

BILL039(23)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 422

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Aug 9, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 21

Oppose: 1

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Jason Bradshaw	Email: jasonwbradshaw@gmail.com	Zip: 96819
Representing: The Democratic Party of Hawaii Labor Caucus	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 3, 2023 @ 04:56 PM
Name: Mike Golojuch, Sr	Email: mikegolojuch808@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 3, 2023 @ 05:46 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Chair and Council members, I strongly support Bill 39. I definitely believe that those living within a mile of the PVT landfill be given a real property tax exemption. I am a member of the Democratic Party of Hawaii Labor Caucus and Pride at Work. However, I am submitting this testimony as an individual.</p> <p>Please pass Bill 039(23).</p> <p>Mike Golojuch, Sr.</p>		
Name: Vaughn Chong	Email: rooferslocal221@gmail.com	Zip: 96819
Representing: United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers, Local 221	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 4, 2023 @ 07:33 AM
Name: Joseph O'Donnell	Email: josepho@hiwlocal625.org	Zip: 96797
Representing: Iron Workers Local 625	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 4, 2023 @ 08:37 AM
Name: Joli Tokusato	Email: jtokusato@5.unitehere.org	Zip: 96826
Representing: UNITE HERE Local 5	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 4, 2023 @ 11:11 AM
Name: T. George Paris	Email: cthstab@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: HIWSF	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 4, 2023 @ 11:12 AM
Name: Tuia'ana Scanlan	Email: president@iatse665.org	Zip: 96817
Representing: IATSE 665	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 4, 2023 @ 01:01 PM
Name: Hazel Galbiso	Email: honolulu@seafarers.org	Zip: 96819
Representing: Hawaii Ports Maritime Council	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 4, 2023 @ 03:20 PM

Name: Kevin Holu	Email: kevin.holu@hawaiiiteamsters.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local 996	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 4, 2023 @ 06:29 PM
Name: Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Email: waianaenb569@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Aug 5, 2023 @ 03:33 AM
Testimony: I, Johnnie-Mae L.Perry OPPOSE Bill 39 (2023) CD1 for these reasons: As a life-time resident of Wai'anae with several landfills in the community, a landfill is NOT TEMPORARY! The IMPACT OF A LANDFILL IN OUR AND ANY COMMUNITY IS LIFE-LONG! As such ALL THE RESIDENTS SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO A TO A REAL PROERTY TAX EXEMPTION, and not only the residents in the landfill zone.		
Name: Lisa Marie Akau	Email: AKAUL@afge.org	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 6, 2023 @ 01:08 PM
Testimony: STRONGLY SUPPORT		
Name: Michael Golojuchj, Jr.	Email: michael@hawaiidemocrats.org	Zip: 96707
Representing: Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 6, 2023 @ 01:46 PM
Testimony: Aloha Councilmembers, The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; Hawai'i's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports Bill 39. The City & County of Honolulu needs to make things right for the residents of the Leeward coast for dumping all the ills of the county on this district. This bill in some small way starts to on this pathway. We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation. Mahalo nui loa, Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him) Chair and SCC Representative Stonewall Caucus for the DPH		
Name: Gino Soquena	Email: gino@hbctc.org	Zip: 96805
Representing: Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 7, 2023 @ 02:48 PM
Name: Damien Kim	Email: info@hemep.com	Zip: 96819

Representing: IBEW Local Union 1186	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 7, 2023 @ 08:48 PM
Name: JeannÃ© Kapela	Email: rekapela@capitol.hawaii.gov	Zip: 96704
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 8, 2023 @ 01:29 AM
Name: Kalani Werner	Email: kkaimuloa@upwhawaii.org	Zip: 97817
Representing: United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 8, 2023 @ 08:03 AM
Name: Kurt Fevella	Email: senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 8, 2023 @ 09:26 AM
Name: Ed Werner	Email: mewerner@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 8, 2023 @ 09:53 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kiaaina, and Members of the Council,</p> <p>My name is Ed Werner, and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill which would establish a real property tax exemption for properties located near a waste landfill. As a 60+ years resident of Nanakuli, I have seen and experienced first hand the devastation that the PVT Landfill can do to the physical and mental well-being of a community. It saddens me to hear of friends and ohana losing their lives due to the harmful environmental pollution by a landfill in a residential community. We, the people of Nanakuli, have always been looked upon as the dumping grounds for Oahu's waste. We deserve better. We deserve retribution. We deserve a better living environment. This relief would not solve our issues, however, it will ensure steps are taken by the government to acknowledge the many hardships we face over the many years of sacrifice for lives taken due to pollution.</p> <p>Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!</p> <p>Ed Werner Nanakuli, Hawaii</p>		
Name: Corey Rosenlee	Email: coreyrosenlee@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 8, 2023 @ 12:02 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>To Honolulu City Council Members:</p> <p>I am writing to urge the council to support Bill 39, which will lower property taxes for residents who live near landfills. The well-being of our community members is of utmost importance, and both public health and economic data underscore the pressing need for such a policy change.</p>		

Emissions emanating from landfills pose a significant threat to the health and safety of individuals residing and working in close proximity to such landfills. A study conducted in New York revealed a disturbing 12 percent heightened risk of congenital malformations in children born to families living within a mile of hazardous waste landfill sites. These findings highlight the need to alleviate the impact of living near such sites.

