

BILL039(23)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 399

BUDGET (BUD)

BUDGET (BUD) Meeting

Meeting Date: Jul 25, 2023 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: T. George Paris	Email: cthstab@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: HIWSF	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 24, 2023 @ 07:46 AM
Name: Zhizi Xiong	Email: Alohdivinedesign@gmail.com	Zip: 96817-2707
Representing: CARES	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 25, 2023 @ 08:53 AM
Testimony: CARES testifies in support.		

Iron Workers Stabilization Fund

July 25, 2023

Honolulu City Council Committee on Budget
City Council Chamber
Tuesday, July 25, 2023
9:00 a.m.

Re: Bill 39, CD1 (2023) - RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY TAXATION

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice-Chair Kiaaina, and Members of the Council,

The Hawaii Ironworkers Local 625 and the Stabilization Fund **strongly supports** Bill 39 (2023), proposed CD1 which establishes a real property tax exemption for certain real property located near an active landfill. This bill will help benefit hundreds of union members from all different sectors who are suffering from many different ailments from living near a construction and demolition waste landfill.

The scientific consensus affirms what the communities of West Oahu, especially Nanakuli, have been experiencing for decades, that landfills are a health hazard. According to the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention and the National Center for Health Statistics Neighborhood Life Expectancy Project (see attachments for visual maps), our members and their families in the two census tracts abutting the PVT Landfill operated in Nanakuli live 10 years less than the state average of 82 years, being the 2nd and 3rd lowest life expectancies in the entire state. This is unacceptable. As a matter of Hawaii Law, every community deserves a "clean and healthful environment" (HI State Const, Art. XI, Sec. 9). Further, EPA's new "Good Neighbor Plan" will help lock in significant pollution reductions to ensure cleaner air and deliver public health protections for those who've suffered far too long from air-quality related impacts and illness. In fact, the EPA Administrator was quoted saying "Every community deserves fresh air to breathe." The fact is, no one should suffer the ill effects of landfills, so we need to decrease our reliance upon landfills and eventually stop using them altogether.

Hawaii recognized that "no one segment of the population or geographic area should be disproportionately burdened with environmental and/or health impacts resulting from development, construction, operations and/or use of natural resources" (Hawaii State Department of Health, *Hawaii Environmental Justice Initiative Report*, 2008). Many of those living within a mile of the operation of an active landfill are living paycheck-to-paycheck. A real property tax break will bring about meaningful change and opportunity for those residents to better care for their health and safety, including through purchasing and maintaining air filters in their houses.

The people of West Oahu, especially those who are living within one mile of the PVT Landfill, have borne the brunt of our collective waste. We urge the city to provide a tax break to the residents of Nanakuli who have dealt with a toxic landfill for nearly 40 years which has reduced their life expectancy by up to

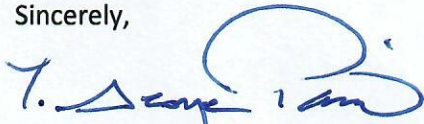
Iron Workers Stabilization Fund

10 years and has caused various respiratory illnesses and even cancer. A residential property tax break will financially help the residents near PVT who have suffered these illnesses for decades.

We strongly urge the City Council Budget Committee to pass Bill 39(2023), proposed CD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



T. George Paris
Managing Director



Life Expectancies

Census tracks surrounding
PVT Landfills including
Nānākuli & Princess Kahanu
Homesteads: **~72 yrs.**
HI Average: **~82 yrs.**
A 10 year loss

