

RES23-114
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 302

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Jun 7, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 68

Oppose: 1

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Kalani Werner	Email: kkaimuloa@upwhawaii.org	Zip: 96817
Representing: United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 5, 2023 @ 03:56 PM

Name: James Cooper	Email: h30resq@hotmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 5, 2023 @ 08:41 PM

Testimony:

Aloha my name is James Cooper I work for C&C of Honolulu Ocean Safety as WSO II (lifeguard) in Dist 1 Waikiki. I strongly urge you to support and approve the THP resolution. During the pandemic ocean safety personnel continued to do their daily duties of safe guarding Oahu beaches. We are essential workers and our lives were not put on hold. We continued to do our job facing the unknown putting ourselves and our families at risk of getting COVID. Some ocean safety personnel did get COVID during this time period. As well as possibly infecting other people/coworkers. Yes Hawaii was on lockdown then Hawaii wasn't on lockdown. As soon as the lockdown was lifted and people were let back in to Hawaii the COVID infections went on the rise! Who were some of the people who worked the front lines during this time dealing with Hawaiis tourists? You got it, Ocean Safety (Lifeguards)! Coming in close contact with people on the daily, answering questions, handing out bandaids first aide supplies, performing rescues not to mention advanced lifesaving procedures such as CPR. Let me correct myself by saying this not just tourists but locals and hawaiiis homeless population! Consider this scenario: someone gets injured out in the ocean surfing. Lifeguard jumps into action to respond. The lifeguard can't put on PPE to protect himself/herself! That doesn't work padding out into the surf! The lifeguard paddles out on the rescue board reaches the injured person to find the patient with a bleeding head injury and unconscious. The lifeguard paddles the patient back to shore while the patient is bleeding all over the place. While padding in the patient stops breathing. Lifeguard gets patient to shore and begins CPR as well as being assisted by other Ocean Safety personnel. Once on shore the lifeguard can now put on SOME sort of protective equipment but still it's minimal at best! Patient is then transferred to EMS officials. Find out later through the chain of command that the patient was COVID positive. Tell me what should or what was that responding lifeguard to do? This is not something that is was only done during the pandemic this is something that ocean safety has always done and will continue to always do! That is trying our best to save someone else's life even though we maybe risking our own life to do so. By doing this job during the pandemic ocean safety personnel worked in a hazardous environment daily not just putting themselves at risk but also putting their own families at risk with the unknown. I myself took extra precautions when returning home from work trying to keep myself and work uniforms / equipment etc far from family. I heard of other people having to take more extreme measures not even being able to live with their family for fear of the unknown... Once again I urge you to please support the resolution granting THP to the C&C of Honolulu. Follow in the footsteps of Maui County. I don't see how one county in this state can be granted this and yet another county be denied. Everyone in the sate of Hawaii who worked for the C&C basically did the same job during the pandemic! So what's good for the goose is good for the gander.

Name: Jim Hayden	Email: zombies@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 05:07 AM

Testimony:

Greetings,

By way of disclosure, I am an HGEA member; and I stand to benefit financially from an equitable resolution of a temporary hazard pay class grievance. I'm submitting this testimony as a private citizen.

I urge the council to advocate for a timely resolution in this matter. Council Member Waters is making a compelling argument to use the appropriate funds for their intended purpose. It simply doesn't make sense to prolong the dispute through an arbitration process if the net result is going to be a lapse in federal funds and additional frustration for public workers, recent retirees, and our families.

I am grateful that this is being given due consideration by both the council and the executive branch; and on behalf of all of the city workers who do qualify for temporary hazard pay I thank you for your support.

Mahalo,
Jim Hayden

Name:	Email:	Zip:
-------	--------	------

Kaiulani Bowers	oceanbeandip@yahoo.com	96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 07:45 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>My name is Kaiulani and I have been protecting the community and visitors at Oahus beaches as a lifeguard for 15years. During 2021 to 2022 the world suffered greatly when the COVID pandemic hit. Everything was shut down and people were absolutely terrified, so much so that even going to buy groceries was considered dangerous. At the time the risks in public were considered extreme. Yet myself and other first responders knowing that we could get sick or even worse possibly bring home the sickness to loved ones had a job to do, serve our community. Each day all of us had fear coming into work and throughout our shift. But we needed to be there to serve. I urge the City to grant temporary hazard pay for those of us who risked our lives in these uncertain times.</p> <p>Mahalo</p>		
Name: Dylan Gleed	Email: dgleed@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96815
Representing: C&C Ocean safety department	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 08:06 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>I would like to express my support in providing the eligible city and county of Honolulu essential workers with hazard pay from the the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Being an essential worker during the pandemic was not only physically taxing on myself and coworkers being a first responder , but mentally devastating having to deal with the possibility of getting sick from the coronavirus and bringing it home to our familys unknowingly. Day in and day out we were on the front line serving the public when no one else would show up. As our job as water safety officers in OSD(ocean safety department) we especially had giant risks of falling I'll due to having to rescue and come into close contact with patients during water rescues where we were unable to don the correct PPE due to personal risk of danger.</p> <p>Please approve this resolution to approve hazard pay for all city and county essential workers especially all of our first responders who pay their lives down everyday as public servants!</p>		
Name: Kawika Kanaha	Email: 8krypt0nyte8.76@gmail.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 08:34 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I do not understand how you can deny these extraordinary human beings of their rights and pay!!! These people are called lifeguards and they should be given hazardous pay on a daily bases let alone during the pandemic!!!! Give these lifeguards what they were promised and deserves!!!!</p>		
Name: Steven Hong	Email: piipumehanaokalani@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 08:34 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I worked as a lifeguard at beach on the east side of the island it was pretty nuts back then when Covid restrictions were you couldn't sit on the beach and you could only walk I remember police patrols on ATVS all day to insure that the rules were followed .I risk my health and safety for the public and the only place people could really go was the beach so I hope you can approve the Covid funds</p>		
Name: Kauanui Sabas	Email: ksabas@hgea.org	Zip: 96813

Representing: Hawaii Government Employee Association	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 08:41 AM
Name: Alex Ferencz	Email: aferencznj@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 08:44 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I'm in support of the hazard pay for essential employees who maintained thier duties during uncertain times. These workers and associated job duties were considered "essential" by the City and County and they were mandated to remain on duty. These employees were relied upon to ensure the safety and proper function of the island of Oahu for all of its people. It is now long overdue to compensate those employees who put the well being of themselves and there loved ones at risk. Many of whom contracted the COVID-19 virus while on duty, many who were not eligible for paid time off and were unpaid or used personal time to recover from the illness.</p>		
Name: Manahel Alhozail	Email: manahelalhozail@gmail.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 08:47 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I believe that the city employees especially first responders deserve hazard pay for that time period. They put themselves on the front lines and had increased exposure and contact with the potential virus and positive patients.</p>		
Name: Joseph Cruz	Email: joseph.ginapp@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 08:55 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>First responders risked their well-being, family livelihoods, and personal health at a time when the public called upon us to show up to work. We were called "essential". The risks were unknown. People were in fear of even being outside let alone coming into close contact with infected patients. Our exposure was constant, and yet we still performed our duties and came to work on time. Is this not the definition of hazardous work? Is this not what hazard pay is for? Is there much greater risk we could have been taking? And we did it day after day enduring uncertainty, stress, fear, infection, vaccine mandates, public unrest and more. Many of us contracted the COVID-19 virus while on duty, many were not eligible for paid time off and were unpaid or forced to use their personal time to recover from the virus. The illness also took some peoples lives, and left others with lifelong side effects. Other agencies have seen fit to provide hazard pay. As a city and county first responder I believe we should be shown the same courtesy and be acknowledged for our service and sacrifice. This compensation is long overdue.</p>		
Name: August Ornellas	Email: pono_ornellas@aol.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 09:04 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>First responders risked their well-being, family livelihoods, and personal health at a time when the public called upon us to show up to work. We were called "essential". The risks were unknown. People were in fear of even being outside let alone coming into close contact with infected patients. Our exposure was constant, and yet we still performed our duties and came to work on time. Is this not the definition of hazardous work? Is this not what hazard pay is for? Is there much greater risk we could have been taking? And we did it day after day enduring uncertainty, stress, fear, infection, vaccine mandates, public unrest and more. Many of us contracted the COVID-19 virus while on duty, many were not eligible for paid time off and were unpaid or forced to use their personal time to recover from the virus. The illness also took some peoples lives, and left others with lifelong side effects. Other agencies have seen fit to provide hazard pay. As a city and county first responder I believe we should be shown the same courtesy and be acknowledged for our service and sacrifice. This compensation is long overdue.</p>		
Name: Bridget Manning	Email: bamanning96@gmail.com	Zip: 96714

Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 09:12 AM
Testimony: I SUPPORT THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE HAZARD PAY TO ELIGIBLE CITY EMPLOYEES WHO PERFORMED ESSENTIAL WORK DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.		
Name: Lamakani Holt	Email: lamakani@yahoo.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 09:14 AM
Testimony: First responders risked their well-being, family livelihoods, and personal health at a time when the public called upon us to show up to work. We were called "essential". The risks were unknown. People were in fear of even being outside let alone coming into close contact with infected patients. Our exposure was constant, and yet we still performed our duties and came to work on time. Is this not the definition of hazardous work? Is this not what hazard pay is for? Is there much greater risk we could have been taking? And we did it day after day enduring uncertainty, stress, fear, infection, vaccine mandates, public unrest and more. Many of us contracted the COVID-19 virus while on duty, many were not eligible for paid time off and were unpaid or forced to use their personal time to recover from the virus. The illness also took some peoples lives, and left others with lifelong side effects. Other agencies have seen fit to provide hazard pay. As a city and county first responder I believe we should be shown the same courtesy and be acknowledged for our service and sacrifice. This compensation is long overdue.		
Name: Blayne Fujita	Email: bkunane@yahoo.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 09:15 AM
Testimony: I support the lifeguards and their hazard pay during the covid 19 pandemic.		
Name: Moses Ka'awaloa	Email: ahukini7@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 09:37 AM
Testimony: We put not only our own lives at risks but also our family's lives that we had to come home to at risk. We worked through unforeseen times and we deserve our hazard pay.		
Name: Corey Brown	Email: coreybrown808@aol.com	Zip: 96745
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 09:43 AM
Testimony: I support this bill and our first responders		
Name: Jedidiah Wataru	Email: jedidiah.wataru@gmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 09:49 AM
Testimony: I, Jedidiah Wataru, have been a lifeguard for the City and County of Honolulu for 2 years now. I have seen and experienced the struggles first hand of working during "Covid times." I myself had been in close contact with co-workers and the public who had had covid and many other infectious diseases. I do my due diligence by taking all the precautions necessary to protect myself and all that I surround myself with. I just hope that our plead for recognition and hard work we have and will continue to do will be acknowledged		

Name: John Kahalewai	Email: jakahalewai@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 10:16 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>First responders risked their well-being, family livelihoods, and personal health at a time when the public called upon us to show up to work. We were called "essential". The risks were unknown. People were in fear of even being outside let alone coming into close contact with infected patients. Our exposure was constant, and yet we still performed our duties and came to work on time. Is this not the definition of hazardous work? Is this not what hazard pay is for? Is there much greater risk we could have been taking? And we did it day after day enduring uncertainty, stress, fear, infection, vaccine mandates, public unrest and more. Many of us contracted the COVID-19 virus while on duty, many were not eligible for paid time off and were unpaid or forced to use their personal time to recover from the virus. The illness also took some peoples lives, and left others with lifelong side effects. Other agencies have seen fit to provide hazard pay. As a city and county first responder I believe we should be shown the same courtesy and be acknowledged for our service and sacrifice.</p>		
Name: David Shotwell	Email: tripshotwell@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Ocean Safety Department	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 10:38 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>A vast majority of the population turned towards the ocean as a means of exercise, meditation, recreation, relaxation, and a source of stress relief. The lifeguards working for the Ocean Safety Department went to work everyday selflessly to provide rescue and safety for the community. There was and remains today, a great risk of airborne illness being spread to these rescuers, for they cannot provide their services in the water while wearing an N-95 respirator. These heroes came in to close contact with many people, some who were obviously sick, and others who may have been carrying an airborne virus, but may not have been showing signs and symptoms of it. To this day, they serve the community daily, humbly, in a selfless and often thankless line of duty. Our heroes deserve more!</p>		
Name: d G	Email: dgleed@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 11:11 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>In support</p>		
Name: Alan Lamphere	Email: lamphere_alan@yahoo.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 11:18 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>As a first responder working through the pandemic was a difficult time for us and our families. As promised the hazard pay the city should keep its word to their employees.</p>		
Name: Jeff Okuyama	Email: jeffreyokuy@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Ocean safety	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 11:18 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support hazard pay for all ocean safety workers who worked during the pandemic. Lifeguards were working during uncertain times, doing rescues without PPE (because they simply don't work in the water) and was promised hazard pay. It's very unfair to say we don't deserve hazard pay. Especially when other lifeguards and first responders in different county's got hazard pay.</p>		
Name: Madeline Anzivino	Email: anzivino@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96712