Furthermore, the impact of landfills on property values cannot be ignored. Research has demonstrated that large landfills can lead to a substantial decrease in the value of neighboring properties, with an average reduction in value of 12.9 percent.

The hazards associated with landfills extend beyond property values, harming the overall quality of life for nearby residents. Odors, smoke, noise, insects, and potential water supply contamination create an environment that jeopardizes the pursuit of personal health and prosperity.

These challenges are disproportionately experienced by minority and low-income households, which are more likely to be located near landfills due to a lack of access to resources to oppose their placement. This glaring disparity makes low-income communities more susceptible to becoming targets for landfill placement, perpetuating environmental injustice.

Therefore, the Honolulu City Council should implement a property tax reduction for residents who live within a one-mile radius of landfills. By alleviating the financial burden on these individuals, we can help mitigate some of the adverse conditions they face. This action not only demonstrates a commitment to the well-being of our community, but also represents a significant step in addressing environmental racism and advancing economic equity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Corey Rosenlee

Name: Arthur Tolentino	Email: sheetmetl001@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 293	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 8, 2023 @ 12:07 PM
Name: Michael Yadao	Email: myadao@HMPUHI-stab.org	Zip: 96819
Representing: Hawaii Masonsâ and Plasterersâ Unions Stabilization Fund	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 8, 2023 @ 12:47 PM
Name: Darius Kila	Email: repkila@capitol.hawaii.gov	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 8, 2023 @ 01:22 PM

Honolulu City Council
City Council Chamber
Wednesday, August 9, 2023
10:00 a.m.

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

SUBMITTED BY: JASON BRADSHAW, CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
LABOR CAUCUS

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

The Democratic Party of Hawaii Labor Caucus strongly supports Bill 39, CD1 which exempts the property taxes of homes within a mile of a construction and demolition waste landfill.

We applaud Council Chair Tommy Waters and the Honolulu City Council for introducing and supporting such an important bill that addresses environmental racism on the west side of Oahu. For too long, Nanakuli residents have been forgotten and have dealt with the negative effects of a landfill surrounding their properties, schools, and shopping centers.

It is a known fact that residents living near PVT live on average 10 years less than the state average with many dealing with respiratory illnesses and cancer. This is wrong and we are glad Bill 39 will financially help those suffering from the many illnesses caused by a landfill nearby.

Ultimately, PVT needs to close but until a new site is found, residents should be financially compensated. Bill 39 is a step in the right direction.

We strongly urge the Council to continue to support Bill 39.
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers

AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO AND BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT

Local Union No. 221

P.O. Box 17250, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
(808) 847-5757 Fax (808) 848-8707

Vaughn W. Chong
Financial Secretary-Treasurer-Business Manager

August 2, 2023

Honolulu City Council
City Council Chamber

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

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

The United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers, Local 221 strongly supports Bill 39 (2023), CD1 in its entirety which proposes to establish a real property tax exemption for certain real property located near an active landfill.

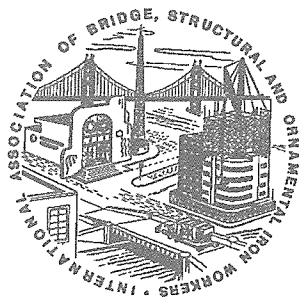
While we wholeheartedly support our membership that resides on the west side of Oahu, we are also strongly supportive of our neighbors, friends, and family who also call this area home.

While Bill 39 (2023), CD1 specifically addresses the Integrated Solid Waste Management Facility operated by PVT Land Company, Ltd. as well as the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill, we are also in support of future landfill areas having this tax exemption as well for those residents who will eventually be affected going forward.

Again, we are in full support of Bill 39 (2023), CD1 and thank the City Council and Chair Waters for introducing and shepherding this real property tax exemption through.

Sincerely yours,

Vaughn W. Chong
Financial Secretary/Treasurer/Business Manager
Roofers Local 221



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE, STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL AND REINFORCING IRON WORKERS

Affiliated with A.F.L.-C.I.O.

LOCAL UNION NUMBER 625

94-497 UKEE STREET • WAIPAHU, HAWAII 96797

T.G. Paris
President Emeritus

August 9, 2023

Honolulu City Council
City Council Chamber
Wednesday, August 9, 2023
10:00 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 **strongly supports** Bill 39, CD1 (2023), which establishes a real property tax exemption for certain real property located near a construction and demolition waste landfill.