CDC/US Department of Health



National Vital Statistics System

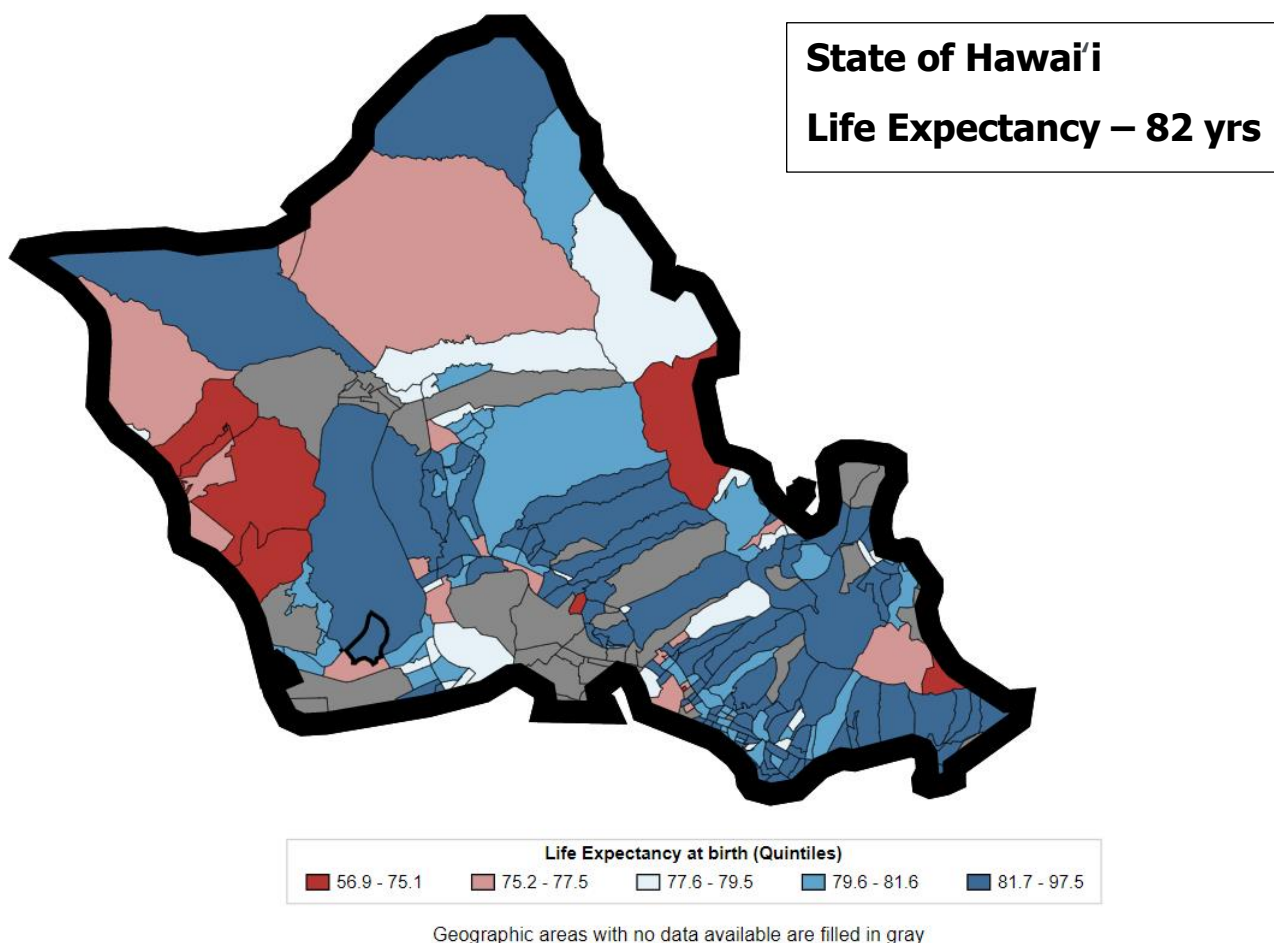
U.S. Small-area Life Expectancy
Estimates Project - USALEEP

