BILL015(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 103

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Feb 26, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 5

Oppose: 1

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Natalie Graham-Wood	ngrahamwood@hotmail.com	96712-9719
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Feb 24, 2025 @ 03:45 PM

Testimony:

I support Bill 015. My name is Natalie Graham-Wood and I live at Sunset Beach, Oahu.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Carissa Cabrera	carissacabrera1@gmail.com	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Feb 24, 2025 @ 04:18 PM

Testimony:

I am in strong support of this measure, which would allocate cesspool conversion resources to households to protect our coastal ecosystems, public health, and mitigate damage from sewage pollution into our environment. The climate resiliency fund is a pathway to support overall 'āina resiliency, and it's only fair to support households in affording conversions. This measure is an important step toward a healthier island community, mahalo for taking my testimony.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Natalie Iwasa	iwasajunk@mail.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	Feb 24, 2025 @ 11:36 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Lynn Miyahira	lynn.miyahira@gmail.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Feb 25, 2025 @ 09:47 AM

Testimony:

TO: Members of the Honolulu City Council

FROM: Lynn Miyahira

DATE: February 26, 2025

Re: Bill 015

Position: SUPPORT

I support this measure to create the Climate Resiliency Fund and allocating some of those funds to help homeowners with cesspool conversions.

Hawaii faces a severe cesspool pollution problem, with over 83,000 cesspools discharging approximately 50 million gallons of raw sewage daily into our groundwater, streams, and oceans. This threatens our drinking water and harms coral reefs that are vital to Hawaii's ecosystem and tourism economy.

Cesspool upgrades are necessary to address this crisis but are expensive, creating significant financial challenges for homeowners and governments alike. Bill 15 takes a critical step toward addressing this issue by allocating funds from the Climate Resiliency Fund to help homeowners with cesspool conversions, providing up to $50,000 for households earning less than $100,000.

We all agree cesspools are a problem. Now, we just have to figure out how to pay for solutions to address the problem.

Mahalo you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Lynn Miyahira

Name: Stuart Coleman	Email: stuart@waicleanwater.org	Zip: 96815
Representing: WAI: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 25, 2025 @ 10:58 AM

Name: ted bohlen	Email: tbohl8@yahoo.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 25, 2025 @ 12:44 PM

Testimony:
Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition is in STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 15! Oahu needs to upgrade its approximately 7,500 cesspools as soon as possible to protect the public health and environment, particularly coral reefs being smothered as a result of wastewater pollution.
But upgrades are expensive, so this bill is a great first step to helping people afford upgrades!
Our tourism-based economy, recreation, and shorefront protection depend on preserving healthy coral reefs being battered by climate heating and overfishing of herbivores.
Please pass Bill 15!

TO: Members of the Honolulu City Council

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
808-395-3233

DATE: Wednesday, February 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Bill 15, Climate Resiliency Fund – **OPPOSED**

Aloha Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on Bill 15, which would create a Climate Resiliency Fund and require that .5% of the estimated real property tax revenues plus interest be deposited into the fund. The bill also authorizes certain uses, such as grants for cesspool conversions.

Real property taxes are the foundation of city funding. Every time a special fund is created, it chips away at that foundation, resulting in less flexibility.

Priorities are set in the budget each year. If climate resiliency is a priority, make appropriations accordingly in the budget.

Please vote "no" on Bill 15.

Feb. 24, 2025

In Support of **Bill 15 (Funding Cesspool Conversions)**
Honolulu City & County Council Meeting
Hearing on Feb. 26, 2025, 9:00am

Aloha, Chairs and Council Members,

My name is Stuart Coleman, and I'm the Co-Founder and Exec. Dir. of WAI: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations. I am writing in strong support of Bill 15, which would allocate funds from the Climate Resiliency Fund to help homeowners with the cost of converting their cesspools.

WAI is a nonprofit dedicated to protecting water quality, reducing sewage pollution and restoring healthy watersheds by offering more efficient, affordable and eco-friendly solutions to wastewater management. We are working with federal, state and county agencies to help homeowners convert cesspools across Hawaii. There are over 80,000 cesspools across the state, and Oahu has more than 7,500 cesspools, releasing approximately 4.5 million gallons of untreated wastewater daily, contaminating our oceans, streams, and groundwater by releasing disease-causing pathogens and nitrates. The nutrients from wastewater are killing our coral reefs.

Costs for cesspool conversions range from between $30,000 to $50,000, and many working families cannot afford the costs of find financing. Bill 15 would offer grants of up to $50,000 to homeowners earning under $100,000 in household income, helping them comply with state requirements to convert cesspools without facing financial hardship.

The Climate Resiliency Fund, which voters approved through a City Charter Amendment in the 2024 general election to support projects safeguarding our environment and communities, would provide the funding for this initiative and help homeowners convert their cesspools and protect our water quality, public health and our coral reefs. This bill will benefit locals, visitors and all who enjoy our nearshore ecosystem and coastal waters. Please pass this bill, which is urgently needed on Oahu. Mahalo for your leadership on this issue.

Aloha,
Stuart Coleman
Stuart H. Coleman, Executive Director

WAI: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations * 2927 Hibiscus Pl. * Honolulu, HI 96815
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