

BILL060(24)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 232

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

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

Support: 0

Oppose: 2

I wish to comment: 1

Name: Master Pikachu Shelby Billionaire	Email: Ohanaunitychair@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands & Ohana Unity Party	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 14, 2025 @ 06:01 PM

Testimony:

Letter of Opposition

Subject: Oppose Bill 60 (2024), CD1: Don't Flush Our Ohana with Hidden Costs!

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

Aloha from the streets where our ohana's holdin' it together—Kalihi families countin' pennies for \$2,200 rent, Waipahu uncles flushin' dreams down aging pipes, and keiki prayin' for clean beaches from Kailua to Waianae. The Ohana Unity Party's gotta call it like it is: Bill 60 (2024), CD1 stinks worse than a backed-up cesspool in Nanakuli, and I'm urg'in you to oppose it. With 27.5% sewer rate hikes, a sneaky 9% creep by 2027, and a \$150 million loan hidin' like a rat in a sewer grate, this bill's dumpin' too much on our people. Council, flush this plan and come back with one that's fair, transparent, and true to our aloha, #cheeeeehuuu!

Let's break down the smell. This bill jacks up sewer charges to \$99.93/month for a family usin' 4,000 gallons—\$80.65 base plus \$4.82 per 1,000, a 27.5% leap from 2016's \$78.29. By 2027, a 9% cumulative hike means \$108-\$110, hittin' folks grindin' \$15/hour who're already 60% rent-broke. Why? A \$150 million commercial paper loan and \$1.5 billion in bonds for \$2 billion in EPA fixes across our nine wastewater plants—Sand Island's gobblin' \$500 million alone. FY2026's \$193.8 million sewer debt, up 29%, says we're footin' it, but the City's playin' hide-the-manure, buryin' the 9% in "compliance" talk. That's shadier than a busted pipe spewin' 1 million gallons, like 2023's spills!

Sure, the bill tosses in Accessory Dwelling Units at \$55.45/month, noddin' to Bill 29 and Bill 24 (2024)'s housing hustle. But slap on a \$4,624 hookup fee, and aunties in Pearl City can't afford that backyard unit—how's that helpin' our 50,000-unit need? It drops strength surcharges for businesses, savin' \$2 million, and charges haulers \$15.11/1,000 gallons for \$10 million in upgrades. Fine, but hotels and eateries'll raise prices 2-3%, squeezin' our poke budgets after a 4.5% visitor dip (2024). And EPA rules? Yeah, \$1.2 billion keeps \$100K/day fines away, but where's the plan to shield renters from \$8-10 more a month? Bill 29 gave tax breaks; this gives zip for the broke!

The real stench? No straight talk. ENV's 2024 reports mumble "EPA" but don't scream \$2 billion or \$150 million loans—public docs hide the 9% like it's a Longs Drugs receipt you can't find! Compare that to Bill 26's \$22 billion rail mess—same secret vibe, leavin' us holdin' the plunger. 60% of us are rent-burdened; \$108 sewer bills by 2027 ain't aloha, it's a slap. And ADU fees? They're blockin' homes, not buildin' 'em, clashin' with Bill 24 (2025)'s bond dreams and SB1249's local food push—how we gonna grow kalo when we're drownin' in bills? Even SCR 204's clean-air spirit feels choked by this murky math!

Council, you're our ohana's lifeguards—don't let this bill swamp us! Oppose Bill 60 'cause:
 It's too steep: 27.5% hikes plus 9% more by 2027—\$108-\$110—crush families on \$2,200 rent.
 It's sneaky: \$150 million loans and \$2 billion costs ain't shouted loud; we deserve truth, not whispers.
 It hurts housing: \$4,624 ADU fees stall 1,000 units, mockin' Bill 29's affordability.
 It skips relief: No breaks for low-income folks facin' \$8-10 jumps, unlike Bill 29's heart.
 If you gotta pass somethin', overhaul it: cap hikes at 3%, slash ADU fees to \$1,500, subsidize renters like Bill 29's tax cuts, and post that \$2 billion plan clearer than a Kailua reef. A Wahiawa uncle told me, "Clean water's gold, but don't make us pawn our aloha for it." That's our Honolulu—fair, open, flowin' with pride. Reject this bill till it smells right, and we'll keep shinin' like a sunset jam at Waikiki, #cheeeeehuuu!