For too long, residents of Nanakuli, including many of our members, have suffered the ill effects of a landfill in their backyard. Many suffer from chronic illnesses such as respiratory ailments, and many have unfortunately died from cancer at too young of an age. In fact, residents living near the PVT Landfill have a life expectancy of 10 years less than the state average according to the CDC and Federal Government.

Bill 39, CD1 is important to address the environmental racism occurring on the west side of Oahu and the Ironworkers Union Local 625 strongly urges the Honolulu City Council to continue to support Bill 39, CD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Joseph O'Donnell
Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

August 4, 2023

City & County of Honolulu
530 South King St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
Tommy Waters, Chair
Esther Kia'āina, Vice Chair

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

Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'āina and Members of the Council,

UNITE HERE Local 5, representing hotel, health care and food service workers across the state, **is in support of Bill 39 CD1 (2023)**. We believe this measure recognizes environmental racism and the injustice residents of West Oahu are experiencing, and it is a start in rectifying the situation.

For nearly 40 years, residents of Nanakuli, including Local 5 members, have had to contend with the impacts of living near the PVT landfill. CDC data shows area residents have a life expectancy nearly 10 years lower than the state average. Everyone deserves to live in an environment free of potential health hazards, and to be able to breathe clean air. Government is obligated to right the wrongs of our past.

Real property tax exemption for residents living within a mile surrounding the PVT landfill is a start and will allow affected residents to have the means to better care for their health and safety. Any member of the council who believes Nanakuli area residents have not been negatively impacted by the landfill should ask themselves whether they would advocate to bring a landfill to their own backyard with no consideration or compensation.

We must take care of all of Hawaii's residents. We must protect our 'ohana. Real property tax exemption is not enough. More must be done.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Iron Workers Stabilization Fund

August 9, 2023

Honolulu City Council
City Council Chamber
Wednesday, August 9, 2023
10:00 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, CD1 (2023), 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 reality is, for nearly 40 years, residents of Nanakuli have suffered the ill effects of the PVT Landfill such as chronic respiratory ailments or cancer that have unfortunately caused many loved ones to die earlier than they should have. In fact, residents living near PVT have a 10-year lower life expectancy compared to the state average according to the data collected by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Center for Health Statistics Neighborhood Life Expectancy Project. And this is no coincidence. Homes, schools, and churches surround the PVT Landfill which emits harmful particles into the air which many residents have no idea they are breathing in. Nanakuli residents from the day they are born suffer from the many hazards of a landfill with many tragically dying at a younger age and it's about time the Mayor takes action to correct the **environmental racism and injustice** that has blatantly occurred on the west side of Oahu and to admit to the potential health hazards of living near a construction and demolition waste landfill.

That said, Bill 39 is a good start, which exempts residential real property taxes within one mile surrounding the PVT Landfill. These small property tax savings will help many of the residents who suffered and continue to suffer to this day. The fact is residents living within a mile of the operation of PVT are living paycheck-to-paycheck with a **majority living on Hawaiian Home Lands**. 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 homes.

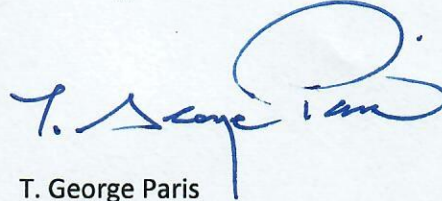
We need to remember that every community has the right to breathe clean air and as a matter of Hawaii Law, every community deserves a "clean and healthful environment" (HI State Const, Art. XI, Sec. 9). While Bill 39 does not close PVT, it helps Nanakuli residents better achieve the clean and healthful environment of the Hawaii State Constitution and recognizes **environmental racism and injustice** has occurred throughout the west side of Oahu, especially near the PVT Landfill.

Iron Workers Stabilization Fund

We appreciate Council Chair Tommy Waters for introducing Bill 39 and for the Council passing Bill 39 during its last two hearings. It is also important to mention the State House and State Senate unanimously passed a concurrent resolution strongly urging the Honolulu City Council to enact a property tax break for residents residing near an active landfill.

We strongly urge the Council to continue to move Bill 39, CD1. We should never put a price on a person's health and life. \$7 million is a small price to pay to keep people safe and healthy and correct the wrongs of environmental racism and injustice. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. George Paris", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

