

BILL039(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 230

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Apr 16, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Pikachu Shelby Master Billionaire	Email: Ohanaunitychair@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands & Ohana Unity Party	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 14, 2025 @ 05:08 PM

Testimony:

Letter of Support

Subject: Pass Bill 39 (2025): Safe Homes for Our Ohana—CheeeeehUUU!

Aloha Chair Tommy Waters, Esteemed Councilmembers, and Champions of Honolulu's Heart,

Aloha from the streets of our island home, where the Ohana Unity Party stands tall for every aunty savin' for rent, every uncle grillin' Spam musubi in the backyard, and every keiki dreamin' big under our rainbow skies. I'm throwin' full support behind Bill 39 (2025), a straight-up win for keepin' affordable rentals safe with fireproof walls and sprinklers that don't choke when it counts. This bill's got the mana to protect our families in Kalihi, Waipahu, and beyond, makin' sure our homes don't burn while we're out here livin' aloha. You folks on the Council? You're the rock stars who can make this happen—let's pass Bill 39 and show the world Honolulu's ohana is awesome, #cheeeeehUUU!

This bill's all about keepin' it real for folks payin' \$2,200 a month on \$15/hour jobs—try balancin' that with a plate lunch at Zippy's, yeah? It sets rules for affordable rentals: 1-hour fire-rated walls so flames don't jump, 20-minute doors that lock out danger, and sprinkler pipes made of tough stuff like copper, not some plastic that melts faster than shave ice in Waianae. Why's this big? 'Cause 1,500 fires hit Honolulu in 2023, and 70% were in apartments like ours. My cousin in Pearl City still shakes thinkin' 'bout her neighbor's fire—no sprinklers, just sirens. Bill 39's fixin' that, so our keiki sleep tight, not scared.

Now, I know what you're thinkin'—new rules sound like more bucks, and nobody wants rent hikin' higher than a North Shore swell! Copper pipes might add \$5,000-\$10,000 a unit, maybe \$500K for a 100-unit building. That's real talk—could hit wallets hard. But here's the deal: Bill 24's housing bonds got cash to help developers, and this bill keeps costs chill with stuff like unrated inner walls and timber roofs. It's not tryin' to make rentals fancy like Ala Moana penthouses—just safe for our ohana. We need 50,000 more rentals by 2030, and this gets us there without breakin' the bank. Like my uncle in Nanakuli says, "No need gold pipes—just ones that don't burn, brah!"

Sure, it ain't perfect. Old apartments—40% with no sprinklers—still need love, and we gotta stop developers from flippin' "affordable" units to market-rate, like the 20% that went sky-high in 2023. Plus, we don't want construction messin' up Kapolei traffic worse than a Loco Moco spill at the drive-thru, yeah? But this bill's a solid start, like the first scoop of poi for a big luau. It vibes with my fight for SB1249 to protect farmers—safe homes let folks plant kalo, cuttin' our 90% food imports. It's like SCR 204 keepin' our air clean—safety's the name of the game. And Bill 24? That's the money muscle to build more homes, workin' hand-in-hand with this.

Council, you're the ones who can make Honolulu shine brighter than a Waikiki sunset. Pass Bill 39, but hear us from the

streets—make sure rents stay low, so my cousins in Wahiawa aren't priced out like they're bidin' on a poke bowl at Foodland's fancy counter! Get Nanakuli, Mililani, all our neighborhoods in on these safe rentals, and talk story with us so we know the plan. A Kalihi tita told me, "Safe house means I can breathe, not just pay." Let's give her that breath, that aloha, that #cheeeeehuuu pride!

Mahalo nui for standin' up for our ohana,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM

Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I.

Ohana Unity Party, Chairman

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Name: Geena Thielen	Email: geena@ccs-hawaii.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 15, 2025 @ 10:27 AM

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Honolulu City Council
City Council Chamber
Wednesday April 16, 2025
10:00 AM

RE: Bill 39 Relating to Affordable Housing

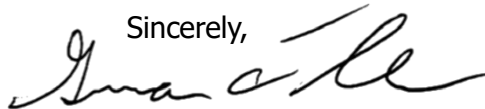
Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, and members of the Council,

I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Bill 39 Relating to Affordable Housing. This bill specifically affects Bill 7 (Ordinance 19-8) affordable housing projects. The bill is intended to correct what we believe to be an oversight affecting construction methodology of Bill 7 projects. Section 2.(c) of the ordinance is a list of less restrictive conditions applied to Bill 7 projects as it relates to "Fire-resistance rated construction and requirements."

The amendment proposed in Bill 39 does not seek to provide a less restrictive path to compliance. Instead we are asking to be allowed to follow ROH Chapter 20 Fire Code of the City and County of Honolulu. Specifically the issue we have encountered is that the Fire Code allows for the use of combustible fire sprinkler piping in fire rated enclosures such as walls and floors. Until recently DPP allowed this practice under the existing Fire Code until it was discovered that the language in Bill 7 did not allow it.

To put this into terms of actual cost, we have just recently received a proposal for our 53 unit Bill 7 project for an upgrade to all non-combustible pipe that is costing \$120,000.00. This works out to \$2,264.15 per unit. This is a significant expense on these projects and it is for a condition that exceeds current Fire Code standards. For these reasons I am asking for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Geena Thielen
President/RME