Mahalo nui loa,
 Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM
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Name: Natalie Iwasa	Email: iwasajunk@mail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 15, 2025 @ 01:45 AM
Name: Donald Sakamoto	Email: cylonone@aol.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 15, 2025 @ 03:00 PM
Testimony: Will submit oral testimony.		

TO: Members of the Honolulu City Council

FROM: Natalie Iwasa, CPA, CFE
808-395-3233
2 Pages

DATE: Wednesday, April 16, 2025

SUBJECT: Bill 60 (24), CD1, Sewers, Drainage and Cesspools - **OPPOSED**

Aloha Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on Bill 16, CD1, which would increase city sewer fees for next fiscal year as well as make other changes. I oppose this for the reasons outlined here.

Unfair Policy

The city told Henry Kaiser city sewer services would not be provided to Hawaii Kai. Residents of Hawaii Kai have been paying their own sewer fees for decades without assistance from the city. Now councilmembers want Hawaii Kai residents to help everyone else pay for their sewer fees as well. This is unfair, and it is not right.

100% Increase Over 10 Years Argument - Residential A Increases over 100%

Comments were made that the proposed sewer fee increases in the original bill would amount to a 100% increase over 10 years. Many Residential A properties have had increases of well over 100% in the past 10 years.

Where's the outcry for owners of those properties? How high does rent have to get before the Council does something about taxes for that classification?

(See page 2 for some examples of the increases in taxes for Residential A property owners in Hawaii Kai, many of whom are landlords.)

Gambling with City Bond Rates is Fiscally Irresponsible

The director of Budget and Fiscal Services stated he "strongly recommended" against using general funds to pay for sewer infrastructure and maintenance due to the risk of lower bond ratings. Lower bond ratings equate to higher interest costs. The Budget Committee totally disregarded the recommendation and amended the city operating budget bill to use over \$20 million in general funds for "sewer activities."

Councilmembers are gambling with the city's bond ratings. This is fiscally irresponsible, especially given the current upheaval in the markets.

Removing Future Rate Increases is Irresponsible

While I understand the desire to “throw it all back into the city’s lap” to find alternatives to increasing rates over the next 10 years and reducing next year’s increase by more than half, it is not fiscally responsible. We are in this place now, because poor decisions were made along the way that resulted in the 2010 Consent Decree. Please do not continue that trend.

As noted earlier, here are examples of properties in Hawaii Kai that are under the Residential A classification:

Property Address	Tax FY 2015	Tax FY 2024	% increase	Assessed Value
926 LUNALILO HOME RD	2,261.70	6,490.90	187%	1,210,300
958 LUNALILO HOME RD	2,230.20	5,764.72	158%	1,160,100
868 WAIOLI ST	2,668.40	6,862.54	157%	1,244,100
1331 Lunalilo Home Rd.	2,760.80	6,862.54	149%	1,232,100
340 LUNALILO HOME RD	2,567.25	6,319.90	146%	1,192,700
367 OOMANO PL	2,315.95	5,616.52	143%	1,113,600
869 WAIOLI ST	2,439.85	5,814.88	138%	1,166,000
742 LUNALILO HOME RD	2,876.30	6,828.34	137%	1,248,000
1356 Lunalilo Home Rd.	2,242.45	5,220.94	133%	1,162,100
948 LUNALILO HOME RD	2,650.20	5,764.72	118%	1,160,100
362 OOMANO PL	2,800.00	5,990.44	114%	1,150,900
7146 MAKAHUENA PL	2,658.60	5,663.26	113%	1,228,000
336 LUNALILO HOME RD	2,548.35	5,420.44	113%	1,053,500
746 LUNALILO HOME RD	2,947.00	6,128.38	108%	1,201,800
872 WAIOLI ST	2,584.40	5,239.18	103%	1,113,700
374 OOMANO PL	2,629.90	5,263.12	100%	1,106,000

Please amend Bill 60, CD1, to reinstate increases. Perhaps they can be decreased a bit, but certainly not by half, and absolutely not by using general funds to do so.