

BILL040(23)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 7

BUDGET (BUD)

BUDGET (BUD) Meeting

Meeting Date: Jan 9, 2024 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 1

Oppose: 2

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Eloise Yano	Email: yanom@hawaiiantel.net	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 8, 2024 @ 06:25 PM
<p>Testimony: Please stop extending the rail and funding. What the rail is now is a dilemma with low ridership and defects. Please consider alternatives... think OUT of The BOX. The rail is already a disgrace for HAWAII. Please stop it. Use our people's money in more resourceful ways. Be smart; be creative; see the TRUTH!</p>		
Name: Sean Uezu	Email: sean@popeyeshawaii.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Popeyes Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 9, 2024 @ 05:26 AM
Name: Andrew Min	Email: andrew@minplastics.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Min Plastics and Supply Inc.	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 9, 2024 @ 08:39 AM
<p>Testimony: COMMITTEE ON BUDGET TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024 @ 9:00am</p> <p>Agenda Item #6</p> <p>c. Generate not more than \$750,000 in annual revenue. Amend the term annual revenue to 'annual PAYROLL'. Focusing on annual PAYROLL to directly benefit the people of the community and their livelihood, rather than compensating company revenues. The people are the true underlying impact that are affected by the Rail Project Construction.</p> <p>Also extending the criteria to include 'REDUCED BENEFIT' above \$750,000. To be inclusive of all businesses, but with a diminishing tiered benefit for larger companies.</p> <p>Focusing on payroll to directly benefit the people of the community and their livelihood where their primary spending is on living expenses within the State of Hawaii, not out of state goods.</p> <p>The nature of the Kalihi area is light manufacturing, distribution, and mostly B2B types of businesses that support the greater industries where majority of annual REVENUE is made up of cost of goods primarily purchased from out of state.</p> <p>d. Have opened for business prior to the commencement of active construction on the Rail Project within the same city block as the business location. Extended definition to include that the 'PRIMARY or SOLE business vehicular ACCESS is within the same city block' of construction corridor.</p> <p>There are streets that are one-way, dead ends, blocked off, or re-routed due to Rail Project Construction. These accompanying businesses are MORE than a city block away and negatively impacted due to the fact that their primary ingress or egress has been COMPROMISED.</p>		

To the Honolulu City Council:

I am the President of Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen, a fast food restaurant located at 1617 Dillingham Blvd. Since construction began on the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project, my business has experienced significant negative impacts. Revenues have declined by approximately 10% as a result of reduced accessibility, traffic disruptions, noise, and other issues caused by the ongoing construction.

I support Bill 40 (2023) to provide additional requirements for the Transit Construction Mitigation Fund. This fund is intended to help businesses like mine that have suffered economic harm from the rail project construction, but it has not been effective up to this point. By establishing application procedures, deadlines, and selection criteria in the rules, and requiring that expenditures adhere to standard city budgeting protocols, this bill will help provide transparency, accountability, and equity in the distribution of mitigation funds.

My business has seen a measurable drop in revenues directly resulting from rail construction over an extended period. The mitigation fund could be a lifeline for businesses like mine if the additional procedures in Bill 40 are adopted. I urge the Council to pass this important measure, which will make the program more structured and fair. The fund cannot remain an abstract concept; businesses are hurting now, and need reasonable access to these support resources that we have been promised.

Please pass Bill 40, and I thank you for considering my testimony and the urgent situation facing Honolulu small businesses impacted by transit construction.

Sincerely,

Sean Uezu

Popeyes Hawaii

808.841 6600

Sean@PopeyesHawaii.com