BILL003(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 48

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Jan 29, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 3

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Natalie Iwasa	iwasajunk@mail.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jan 28, 2025 @ 12:21 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ted Kefalas	tkefalas@grassrootinstitute.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Support	Jan 28, 2025 @ 10:28 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jamie Vares	jamie.vares@gmail.com	96706
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jan 28, 2025 @ 09:39 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Jamie and I am in strong support of Resolution 25-3 CD1, which opposes placing a landfill over any drinking water source.

Our aquifers are the literal lifelines of our islands, providing clean water for our families today and for future generations. With our sole source South O'ahu aquifer already compromised by the Red Hill Facility's decades' worth of fuel spills, risking further contamination of yet another drinking water source is unthinkable. Whether it is jet fuel or landfill leachate, storing toxic chemicals above drinking water is a terrible idea. We do not have ice melts like the mainland.

Protecting our water is about protecting our health, our environment, and the future of everyone who calls O'ahu home. I urge you to pass Resolution 25-3 and ensure that our aquifer, our island, and our future generations are safeguarded from avoidable and irreversible harm. We cannot have waiwai without wai.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jamie Vares

TO: Members of the Honolulu City Council

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
808-395-3233

DATE: Wednesday, January 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Bill-3, Repeal ROH Chapter 35, Business Incentives – **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

Thank you for allowing testimony on Bill 3, which would repeal the entirety of Chapter 35 of the Honolulu Revised Ordinances of Honolulu.

According to the bill, no businesses are using the business incentives under Chapter 35, and apparently no administrative rules were ever adopted.

Before this is passed, please ask the administration about the rules. If none were adopted, why? Understanding that may assist in future legislation.

GRASSROOT INSTITUTE OF HAWAII

1050 Bishop St. #508
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-864-1776
info@grassrootinstitute.org

Removing barriers to Hawaii's prosperity

Jan. 29, 2024, 10 a.m.
Honolulu Hale

To: Honolulu City Council
Tommy Waters, Chair
Matt Weyer, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: Bill 3 (2025) — RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESSES

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

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** Bill 3 (2025), which would repeal Chapter 35 of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu.

This chapter describes certain property tax rebates and permit-fee waivers for businesses that create permanent jobs in Honolulu.

As well-intentioned as this chapter might have been, the Honolulu Department of Budget and Fiscal Services does not have rules to administer the program, and it is likely no one has received any tax or fee reductions from it since the program was created in 1998.

Chapter 35 is clearly ripe for the dust bin, though Grassroot does support the idea behind it that we should be finding ways to lower the cost of doing business in Honolulu. Toward that end, we would welcome dialogue about how to achieve its goals in a more constructive manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii