HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 24-120

FILED

APR 26 2025

PURSUANT TO ROH Sec. 1-2.5

RESOLUTION

RELATING TO THE REPROGRAMMING OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (PUB. L. 117-2), STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS PROGRAM FOR THE RENTAL AND UTILITY RELIEF PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2022, the City Council adopted Bill 15 (2022), CD2, FD1, Relating to the Executive Capital Budget and Program for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2022, pursuant to Section 3-203 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (Amended 2017 Edition), as amended, Bill 15 (2022), CD2, FD1, became a duly enacted ordinance, Ordinance 22-14, on June 20, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 22-14 provided for the appropriation of $193,126,071 in Federal Grant monies received under the American Rescue Plan Grants Program; and

WHEREAS, Appendix A of Ordinance 22-14 designates forty-five discrete projects to be funded by the appropriation and provides estimated costs for the respective projects; and

WHEREAS, Section 17 of Ordinance 22-14 provides, in part, that, "[m]onies from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Pub. L. 117-2), State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program, ("ARPA') monies are hereby designated for the projects listed in Appendix A. ARPA monies appropriated in the American Rescue Plan Grants Program project may be encumbered or expended for these designated projects without further Council approval. No reprogramming actions for monies appropriated in the American Rescue Plan Grants Program project for projects not listed in Appendix A shall be made unless the Council first approves such reprogramming by resolution submitted by the Mayor"; and

WHEREAS, since April 2021 the City has been providing financial support to individuals and families at-risk of being homeless through its Rental and Utility Relief Program ("RURP") that is administered by two non-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, RURP has been recognized as one of the best performing rent and utility relief programs in the nation by the U.S. Department of Treasury ("Treasury"), benefitting more than 22,236 O'ahu households, the vast majority of which earn at or below 50% of Honolulu's Area Median Income; and

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WHEREAS, the June 28, 2023 UHERO Hawai'i Housing Factbook identifies 55.3% of O'ahu tenants as rent-burdened, meaning that more than 30% of their income is used for rent and 28% of O'ahu tenants are severely rent-burdened using more than 50% of their income for monthly rent; and

WHEREAS, key findings of the *ALICE in Hawai'i: 2022 Facts and Figures* report highlighted the sharp increase in the number of households pushed below the poverty line, the increasing number of Hawai'i households that have fallen below the ALICE threshold and the lasting negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the financial and emotional well-being of Hawai'i residents; and

WHEREAS, through Mayor's Message 67 (2024), dated April 16, 2024, the administration informed the Council of a savings of $7,000,000 in funds from various Tranche 2 projects; and

WHEREAS, as a result of said savings, the administration requested the reallocation of $7,000,000 in Tranche 2 funds to assist eligible households with rent payments, rent arrears, utility payments and utility arrears; and

WHEREAS, to date, the Rental and Utility Relief Program has expended $248,000,000 of which over $58,000,000 was from SLFRF; and

WHERAS,the administration affirms its commitment to support at-risk households through extension of RURP by utilizing $7,000,000 in program savings of ARPA funds appropriated in Ordinance 22-14; and

WHEREAS, the Council has advocated for the use of ARPA funds to support individuals and families at-risk of houselessness; and

WHEREAS, Council Communication 103 (2024), dated April 23, 2024, was filed with the City Clerk requesting the submission of a resolution in support of this reprogramming request to allow for public discussion on the proposed action; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu ("Council") that it hereby approves the reprogramming of $7,000,000 as described herein to support the Rental and Utility Relief Program; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council, upon approval of the reprogramming of said funds, authorizes the Director of Budget and Fiscal Services to implement the reprogramming, receipt, and expenditure of said funds in accordance with this resolution, and execute any incidental or related amendments, agreements, or documents in furtherance of any reprogramming actions; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, and the Director of Budget and Fiscal Services.

INTRODUCED BY:

(br)

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

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Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

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