Representing: Ocean Safety	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 11:32 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Please provide the hazard pay to the water safety officers who were promised the compensation while working during the pandemic. We continued to show up to work during these uncertain times, continued to perform rescues and first aids. The personal protective equipment was provided to us in an untimely manner and was dismal. We continued our duties and continued to put ourselves on the front lines as usual while being promised our temporary hazard pay for doing so.</p>		
Name: Cary Epstein	Email: jonesbeachguard@gmail.com	Zip: 11561
Representing: Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 11:47 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>We support URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE HAZARD PAY TO ELIGIBLE CITY EMPLOYEES WHO PERFORMED ESSENTIAL WORK DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.</p>		
Name: Andrea Ventim	Email: amhaefele@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 12:08 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I fully support the first responders being compensated for the increased risk that they took early on in the pandemic. They were required to go to work, while the rest of us were required to stay home, increasing the likelihood of them, contracting COVID-19, and passing it along to their families. No question, they need to be compensated.</p>		
Name: Haven Yamasaki	Email: havenyamasaki@gmail.com	Zip: 96730
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 12:25 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha e city administration,</p> <p>This is Haven Kala'i Yamasaki I am humbly coming to you asking for hazard pay during the pandemic. During the pandemic i put myself on the line and was exposed to covid wile preforming life saving treatments. We were sacred of that covid would do to us and our families nonetheless we were there to help and save lives day in and day out. Please support us so we can keep supporting the community.</p>		
Name: John Hoogsteden	Email: johnh2oog@yahoo.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 12:32 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I strongly urge you to support this measure. I am a first responder, and I did not have the option to "work remotely" during this period. As a lifeguard my colleagues and I saw in increase in ocean use. Many residents who had drifted away from regular ocean activity returned to surfing, bodyboarding, diving, fishing, swimming, etc. Our Ocean Safety Officers actually saw an increase in injuries, rescues, and deaths. This was happening when there was little understanding or guidance regarding COVID. Many of us had to quarantine from our families and friends after an exposure (I missed the 2021 Christmas and New Years' holiday season).</p> <p>Please support this measure.</p>		
Name: Jose Ilar	Email: jur808@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 12:56 PM
<p>Testimony:</p>		

First responders risked their well-being, family livelihoods, and personal health at a time when the public called upon us to show up to work. We were called "essential". The risks were unknown. People were in fear of even being outside let alone coming into close contact with infected patients. Our exposure was constant, and yet we still performed our duties and came to work on time. Is this not the definition of hazardous work? Is this not what hazard pay is for? Is there much greater risk we could have been taking? And we did it day after day enduring uncertainty, stress, fear, infection, vaccine mandates, public unrest and more. Many of us contracted the COVID-19 virus while on duty, many were not eligible for paid time off and were unpaid or forced to use their personal time to recover from the virus. The illness also took some peoples lives, and left others with lifelong side effects. Other agencies have seen fit to provide hazard pay. As a city and county first responder I believe we should be shown the same courtesy and be acknowledged for our service and sacrifice. This compensation is long overdue.

Name: Josh Esche	Email: Surfhaleiwa@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 01:04 PM

Testimony:
Maui county lifeguards received COVID hazard pay for the same scope of work. There should be no difference for the employees of Honolulu ocean safety.

Name: cullen chesnut	Email: cullychesnut@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 01:05 PM

Testimony:
Maui county lifeguards received COVID hazard pay for the same scope of work. There should be no difference for the employees of Honolulu ocean safety.

Name: Christopher Stacy	Email: ikuwai19944@yahoo.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 01:15 PM

Testimony:
I work as city & county lifeguard here on the northshore of Oahu, during the pandemic i was given a choice to stay home or to work in the hazardous conditions during the high spread of the virus with hazard pay. I worked everyday during the pandemic, putting my self at risk to help others in need of rescues or patient medical care. Working as a lifeguard during the pandemic was very difficult and us lifeguards were all at very high risk of getting infected because of our job duties of rescuing victims out of the water we are unable to wear our PPE causing us to exposed to the virus. City & County management informed us that will be getting paid hazard pay due to working the pandemic but we have yet to see a dollar from it.

Sincerely, Christopher Stacy

Name: Perry Turnbull	Email: perryturnbull@hotmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 01:29 PM

Testimony:
To whom it may concern.
I am an oahu city and county Lifeguard I've been working for this job for 12 years and believe we should receive our COVID-19 hazard pay.
Reasons
1 we were told we would get Covid hazard pay.
2) we went to work every day during Covid. Most employees worked remotely.
3) we are Frontline workers and we were exposed to the public during Covid.
4) when you rescue someone as a lifeguard in the ocean you cannot use PPE. Other emergency services were able to use their PPE at all times. Which left us very exposed.
5) during Covid times our schedules, and our procedures during work changed, which made it very difficult for us to do our job.

6) during Covid we've performed first aid, rescues, and life saving techniques to the public.

7)Maui lifeguards has received Covid hazard pay and we have not

Thank you for your time ,

Perry turnbull

Name: Mo Freitas	Email: momosurfs@yahoo.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 01:36 PM

Testimony:

Maui county lifeguards received COVID hazard pay for the same scope of work. There should be no difference for the employees of Honolulu ocean safety.

