

BILL001(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 175

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Mar 19, 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: Mar 17, 2025 @ 10:12 AM

March 19, 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) CD1 — RELATING TO PUBLIC PLACES

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

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [Bill 1 \(2025\), 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.