@gmail.com	Zip: 96814
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 15, 2023 @ 01:14 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>NO for raises. You work for city/state/federal = lesser pay than private sector with better benefits. I work in the private sector and our benefits are mediocre and you still make more \$ than me; I have a master's degree.</p> <p>Take a 5% pay increase max, which is lucky in the private sector. Learn to live with that wage and then maybe you might learn/negotiate/enact more common sense laws, living on a typical wage in Hawaii. If you want a 50-75% increase in your salary,</p>		

justify it to the city/state voters and allow us to determine if what you do for the people deserves you the right for such a high increase in pay which benefits are based and you will continue to reap the rewards once you leave office. Auwe to you and your lack of sense. Who doesn't think their work is worth more but very few are able to vote for themselves to get such an increase.

Name: Tracy Yuan	Email: ylte27@yahoo.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 15, 2023 @ 07:59 AM

Testimony:  
I believe that taxpayer money should be allocated elsewhere than to these salary raises that are unreasonably high. I think that raises for our public officials are okay, but the rates currently proposed are not ones I agree with - especially when there is a long list of other things the money could be used for to support the people of Hawaii. Since our taxpayer money would be paying for these ridiculous raises for the foreseeable future, my opinion is that putting this bill up for vote by the public is the best thing to do.

Name: didi leong	Email: didi.devyani@gmail.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 15, 2023 @ 08:52 AM

Testimony:  
These pay raises will hurt us, our kupunas, our keikis, and our future Ohana generations for many, many years to come.

Name: Ron Mata	Email: rcmata@twc.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 15, 2023 @ 08:56 AM

Testimony:  
Aloha Honolulu City Council Members,  
I am adamantly against the bill to raise the Mayor's salary and others in this bill.  
It should be re-negotiated to a "reasonable" pay raise, not something that puts our  
"elected city officials" and others way above what they should have.  
Mahalo,  
Ron Mata, a Lifetime Voter



## Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
808.356.2200 • [HawaiianHumane.org](http://HawaiianHumane.org)

Date: May 11, 2023

To: Chair Radiant Cordero  
Vice Chair Matt Weyer  
and Members of the Committee on Budget

Submitted By: Steph Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Support for Bill 11, CD1, and proposed amendments,  
Relating to the Executive Operating Budget for FY2024  
Monday, May 15, 10 a.m., City Council Chamber

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Aloha Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Weyer and Committee Members,

The Hawaiian Humane Society is in strong support of the amendments to Bill 11, CD1, proposed by Council Chair Tommy Waters and Budget Chair Cordero.

We appreciate the Council's careful review of the City and County of Honolulu's funding priorities. Restoring the administration's budget request for the Department of Customer Services Motor Vehicle, Licensing and Permits division will enable more robust access to animal services for the communities of Central and West O'ahu. We are grateful for the City's support of Hawaiian Humane's historic expansion to two campuses with the opening of a new animal shelter in 'Ewa Beach this very weekend on May 20.

The proposed amendments also support a budget request that increases the funding for the veterinary clinics that provide low and no-fee spay/neuter services for owned animals and Free-Roaming cats. We appreciate that the administration and the Council recognize that it is the best interests of our community to humanely reduce unplanned pet breeding, as well as the number of cats living outdoors.

We urge the Council to pass Bill 11 with the proposed amendments to support the work done by the Hawaiian Humane Society as the City's animal services contractor, as well as the other vital functions of City government funded by this measure. Mahalo for your consideration.

**May 12, 2023**



**Honolulu City Council  
Committee on Budget**

**RE: Operating Budget amendment (Bill 11, proposed CD2)**

Aloha Chair Cordero and members of the committee,

Re-use Hawai'i is a non-profit organization working to create a long-term solution to Hawai'i's waste management challenges by diverting building materials from the landfill and (re)cultivating a circular economy in Hawai'i.

We strongly support the proposed budget amendment related to a pilot program at the Kapa'a Quarry Transfer Station to collect and redistribute reusable construction materials and household items (page 72). Diverting material from transfer stations is a proven method of reducing waste and cultivating a circular economy for our community.

Forty-two percent of our waste stream is construction and demolition materials. Much of this material can be reused and recycled. Keeping material in use provides the following benefits:

- Reduces our reliance on landfills
- Generates a low-cost community resource
- Reduces carbon emissions by avoiding the extraction, manufacturing, and shipping associated with the creation of new products

Re-use Hawai'i is interested in providing a proposal to operate the collection site. We are prepared to collect data and provide a report on the tonnage diverted, donor engagement, and other metrics of success.

We strongly support this budget amendment and look forward to being a resource for this initiative.

Mahalo nui loa,

Quinn Vittum  
Executive Director  
Re-use Hawai'i