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

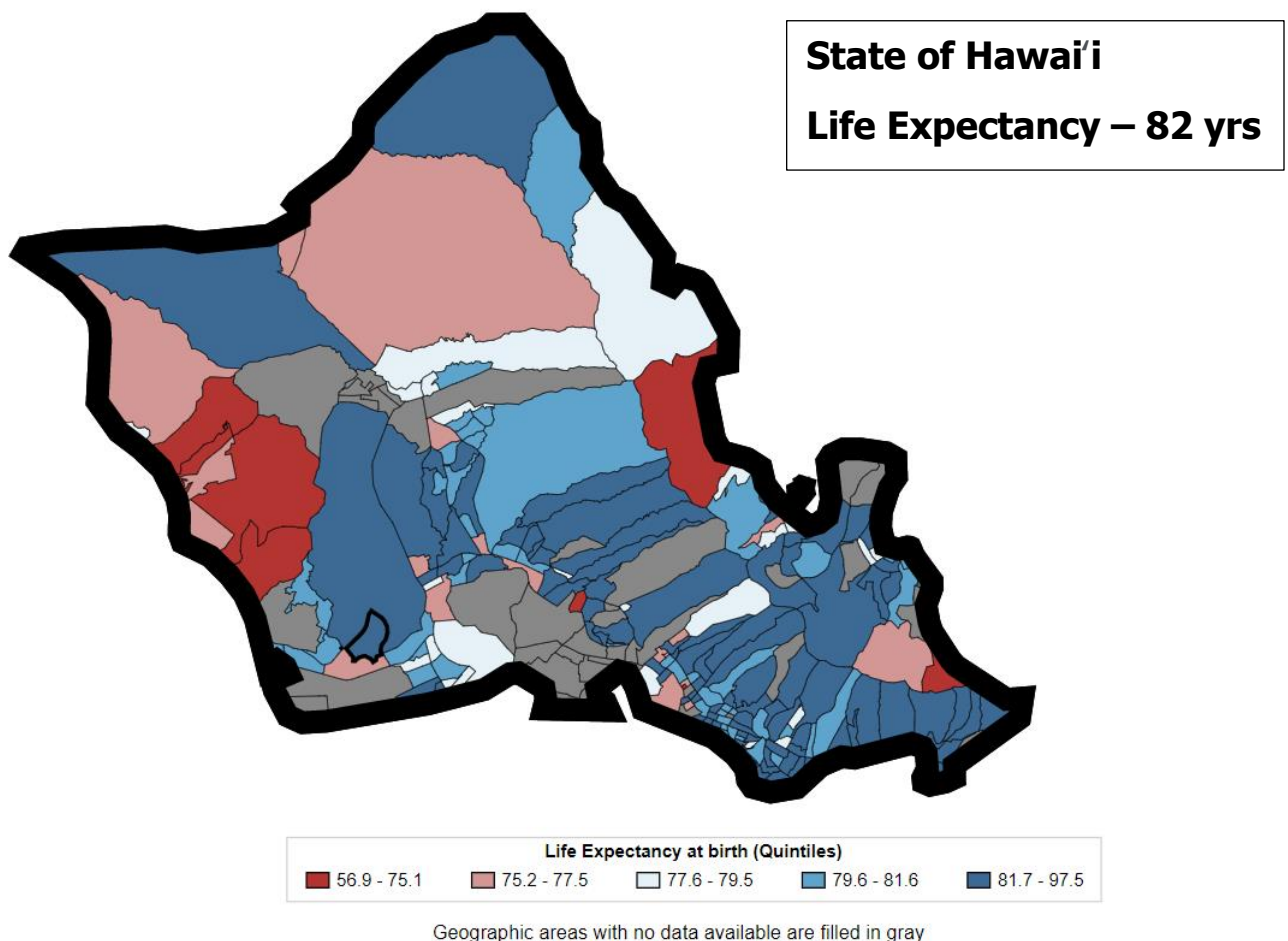
usaleep

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



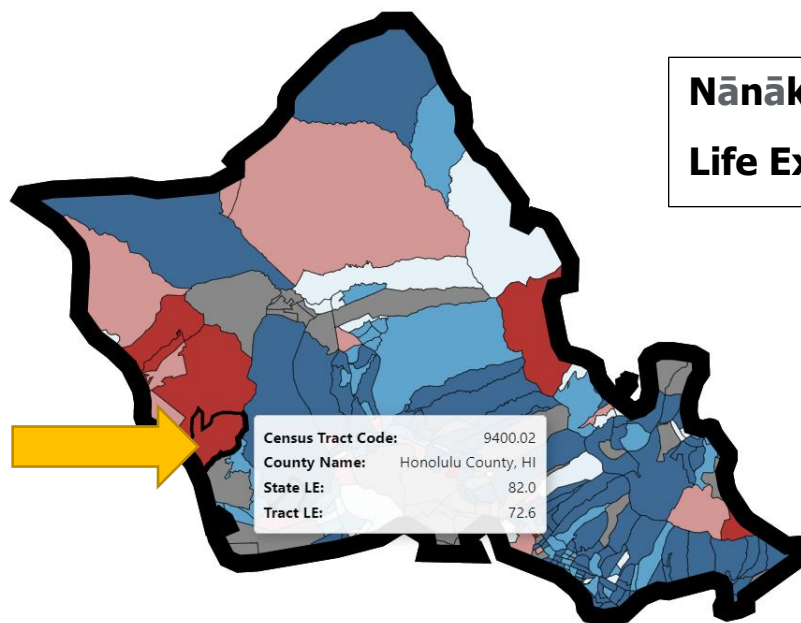
*The Life Expectancy at birth are for U.S. Census Tracts, 2010-2015. These estimates are the result of the collaborative project, “[U.S. Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project \(USALEEP\)](#),” between the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the National Association for Public Health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