Name: Dave Wassel	Email: deassel@hotmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 02:11 PM

Testimony:

Maui county lifeguards received COVID hazard pay for the same scope of work. There should be no difference for the employees of Honolulu ocean safety.

Name: Tosh Peila	Email: btpeila@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 03:57 PM

Testimony:

I support the city, county, state, and federal workers.

Name: Jason Stark	Email: jasonmontara7@gmail.com	Zip: 94037
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 04:19 PM

Testimony:

As a lifeguard, I worked throughout the pandemic and I think it is fit that the first responders (lifeguards) are compensated for hazardous conditions they performed their duties in, regardless of elevated risk of infection, in the midst of the COVID virus.

Name: Mike McHale	Email: mikemchale001@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Ocean Safety Honolulu	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 04:47 PM

Testimony:

As first responders our due diligence is to serve the community regardless of the conditions. We have worked thru many adverse conditions and nothing has been as unsure as the time we worked thru the Covid - 19 pandemic. We came to work and fulfilled our commitment as first responders. I personally believe that commitment should be rewarded with hazard pay. Mahalo

Name: Luke Shepardson	Email: lukeshep96712@yahoo.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 05:08 PM

Testimony:

I am an ocean safety officer and I think we are deserving of it we worked through the pandemic in the time when we did not know much about the virus. We had to deal with the public we had to perform rescues and first aid treatments. Maui county ocean safety received it I think we should as well.

Name: Keegan Edwards	Email: k.aloha808@icloud.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 05:23 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>My name is Keegan Edwards. I am writing in hopes that ocean safety employees that worked during covid get the hazard pay suggested in res 23-114. I worked throughout the entire time period when Covid hit until now. It was an extremely taxing time to work both mentally and physically to ensure the publics safety in the ocean. I had to worry about getting covid while rescuing and coming in close contact with the public to do my job. To have to worry about catching and bringing covid home to your family unknowingly especially because I take care of my grandmother was a very hard thing to do. We were first responders working when so many people were not because we want to make sure the public is safe. I ended up catching the delta variant saving woman that was sick. I had to stay in confinement away from my family for 6 weeks recovering. I can't put into words what that horrible experience was like. Our job is one that we cannot avoid coming into close contact with a lot of people to save lives while putting our own as well as our families at risk. I think that the least we should be granted is hazard pay in such hazardous conditions. Thank you for letting me say my peace.</p> <p>Aloha Keegan Edwards</p>		
Name: Richard Serrano	Email: serrano.ricky10@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 05:50 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am a Lifeguard in the North Shore of Oahu and I worked everyday through the whole pandemic with a mask on in a mobile response truck when they told us we could not work in the lifeguard towers anymore. I performed ocean rescues and preventative actions while practicing the states PPE guidelines to protect the public while putting my own self at risk of this virus, which I did in fact catch twice. The City said that we would be getting hazard pay at the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, but I have still yet to see a penny from them.</p>		
Name: Brieanna Cantalupo	Email: bricantalupo@gmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 05:55 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>First responders risked their well-being, family livelihoods, and personal health at a time when the public called upon us to show up to work. We were called "essential". The risks were unknown. People were in fear of even being outside let alone coming into close contact with infected patients. Our exposure was constant, and yet we still performed our duties and came to work on time. Is this not the definition of hazardous work? Is this not what hazard pay is for? Is there much greater risk we could have been taking? And we did it day after day enduring uncertainty, stress, fear, infection, vaccine mandates, public unrest and more. Many of us contracted the COVID-19 virus while on duty, many were not eligible for paid time off and were unpaid or forced to use their personal time to recover from the virus. The illness also took some peoples lives, and left others with lifelong side effects. Other agencies have seen fit to provide hazard pay. As a city and county first responder I believe we should be shown the same courtesy and be acknowledged for our service and sacrifice. This compensation is long overdue.</p>		
Name: Dominick Valdivia	Email: dominicknicholasphotography@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 06:04 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I strongly approve this message and think they all deserve hazard pay</p>		
Name: Awapuhi Robinson	Email: awapuhirobinson@gmail.com	Zip: 96706

