

BILL039(24)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 396

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Sep 4, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Ted Kefalas	Email: tkefalas@grassrootinstitute.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 07:35 AM

Sept. 4, 2024, 10 a.m.

Honolulu Hale

To: Honolulu City Council

Tommy Waters, Chair

Esther Kiaʻāina, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: Bill 39 (2024) — RELATING TO BUILDING PERMITS

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice-Chair Kiaʻāina and other members of the Council,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [Bill 39 CD1 \(2024\)](#), which would remove the affidavit requirements for individuals and businesses applying for building permits.

Current law requires an affidavit that shows ownership of the lot where the building permit would be used, and paperwork that states the owner has no outstanding fines or liens payable to the city.

However, these rules can make it more difficult for some owners, such as businesses or individuals who own multiple lots, to receive building permits. Some applicants might struggle to obtain an affidavit in a timely fashion. For others, an outstanding fine on one property could prevent them from receiving a building permit to do work on another.

Removing this bit of red tape would be a step toward making Honolulu's building permit process more efficient.

However, Grassroot prefers the previous version of Bill 39 to the current draft. The requirement that names and contact information for every contractor and subcontractor be provided in each building permit application is likely to create further delay or confusion, thereby frustrating the intent of the bill. Wherever possible, we suggest removing some of these extraneous requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas

Director of Strategic Campaigns

Grassroot Institute of Hawaii