...Visualizing the Nation's Health

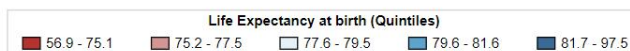
Life Expectancy at Birth for U.S. States and Census Tracts, 2010-2015



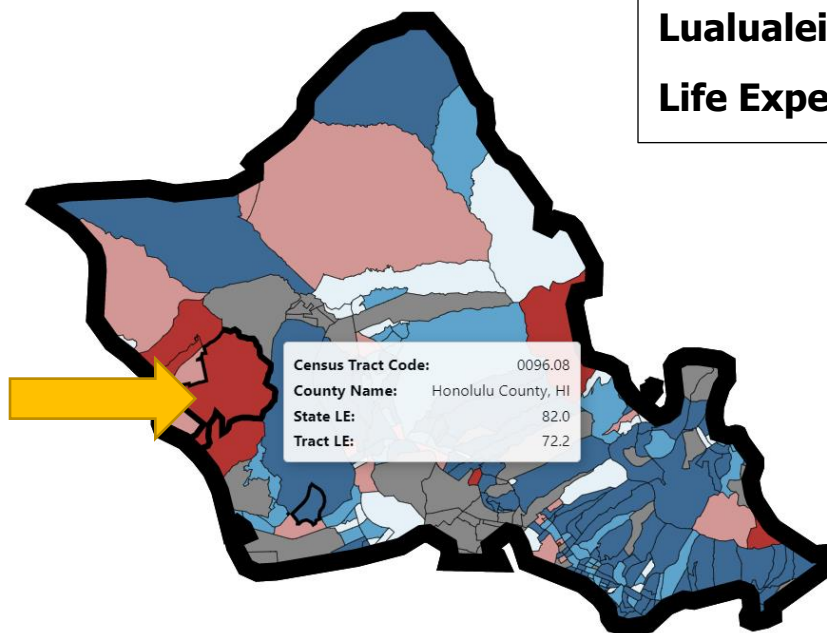
Nānākuli, O'ahu

Life Expectancy – 72.6 yrs

Census Tract Code: 9400.02
County Name: Honolulu County, HI
State LE: 82.0
Tract LE: 72.6



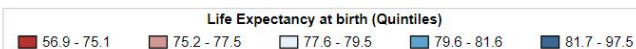
Geographic areas with no data available are filled in gray



Lualualei, O'ahu

Life Expectancy – 72.2 yrs

Census Tract Code: 0096.08
County Name: Honolulu County, HI
State LE: 82.0
Tract LE: 72.2



Geographic areas with no data available are filled in gray

IATSE LOCAL 665

FILM, TELEVISION, STAGE, PROJECTION AND TRADESHOWS

Since 1937

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES, MOVING PICTURE TECHNICIANS, ARTISTS AND ALLIED CRAFTS
OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS TERRITORIES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO, CLC

Honolulu City Council
City Council Chamber
Wednesday, August 9, 2023
10:00 a.m.

Re: Bill 39, CDI (2023) - RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY TAXATION
SUBMITTED BY: Tuia'ana Scanlan, President, IATSE Local 665

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

IATSE Local 665 strongly supports Bill 39, CD1 which exempts the property taxes of homes within a mile of a construction and demolition waste landfill. We applaud Council Chair Tommy Waters and the Honolulu City Council for introducing and supporting such an important bill that addresses environmental racism on the west side of Oahu. For too long, Nanakuli residents have been forgotten and have dealt with the negative effects of a landfill surrounding their properties, schools, and shopping centers.

It is a known fact that residents living near PVT live on average 10 years less than the state average with many dealing with respiratory illnesses and cancer. This is wrong and we are glad Bill 39 will financially help those suffering from the many illnesses caused by a landfill nearby. Ultimately, PVT needs to close but until a new site is found, residents should be financially compensated. Bill 39 is a step in the right direction.