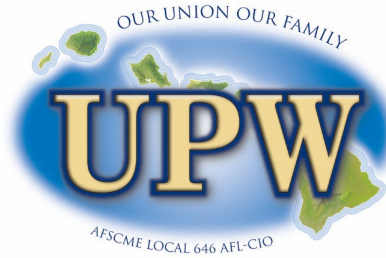
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 06:09 PM
Testimony: There are ample risks that occur in the medical field on a daily basis. Hazard pay should be determined based on viable facts and agreements. The pandemic was not in my opinion factually determined to be hazardous. It was an outbreak.		
Name: Catherine marie Ching	Email: calebhiapo_c@yahoo.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 06:19 PM
Testimony: I fully support this. As someone who worked the large clinics to help administer Covid-19 vaccines or register patients, I feel it's owed to those that volunteered after their day jobs to help out.		
Name: Anna Dorsey	Email: annacdorsey@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 06:28 PM
Testimony: I'm in support of the hazard pay for essential employees who maintained their duties during uncertain times. These workers and associated job duties were considered "essential" by the City and County and they were mandated to remain on duty. These employees were relied upon to ensure the safety and proper function of the island of Oahu for all of its people. It is now long overdue to compensate those employees who put the well being of themselves and there loved ones at risk. Many of whom contracted the COVID-19 virus while on duty, many who were not eligible for paid time off and were unpaid or used personal time to recover from the illness.		
Name: Eugenio Catalan Alberto	Email: eugeniocatalan@hotmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 06:34 PM
Testimony: First responders were there every day for the public !		
Name: Lee Lenchanko	Email: llenchanko@honolulu.gov	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 07:00 PM
Testimony: I am in support of this hazard pay. As a Paramedic with the City and County of Honolulu working in the Waipahu District with second in areas in all of the West Side of O'ahu, I was in the most populated zone of COVID positive patients daily responding to multiple COVID positive or highly suspected COVID patients. Our personal protective equipment (PPE), which was provided for us, included a respirator or N95 mask, face shield, goggles (similar to ski type), gloves and/or double gloving, a thick plastic gown and hair net. We would have to Don this each and every call. We would treat the patient outside of the ambulance in the hot sun, transport the patient all the while with all the gear on. Then we would have to Don another set of PPE to decontaminate the ambulance and all of our equipment. This continued for months. Our call volume increased significantly, increasing our inability to take breaks between calls to hydrate ourselves and to eat. Not to mention the stress and anxiety that we would get exposed and bring the virus home to our families, our spouses and children and high risk family members like our elderly parents, etc. as for my family we had a contingency plan where I would sleep in a tent in the yard each time I had a highly suspected exposure. I understand that as a First Responder it is my job to treat the sick and injured, though the Pandemic significantly increased the demands on myself, my coworkers and my family.		
Name: Bryan Phillips	Email: bryanphillips808@gmail.com	Zip: 96712

Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 07:26 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>A Maui County arbitration panel ruled in favor for Covid Hazard pay for all their employees. This should be consistent for Honolulu County as well. I stand in strong support of 23-144.</p> <p>Mahalo, Bryan Phillips</p>		
Name: pat monaghan	Email: patrickmonaghan68@yahoo.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 08:55 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>the lifeguards deserve their pay , hard earned from working during a pandemic !!</p>		
Name: Jacob Vador	Email: jacobvador@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 10:35 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>First responders risked their well-being, family livelihoods, and personal health at a time when the public called upon us to show up to work. We were called "essential". The risks were unknown. People were in fear of even being outside let alone coming into close contact with infected patients. Our exposure was constant, and yet we still performed our duties and came to work on time. Is this not the definition of hazardous work? Is this not what hazard pay is for? Is there much greater risk we could have been taking? And we did it day after day enduring uncertainty, stress, fear, infection, vaccine mandates, public unrest and more. Many of us contracted the COVID-19 virus while on duty, many were not eligible for paid time off and were unpaid or forced to use their personal time to recover from the virus. The illness also took some peoples lives, and left others with lifelong side effects. Other agencies have seen fit to provide hazard pay. As a city and county first responder I believe we should be shown the same courtesy and be acknowledged for our service and sacrifice. This compensation is long overdue.</p>		
Name: Jessamy Hornor	Email: jessamyhornor@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Ocean Safety 'Ohana	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 11:07 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha, as the founder of a community advocacy organization, Ocean Safety 'Ohana, and as a founding member of the Hawaii Water Safety Coalition, I support hazard pay for our lifeguards. As both first-responders and world-class watermen and knowledge-keepers, they go above and beyond every single day to save lives. Their working conditions, pay and administrative structure have been chronically under-supported at a policy level for too long. If we support them, they can better support the public - both locals and visitors. Investing in our lifeguards is an investment in our collective wellbeing.</p>		
Name: peter kekahuna	Email: pterkekahuna@gmail.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 11:35 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>my name is peterkkahuna, and im say the lifeguards on our beaches here in the islands have a very high demanding job and to say that they are well compensated for risking their own lives to save a life wuld be nothing less than a joke..please realize that these lifeguards have a very stressful under appreciated position ..yes i feel the lifeguards on hawaiian beaches deserve alot more pay, recognition and everything they ask for in their budget.</p>		
Name: Ailee Antipala	Email: aileerocks@gmail.com	Zip: 96822

Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 7, 2023 @ 01:58 AM
Testimony: Lifeguards are more than deserving of hazard pay compensation for their work during the pandemic. Everyday many lifeguards run into life threatening situations in order to save another life. The public safety regulations during the pandemic arguably resulted in more people taking part in water sports as well.		
Name: Nicolas Sipin	Email: nsipin@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 7, 2023 @ 03:16 AM
Testimony: Aloha I was on a day trip to the north shore and had drifted into pipeline I immediately panicked, and the lifeguards I believe were already watching me so they were already on the way via jet ski I got onto the jetski and they pulled me about 75 yards to the right, keeping me out of harm Very thankful they were so attentive and quick to action.. I went to the tower to say thank you and they were very nice. They deserve all they can get Nico		
Name: Kamakani Froiseth	Email: kamakanifroiseth@live.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 7, 2023 @ 04:06 AM
Testimony: I kamakani froiseth am in support of resolution 23 114, during the beginning of the pandemic till now there is no proper ppe for lifeguards in the ocean and maintaining direct contact with their patients is the best way to ensure the lives of the public are saved. There was no social distancing themselves selves in their line of work.		
Name: Sirena Crummer	Email: sirenacbusiness@gmail.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 7, 2023 @ 05:10 AM
Testimony: i support the people that keep our people safe through any kind of weather/situation! e malama i na kanaka o hawaii		
Name: JASON SHIBATA	Email: alottashibata@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 7, 2023 @ 06:07 AM
Testimony: I support Res23-114 provide Hazard Pay to eligible City employees who performed essential work during the Covid-19 public health crisis. Their jobs played an key role in our society to keep moving forward in such uncertain times therefore should be taken care of.		
Name: Kona Llamas	Email: konallamas@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Ocean safety	Support	Jun 7, 2023 @ 06:57 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I believe the first responders of the covid pandemic deserve their hazard pay. As they were along many others on the front lines of the shut down. Putting themselves in more harms way from a fatal virus.</p>		
Name: Joanna Tumbaga	Email: joanna_tumbaga@outlook.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 7, 2023 @ 07:40 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>As a paramedic for the city and county of Honolulu who worked during the covid pandemic, I support the need for hazard pay. During the pandemic while everyone else worked from the safety of their home, we continued to take care/treat/transport those that potentially had covid and those who were covid positive. As the pandemic went on and supplies started to decrease, we had to reuse our n-95 masks/other supplies while risk our chances of getting covid, to care for the countless, sick/injured on the island of Oahu. We know what our job entailed when we signed up but we should be compensated especially since we all worked and continue to work during the worlds first pandemic.</p>		
Name: leigh vasconcellos	Email: girliegirlcr87@aol.com	Zip: 96797
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 7, 2023 @ 08:40 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I strongly support this bill & all city workers that humbly reported to work during the pandemic.</p>		
Name: Richard Vasconcellos	Email: rlslvasconcellos@gmail.com	Zip: 96797
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 7, 2023 @ 08:51 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support this bill and all essential City & County workers that reported to work in person.</p>		
Name: Kaimakana Flanagan	Email: kaimakanaflanagan@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 7, 2023 @ 08:56 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I think the city administration should provide hazard pay to eligible city employees who performed essential work during the covid-19 public health emergency.</p>		
Name: DEBRA KEOLA	Email: DEBRAKEOLA@YAHOO.COM	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 7, 2023 @ 09:04 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL & MY FELLOW HPD DISPATCHERS</p>		
Name: Brett Carter	Email: brettcarter4444@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 7, 2023 @ 09:15 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support</p>		
Name:	Email:	Zip:

Peter Rillen	kaimana710@gmail.com	96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 7, 2023 @ 09:34 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I work for OAHU TRANSIT SERVICES and OTS opposed to pay us Hazard Pay in a prior Resolution. OTS stated there was not enough funds to issue Hazard Pay Congress approved the Hazard Pay under the Heros Act Fund there for Federal Funding is/was available and to be paid under Pandemic Premium Pay. OTS failed to act in due care. I support this RESOLUTION and I feel that ALL CITY WORKERS FIRST RESPONDERS LIFE GUARDS HFD HPD CITY BUS PARA TRANSIT deserve and are entitled. Failure to do warrants a Negligence, Discrimination, Defamation case on many levels.</p>		
Name: LAKEA TJOMSLAND	Email: LAKEA1@HOTMAIL.COM	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 7, 2023 @ 09:49 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support hazard pay for all HPD workers who worked during the pandemic.</p>		
Name: Kelis Kaleopaa	Email: kelissurfs@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 7, 2023 @ 09:50 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I believe our Ocean and safety lifeguards are first responders of the land and ocean. The ocean is a very dangerous place, and in no way I'm taking away the bravery from fire, police and emt, I am just stating that our city and county lifeguards deserve equal right alongside other first responders. They take care of everyone in the ocean and on land. They take care of our keiki and are so connected with the community they are in. They risked their lives when our beaches shut down, they were still out patrolling the beaches and oceans while their towers were closed and opened to make sure everyone was safe. It could be flat waters and someone can drown in a matter of seconds, lifeguards knew that and that's why they still risked getting themselves sick and their families... for the safety of beach goers. They are first responders and deserve all the equality.</p>		
Name: Feliza Kanakaole	Email: Fkanakaole@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 7, 2023 @ 10:53 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I feel it is only right & fair for city employees to receive their hazard pay for work they performed during the Covid-19 pandemic. They performed their duties putting themselves & family at risk while other jobs & companies were shut down or doing their jobs safely at home. Another thing to note is that Maui has gotten their hazard pay yet Oahu city employees has not even though they are entitled to it. Why they are being denied is baffling & shows how much our Aloha state has. Yet our legislature is asking for a 64% raise without even resolving this issue & settling the agreement with their city workers is just greedy!</p>		



**CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

REGULAR MEETING

Councilmember Tommy Waters, Chair
Councilmember Esther Kia'aina, Vice Chair

Wednesday, June 7, 2023, 10:00 AM
City Council Chamber

Re: Testimony in Support of Resolution 23-114 – Urging the City Administration to provide hazard pay to eligible City employees who performed essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency

Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and Members of the Council:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW") is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue-collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and each of the four counties.

UPW supports Resolution 23-114, which urges the City Administration to provide Temporary Hazard Pay ("THP") to eligible City employees who performed essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency. During the COVID-19 pandemic, UPW members understood the importance of being civil servants and continued to serve their respective communities by reporting to work despite the pandemic's uncertainty. Their work helped ensure that the City and County of Honolulu could continue providing essential services despite the possible risk of being exposed to COVID-19 as well as exposing their loved ones to the virus.

UPW is currently in arbitration to resolve the City's contractual obligation to members who are eligible for THP. While the \$13.00 per hour of premium pay allowed by the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds ("SLRF") program is unlikely to fully remedy the amount owed to our members, we appreciate the Council's support in urging the Administration to settle this dispute fairly.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

Sincerely,

Kalani Werner
State Director

HEADQUARTERS – 1426 North School Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1914 ♦ Phone: (808) 847-2631
HAWAII – 362 East Lanikaula Street ♦ Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4336 ♦ Phone: (808) 961-3424
KAUAI – 2970 Kele Street, Suite 213 ♦ Lihue, Hawaii 96766-1325 ♦ Phone: (808) 245-2412
MAUI – 841 Kolu Street ♦ Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1436 ♦ Phone: (808) 244-0815



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

June 7, 2023

RESOLUTION 23-114 (2023) — RELATING TO TEMPORARY HAZARD PAY

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of Resolution 23-114 (2023), which urges the City Administration to provide hazard pay to eligible city employees who performed essential work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The HGEA represents roughly 3,300 city and county employees across five different bargaining units, including engineers, police dispatchers, building plan examiners, refuse and wastewater treatment plant supervisors, lifeguards, satellite city hall and motor vehicle (DMV) representatives, among others. These employees risked their lives and set aside their fears of an unknown threat to ensure that city operations and functions were met, while the island paused during a time of global uncertainty. They are Oahu's unsung heroes.

Our members had an opportunity to apply for Temporary Hazard Pay (THP) from 2021 to 2022. Many of our members applied and submitted it to the city for consideration. **So far, the city has denied all THP request and claimed that upon their review, an employee's exposure to COVID-19 was 'less than severe' due to actions taken by the city, however they did not proffer the basis of that determination.** The decision to not grant a single employee THP is extremely disappointing and appalling, especially when a lot of employees were placed in hazardous situations, did not have the opportunity to work from home, and were forced to perform duties that exceeded their job classification. The city needs to get its priorities in order, these employees stepped in to ensure that the people of Oahu were taken care of – now it's time for the city to take care of its own.

We appreciate the Council for hearing this resolution. We respectfully ask that the resolution be amended within the 'BE IT RESOLVED' section which reflects that an employee be paid THP in accordance with their collective bargaining agreement.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Resolution 23-114 (2023).

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director