

BILL001(25)

Testimony

MISC. COMM. 69

PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION (PI&T)

**PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION
(PI&T) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Feb 12, 2025 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Jacob Wiencek	Email: jacob.m.wiencek1@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 7, 2025 @ 10:42 PM
Testimony: Aloha Councilmembers, Reclaiming our public spaces is crucial to sustainable, healthy, and prosperous communities. Outdoor dining is often a more pleasant experience and it is a boon to business as well. This can help pedestrianize our neighborhoods and allow for more positive community experiences. I urge this Committee to SUPPORT this bill!		
Name: Ted Kefalas	Email: tkefalas@grassrootinstitute.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 11, 2025 @ 09:57 AM

Feb. 12, 2025, 9 a.m.

Honolulu Hale

To: Honolulu City Council Committee on Planning, Infrastructure and Transportation

Radiant Cordero, Chair

Val Okimoto, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: Bill 1 (2025) — RELATING TO PUBLIC PLACES

Aloha Chair Cordero, Vice-Chair Okimoto and other members of the Committee,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [Bill 1 \(2025\)](#), which would make permanent the Outdoor Dining Services Pilot Program.

A byproduct of the COVID-19 lockdowns, this outdoor dining arrangement has provided restaurants flexibility and the opportunity to innovate with new seating arrangements that take advantage of Oahu's beautiful weather and scenery.

The Honolulu Office of Economic Revitalization's final report on the pilot program found that 15 eateries participated. All three businesses that responded to OER's survey indicated that offering outdoor dining has increased their revenue, and one business reported hiring more employees as a result.¹

Grassroot strongly suggests implementing OER's recommendations relating to permit duration and making the semi-annual permit fees annual instead.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas

Director of Strategic Campaigns

Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

¹ "[Outdoor Dining Services Program: Report to the Honolulu City Council](#)," Honolulu Office of Economic Revitalization, Nov. 12, 2024, p. 14.