We strongly urge the Council to continue to support Bill 39. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,



Tuia'ana Scanlan
President, IATSE 665
he/him/his

HAWAII PORTS MARITIME COUNCIL

affiliated with

Maritime Trades Department

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR and CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION

606 Kalihi Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

TELEPHONE: (808) 845-5222

FAX: (808) 841-1191

Member Unions:

*American Federation Of
Government Employees*

*Hawaii Government
Employees Association,
AFSCME Local 152*

*Hawaii Pilots Association,
MM&P Pilots Division*

*Inlandboatmen's Union
of the Pacific*

*International Brotherhood of
Boilermakers, Iron Ship
Builders, Blacksmiths,
Forgers and Helpers
Lodge 627*

*International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers Local 1260*

*International Longshore and
Warehouse Union Local 142*

*International Union of
Elevator Constructors
Local 126*

*Ironworkers Union
Stabilization Fund
Local 625*

*Laborers' International Union
of North America Local 368*

*Marine Engineers'
Beneficial Association*

*Marine Firemen,
Watertenders, Oilers & Wipers*

*Masters, Mates and Pilots,
Offshore Division*

Sailors' Union of the Pacific

Seafarers International Union

*United Food and Commercial
Workers International Union
Local 480*

August 2, 2023

Honolulu City Council
Chairman Waters
530 S. King Street St#202
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

Dear Chair Waters:

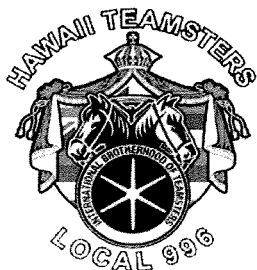
The Hawaii Ports Maritime Council strongly supports Bill 39, CD1 2023 to
establish a Real Property Tax Exemption for properties located near an active
landfill.

Respectfully,



Randy Swindell
President





HAWAII TEAMSTERS & ALLIED WORKERS LOCAL 996

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Local996@hawaii.teamsters.com

1817 Hart Street
Honolulu, HI 96819-3205

Telephone: (808) 847-6633
Fax: (808) 842-4575

August 4, 2023

KEVIN HOLU
President/Principal Officer

JOELLE HUSSEY
Secretary – Treasurer

WALTER FOX III
Vice President

TAVESI AUGAFA
Recording Secretary

FELIPE "PACO" ANGUIANO
Trustee

BEVERLY TUSI
Trustee

JONATHAN LEO REED
Trustee

The Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local 996 with over 6,000 members across the State of Hawaii. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of bill **39**

Bill 39 addresses the environmental racism and injustice that has been occurring on the west side of Oahu by exempting residential real property taxes of homes within a mile of a construction and demolition waste landfill (PVT Landfill). This will financially help any union member who lives near the PVT Landfill. It is also a very small amount for the city as most homes near PVT are on Hawaiian Homelands which pay \$300 in property taxes.

Residents living near PVT have a life expectancy of 10 years less than the state average and you can see the data attached which was conducted by the CDC/Federal Government.

Sincerely,

Kevin Holu

President

Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Local 996



August 7, 2023

Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and City Council Members,

My name is Gino Soquena, Executive Director of the Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council (HBCTC) which is comprised of 18 construction trade unions here in the State of Hawaii. I would like to offer written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Bill 39, CD1 (2023), which exempts the property taxes on certain homes located near a landfill.

HBCTC's mission is to promote the interests of the Hawaii Building and Construction Trades Council, its members and affiliates, with the underlying goal of creating job opportunities and a healthy and vibrant construction industry throughout Hawaii. We are committed to providing Hawaii's working men and women with hope for a better tomorrow through support of smart growth techniques while maintaining our valuable natural resources.

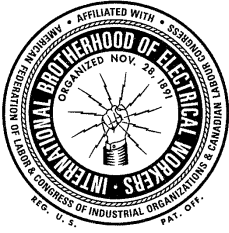
For nearly 40 years, Nanakuli residents, including many of our members and their families, have been forgotten and have dealt with the negative effects of a landfill surrounding their homes and their schools. Data collected by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Center for Health Statistics Neighborhood Life Expectancy Project show that residents living near a landfill live an average of 10 years less than the state average with many dealing with respiratory illnesses and cancer.

This is wrong, but we are hopeful that Bill 39 will financially help those suffering from the many of those illnesses caused by a nearby landfill. Ultimately, any landfill in Nanakuli needs to close but until a new site is found, residents should be financially compensated and Bill 39 is a step in the right direction.

For these reasons, the Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** Bill 39, CD1 (2023) and hope for a favorable decision by the Council. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Gino Soquena
Executive Director
Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

LOCAL UNION NO. 1186 • Affiliated with AFL-CIO

1935 HAU STREET, 5th Floor • HONOLULU, HI 96819-5003
TELEPHONE (808) 847-5341 • FAX (808) 847-2224

TO: CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU - CITY COUNCIL REGULAR
MEETING, Wednesday, August 9, 2023, 10:00a.m., Council Chamber

RE: TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT OF BILL 39 CD1 (2023)**

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

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1186 (IBEW 1186), is comprised of over 3,600 men and women working in electrical construction, telecommunications, Spectrum, civil service, and educator and faculty associations.

Landfills are often controversial, yet are considered an unfortunate necessity with how we live and work, especially in an island community. IBEW 1186 regularly supports construction projects that will put our members to work, and provide for their families. This inevitably comes with the need to have proper facilities to handle construction waste – that unfortunate necessity.

For years, we have supported initiatives to administer waste programs such as H-Power's construction and expansion, and alternative methods of energy production like biomass and waste-to-energy plants. We want to be part of the solution to our waste and energy needs, even if this includes evaluating better locations for landfills.

One thing has been clear in the process of searching for additional landfill locations is that "Nobody wants it In My Back Yard". This is understandable with studies that argue health risks and property devaluation for those living near landfills. This opposition, however, does not change the fact that we need to continue to do better at managing our waste with the finite and limited space of our islands.

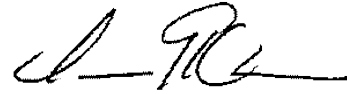
We solemnly recognize that our members, friends, and families of Nanakuli have had a landfill in-their-backyard for decades. BILL 39 CD1 does not proposit to have all the answers for our waste needs, but it does offer a small benefit, in the way of exempting property taxes, to the community that has taken in waste from every corner of Oahu.

Our State Legislature also recognized that the residents living near landfills are "disproportionately burdened", and adopted a concurrent resolution (HCR 107HD1 2023) urging the City and County of Honolulu to offer these real property tax savings to the impacted communities.

We agree with the legislature's resolution and believe that offering these exemptions will be one benefit to a community that has endured a large sacrifice - benefitting us all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of BILL 39 CD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Kim', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Damien T.K. Kim
Business Manager/
Financial Secretary



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

August 9, 2023

TO: Honolulu City Council Members

FROM: Rep. Jeanné Kapela, Hawai'i State House of Representatives

RE: Support for Bill 39

Aloha,

Environmental racism is real. As public officials, we have a responsibility to address it.

I am writing to express my support for Bill 39, which will provide much needed property tax relief for residents who live near landfills. Landfill emissions are harmful to the health of surrounding communities. According to a study conducted in New York, populations that live within a one-mile radius of landfills suffered a 12 percent greater risk of congenital malformations in newborn children.

Additionally, landfills lower property values. Economic research has found that properties adjacent to landfills experience an average reduction in value of roughly 13 percent. Given the sensitivity and high cost of Hawai'i's housing market, the value decline in our islands is likely even higher.

Landfill hazards most heavily impact impoverished and minority communities—including Native Hawaiian neighborhoods—which have historically been dumping grounds for society's waste. This exacerbates the preexisting inequality faced by these communities, including lower rates of healthcare and wage disparity. Delivering financial and personal respite to marginalized groups is a matter of racial, economic, and environmental justice that our most vulnerable people simply cannot afford to miss.

Sincerely,

Jeanné Kapela

State House, District 5



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

CITY COUNCIL CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

REGULAR MEETING
Councilmember Tommy Waters, Chair
Councilmember Esther Kia'āina, Vice Chair

Wednesday, August 9, 2023, 10:00 AM
City Council Chamber

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

Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'āina, 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 Hawai'i and each of the four counties.

UPW supports Bill 39, CD1 (2023), which establishes a real property tax exemption for certain real property located near an active landfill. More specifically, this measure exempts residents who live within a one-mile radius of an active landfill from real property taxes and from the assessment of the minimum real property tax under § 8-11.1.

While this measure would address the Integrated Solid Waste Management Facility operated by the PVT Land Company, Ltd. and the Waimānalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill, Bill 39, CD1 would also exempt those residents who would be impacted by future landfill sites.

We humbly ask that the Council to support Hawai'i's working families who are negatively impacted by these landfill areas by passing Bill 39, CD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kalani Werner", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kalani Werner
State Director

Hawaii's hard working union.

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

4211 Rice Street
Lihue, Hawaii 96766-1325
Phone 808.245.2412

MAUI

841 Kolu Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1436
Phone 808.244.0815

1.866.454.4166

Toll Free - Molokai/Lanai only

August 8, 2023

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August 8, 2023

The Honorable Radiant Cordero, Chair
and Members
Committee on Budget
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Cordero and Members of the Honolulu City Council:

Subject: Testimony in Support of Bill 39 (2023) - Relating to Real Property Taxation

I would like to go on record to voice my support to the City Administration's draft of Bill 39 (2023) that proposes to exempt residential properties within a 1-mile radius of an active landfill to be exempt from real property taxes and from the assessment of the minimum real property tax. As proposed in Bill 39, this would allow residents living near a landfill to file for an exemption to continue upon the closure or relocation of an active landfill, for a period not to exceed 30 years.

This Bill would positively affect families living near the PVT and Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill , and remove a burden from already financially strained households. Exempting families from paying real property taxes would allow them to redirect their resources towards investing in their well-being and health, allowing them to also receive the appropriate health care to undo the damage that living near the landfill has done. According to the US Small Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project, the homesteads surrounding the landfills only live for an average of 72 years, compared to the Hawaii average of 82 years. There are multiple studies stating the adverse health affects of living near landfills, such as increased risk of cancer, birth defects, and various respiratory illnesses.

