

BILL001(25)

Testimony

MISC. COMM. 135

PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION (PI&T)

PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION
(PI&T) Meeting

Meeting Date: Mar 5, 2025 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 3

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Ted Kefalas	Email: tkefalas@grassrootinstitute.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 3, 2025 @ 10:27 AM
Name: Victor Lim	Email: victor.lim@partners.mcd.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Hawaii Restaurant Associaton	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 3, 2025 @ 08:02 PM
Name: Natalie Iwasa	Email: info@cycleonhawaii.org	Zip: 96825
Representing: Cycle On Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2025 @ 10:18 PM

March 5, 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) CD1 — RELATING TO PUBLIC PLACES

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

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [Bill 1 \(2025\) CD1](#), 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

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.



Andy Huang, Chairman – L&L Hawaiian Barbecue **Ave Kwok**, Past Chair – Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant
Mike Palmer, Incoming Chair – Ho'okipa Partners **Tambara Garrick**, Treasurer – Hawaii Farm Project
Victor Lim, Government Relations Lead – McDonald's | Mail: 2909 Waialae Avenue #22, Honolulu, HI 96826

Sheryl Matsuoka , President & CEO Ginny Wright , Operations Associate Holly Kessler , Vice President of Operations



Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

808-395-3233

TO: Committee on Planning, Infrastructure & Transportation

HEARING: 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 5, 2025

SUBJECT: Bill 1, CD1, Public Places - **SUPPORT**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on Bill 1, CD1, which would make the outdoor dining pilot project permanent. We support this.

In May 2013, Cycle On Hawaii hosted Hele On Kakaako with a complete streets demonstration that included parklets. Feedback was positive, and the city created the pilot project shortly thereafter.



Hele On Kakaako

Parklets and similar outdoor attractions have a calming effect on traffic and help make our communities more walkable and bikeable.

Please vote “yes” on Bill 1, CD1.

Sincerely,

Natalie Iwasa, President

Cycle On Hawaii is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization founded in 2012 by a group of advocates for bicyclists. Managed and directed entirely by volunteers, Cycle On Hawaii organizes community events such as Bike and Walk to School Days, cyclovias, bike rodeos for children, bike contests and parades, and educational workshops and presentations on Safe Routes to School.