

BILL001(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 114

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

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

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ted Kefalas	tkefalas@grassrootinstitute.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Support	Feb 25, 2025 @ 11:05 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
lynne matusow	lynnehi@aol.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Feb 25, 2025 @ 02:14 PM
Testimony: I fully support this bill which will enhance the eating experience of our residents and tourists and make a positive contribution to the economy.		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Yvonne Alexander	yalexander@hawaii.rr.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Sunset Beach Community Association The Outdoor Circle	I wish to comment	Feb 26, 2025 @ 08:56 AM
Testimony: Dr. Ireland is doing a great job. He is always available for comment and helps support our community. He understands the dire need for ambulance service for our North Shore Community. EMS services not only our community but the millions for TOURISTS that visit the North Shore and have emergencies out her. Again, he is doing a great job.		

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 1 (2025) — RELATING TO PUBLIC PLACES

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

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [Bill 1 \(2025\)](#), which would make permanent the city's 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.