

BILL003(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 113

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Feb 26, 2025 @ 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: Feb 25, 2025 @ 11:04 AM

Feb. 26, 2025, 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 the program since it was created in 1998.

Chapter 35 is clearly ripe for the round file, 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