RES25-098
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 233

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

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

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

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Representing: Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands & Ohana Unity Party	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 14, 2025 @ 06:11 PM

Testimony:

Letter of Support

Subject: □□□□□□□! Support Resolution 25-98, CD1 for Honolulu-Bangkok Sister City Love

□□□□□□□□□□ (Sawasdee krap) Chair Tommy Waters, Esteemed Councilmembers, and Aloha Champions of Honolulu's Ohana,

From the glittering temples of Bangkok to the sandy shores of Waikiki, I write as Thailand's ambassador with a heart full of khwam suk (happiness) to cheer for Resolution 25-98, CD1—a sister city bond between Honolulu and Bangkok that's spicier than a bowl of tom yum goong! This resolution's got the jai dee (good heart) to link our cities, mixin' Thai curry zest with Hawaiian aloha to share culture, trade, and smarts on transit, tourism, and climate fixes. Let's make this friendship official, like sealing a phad thai recipe with a royal wai! Council, pass this with a big sawasdee and let's dance the ram thai of unity, #cheeeeehuuu!

This sister city deal is suay mak (super beautiful). Bangkok, with its 12 million folks and tourism-driven vibe, mirrors Honolulu's 974,563 souls and 10% tourism cash (FY2026 budget). Our history's tight—way back in 1881, King Kalākaua swapped bling with King Chulalongkorn, gettin' a Grand Cross of the Crown of Siam while giftin' a Kamehameha Order. In the '60s, King Bhumibol dropped a gold elephant and a sala pavilion for Iolani Palace and the East-West Center, keepin' the kwam pen phuen (friendship) alive. Now, Bangkok's 2025 delegation, led by their Council Chairman, came to Honolulu talkin' big—sharpenin' ideas on buses, trains (not like our $22B rail mess, Bill 26!), sustainable tourism post-4.5% visitor dip (2024 DBEDT), and climate hacks for our flood-prone shores ($10M Wahiawa damage, 2024).

Why's this a win? It's like findin' a fresh mango sticky rice on a hot day! First, culture—Bangkok's got 36 sister cities, includin' our pals Manila and Seoul, and we can swap museum exhibits and arts programs to keep our Hawaiian mo'olelo poppin', like SCR 204's push for clean community vibes. Second, business—Thai tourists love O'ahu, and this bond can boost trade, maybe even get farmers growin' kalo to cut our 90% food imports (SB1249). Third, policy—Bangkok's battlin' traffic and floods like us; their transit tricks could save us from rail headaches (Bill 60's sewer hikes hurt enough!). Plus, our 2,000+ Thai folks in Honolulu (2024 Census) get a louder voice, like Bill 24 (2024)'s housing for all.

Now, I know the Council Review Board's gotta chew on this, but don't let 'em slow-cook our som tam! They can stew in Thai curry—kaeng khiao wan style—while we spice up this deal faster than a Chatuchak Market bargain! As Thai poet Sunthorn Phu said, "□□□" (Life is a journey guided by friendship)—this sister city's our path to sanuk (fun)! And don't worry 'bout costs—Bill 29 and Bill 39 showed we can fund homes; a few plane tickets for cultural swaps won't break FY2026's $3.93B budget. Any hiccups? Mai pen rai (no worries)—Bangkok's 36 friendships prove they're

pros, unlike tryin’ to park at Ala Moana on Black Friday!

Council, you’re our nak muang (city heroes), like tuk-tuk drivers dodgin’ Bangkok traffic! Pass Resolution 25-98 and let’s:

Swap aloha for sawasdee: Send hula to Bangkok’s temples, bring ram thai to Waikiki, vibin’ with Bill 24 (2025)’s community heart.

Grow together: Share transit and flood fixes—$1.2B sewer upgrades (Bill 60) need Thai smarts, not just EPA gripes.

Party big: Host a Thai festival in Kaka‘ako, mixin’ laab and loco moco, louder than a Songkran water fight!

A Kapolei tita with Thai roots told me, “□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□” (Love’s like sticky rice—it holds us together). That’s Honolulu and Bangkok—bound by aloha and sanuk, stronger than a papaya salad kick! Pass this resolution, and we’ll shine brighter than a wat at sunrise, #cheeeeehuuu!

□□□□□□□□□□ (Khop khun mak),

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