

BILL035(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 236

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

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

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Eliza Talbot	Email: eliza8482@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Economic Revitalization Commission	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 15, 2025 @ 07:54 AM
Testimony: Aloha Councilmembers, Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Bill 35. I currently serve as the Chair of the Economic Revitalization Commission for the City and County of Honolulu. In our recent presentations to the Council regarding the Commission's 2025 priorities, this was identified as an important part of our strategic planning. The current draft of the bill has the potential to authorize the City to boost economic growth for local entrepreneurs and businesses by authorizing agencies to lease City lands for economic development opportunities. Economic development fosters an improved quality of life by enhancing the abilities of individuals, businesses, and communities to leverage their talents and skills, thereby driving innovation, creating jobs, and attracting private investment. The proposed revisions to Chapter 38 aim to modernize how the City and County utilizes its property assets to maximize efficiency and support economic development and community growth. By allowing greater flexibility in leasing processes and expanding eligibility criteria for direct support, these revisions will enable City agencies, including the Office of Economic Revitalization (OER), to create hubs for entrepreneurship, innovation, and development. This will enhance the City's ability to strategically deploy its property assets in service of economic revitalization, equitable growth, and sustainable community development. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.		
Name: Arjuna Heim	Email: arjuna@hiappleseed.org	Zip: 96816
Representing: Hawaii Appleseed	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 16, 2025 @ 09:16 AM



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Support for Bill 035(25) - Relating to Lease and Rental of City Real Property
Full Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 10:00AM

Aloha Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

The Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice supports Bill 35 (2024), CD1, as a necessary step to enhance the efficiency and flexibility of leasing city-owned land for affordable housing development.

In Honolulu, permitting delays have significantly impacted housing development timelines. UHERO's 2024 The Hawaii Housing Factbook reported, the median wait time for single family residential building permits was approximately 181 days, while multi-family developments faced median processing times of 386 days¹. These prolonged timelines contribute to increased construction costs and hinder the timely delivery of much-needed housing units².

Bill 35 allows the City to adopt more flexible and appropriate tools, like Requests for Qualifications (RFQs), when selecting partners to build affordable housing on public land. This approach enables the City to assess capacity and alignment with public purpose, while maintaining transparency and competitiveness.

Flexibility is especially important given that housing deals often evolve over years. The ability to adapt scopes and timelines as conditions change helps make projects more financially feasible and more likely to succeed.

We support Bill 35 as a necessary reform to help the City move more effectively and proactively to address the urgent need for affordable housing.

Mahalo for your consideration.

¹ [The Hawai'i Housing Factbook 2024](#)

² [Honolulu's Building Permit Delays: A 'Nightmare' Decades In The Making](#)