usaleep

Neighborhood Life
Expectancy Project

Life Expectancy at Birth for U.S. States and Census Tracts, 2010-2015

LIFE EXPECTANCY* FOR THE ISLAND OF O'AHU, HAWAI'I

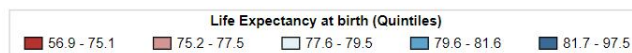
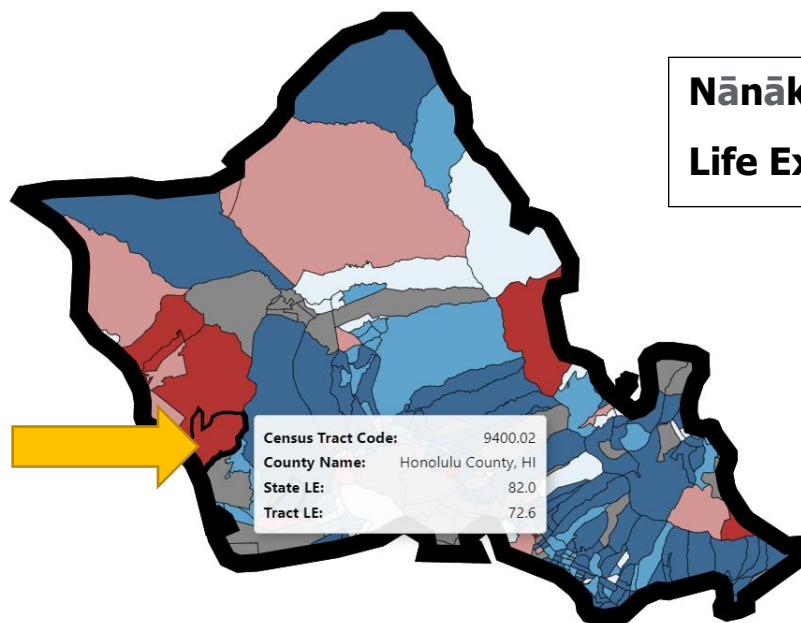


*The Life Expectancy at birth are for U.S. Census Tracts, 2010-2015. These estimates are the result of the collaborative project, “[U.S. Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project \(USALEEP\)](#),” between the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS), and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF).

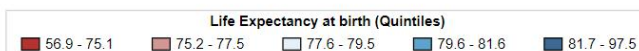
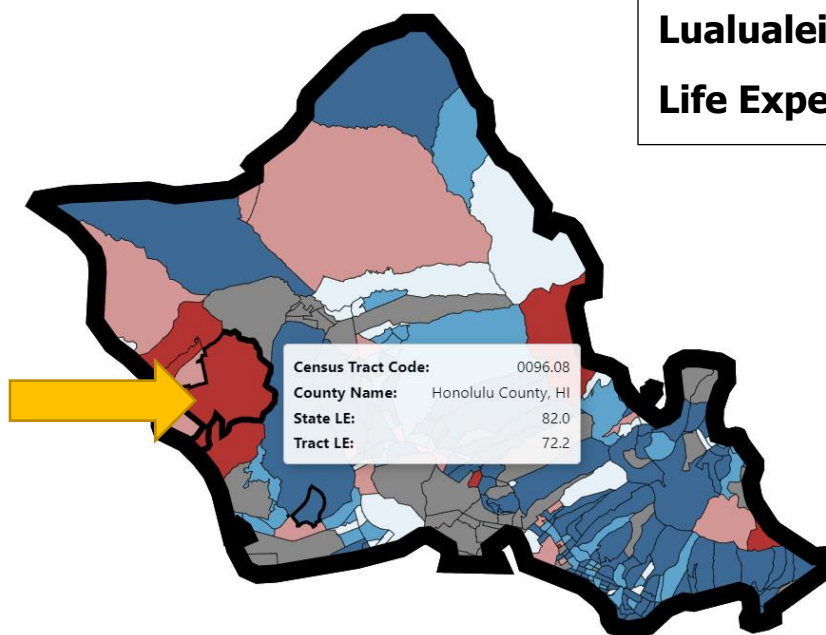
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, March 9). *Life expectancy data viz.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved March 9, 2023, from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data-visualization/life-expectancy/index.html>.



Life Expectancy at Birth for U.S. States and Census Tracts, 2010-2015



Geographic areas with no data available are filled in gray



Geographic areas with no data available are filled in gray