I urge all members of the Honolulu City Council to stand in favor of Bill 39, and support the proposed exemption. By doing so, we can ensure a fair and equitable approach to taxation while taking essential

August 8, 2023

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steps to protect the well-being of our community members residing near active landfills. Thank you for this opportunity to share this testimony for the Honolulu City Council's consideration.

Sincerely,

Senator Kurt Fevella

State of Hawai'i, District 20

Minority Leader

State Capitol, Room 231

415 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Phone: (808) 586-6360

Fax: (808) 586-6361

senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov



August 8, 2023

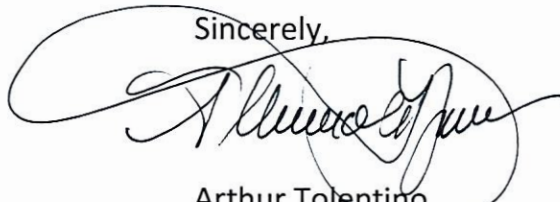
Honolulu City Council
Chairman Waters
530 S. King Street #202
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Bill 39, CD1
Relating to Real Property Tax

Dear Chair Waters and Council members:

The Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 293 is in strong support for Bill 39, CD1 to establish a Real Property Tax Exemption for properties located near an active landfill.

Sincerely,



Arthur Tolentino
Business Manager/F.S.T.



**HAWAII MASONS' AND PLASTERERS' UNIONS
STABILIZATION FUND**

2251 North School Street | Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 452-0350 | Fax: (808) 452-1063



Uploaded via Website

**TO: THE HONORABLE TOMMY WATERS, CHAIR
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL**

SUBJECT: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 39 RELATING TO
REAL PROPERTY TAXATION.**

DATE: Wednesday, August 9, 2023
TIME: 10:00am

Aloha Chair Waters, and members of the Honolulu City Council,

The Hawaii Masons' and Plasterers' Unions Stabilization Fund is a labor-management partnership between the cement finisher members of OPCMIA Local 630, the cement finisher members of IUBAC Local 1 and the over 250 construction companies from the General Contractors Labor Association and the Building Industry Labor Association. We are proud to represent our members in all matters related to the construction industry and, to that end, are in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Bill 39 relating to real property taxation.

Data collected by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Center for Health Statistics Neighborhood Life Expectancy Project show that residents living near a landfill live an average of 10 years less than the state average with many dealing with respiratory illnesses and cancer. Real property tax exemption for residents living within a mile surrounding the PVT landfill is a start and will allow affected residents to have the means to better care for their health and safety.

We urge your support and thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hale o nā Luna Makaʻāinana

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

August 8, 2023

Meeting: August 9, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

City and County of Honolulu Council
City Council Chamber

RE: Testimony Relating to BILL 39 (2023), CD1
RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY TAXATION

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kiaʻāina, and Members of the Council

I am Darius Kila, and I am the current Representative for House District 44, which encompasses Honokai Hale, Nānākuli and Maʻili.

I am in STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 39 (2023) CD1, as it directly impacts the residents in my district. The Waimanalo Landfill, which is operated by PVT Land Company, Ltd., is located in my district and has residential properties surrounding it, and is of great concern to me and my constituents. There is well established scientific support that having residential properties/homes in close proximity (up to 2 miles away) to landfills have negative health impact for residents residing in those properties.

The impact to those who are living within one-half mile of an active landfill are impacted even more. Abutting the Waimanalo Landfill is a predominantly Native Hawaiian community, which has been negatively impacted by the close proximity of the landfill—the residents have a life-span that is 10 years lower than the state average of 82 years, and have the second- and third-lowest life expectancies in the entire state.

Additionally, living in such close proximity to the landfill creates a myriad of health problems for the residents, including but not limited to increased risk of reduced lung function, asthma, ataxia, paralysis, and lung cancer due to air pollution in their homes from unmitigated dust pollution from the landfill.

In addition to increased health problems, residents living in close proximity to landfills incur added expenses such as increased medical expenses, funeral expenses, and additional home repairs and repainting due to the unnatural build up of dust. The increased air pollution from the landfills also necessitates the installation and maintenance of an air filtration system.

Representative Darius K. Kila

House District 44—Honokai Hale, Nānākuli, Maʻili
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 436 / Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-9480 / Fax: (808) 586-9485 / Email: RepKila@capitol.hawaii.gov

City and County of Honolulu Council

RE: BILL 39 (2023), CD1, RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY TAXATION

August 8, 2023

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While not curing the ills brought to neighboring residents of landfills, a real property tax exemption for certain properties located near an active landfill will ease the burden of these added residential, medical and living expenses incurred by these residents living within a 1-mile radius of an active landfill.

This measure is similar to House Resolution (HR) 113 and House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 107, which I introduced during the 2023 Legislative Session; both HR113 and HCR107 were adopted by the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darius K. Kila', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Darius K. Kila

Representative, House District 44