



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

530 S. KING ST. STE. 202, HONOLULU, HI 96813

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TYLER DOS SANTOS-TAM
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT 6
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5006
FAX: (808) 768-1176
EMAIL: tdossantos-tam@honolulu.gov

April 22, 2025

TO: JOY YAMANE, COMMITTEE AIDE
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET

FROM: COUNCILMEMBER DOS SANTOS-TAM, CHAIR 
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET

RE: DRAFT COMMITTEE REPORT RELATING TO THE REVIEW AND
EVALUATION OF THE GRANTS IN AID ADVISORY COMMISSION

Transmitted herewith for placement on an upcoming Committee on Budget agenda is a draft committee report relating to the Committee's review and evaluation of the Grants in Aid Advisory Commission pursuant to ROH Chapter 3, Article 15 (Ordinance 17-44).

Please number this communication and upload it to HNLDOC.

Attachment

BUD
COUNCIL COM. 119

DISTRICT 6 - PORTIONS OF KAKA'AKO, DOWNTOWN HONOLULU, CHINATOWN, PUNCHBOWL, PAKAPŌLEA,
PAUOA VALLEY, NU'UANU, IWILEI, LILIHA, 'ĀLEWA HEIGHTS, KALIHI, AND KALIHI VALLEY

Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Budget, to which was referred the review and evaluation of the Grants in Aid Advisory Commission ("Commission") pursuant to Ordinance 17-44 (codified as Chapter 3, Article 15, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("ROH")), reports as follows:

The purpose of the review and evaluation is to determine whether the provision(s) of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (Amended 2017 Edition), as amended ("Charter") establishing the Commission should be retained, amended, or repealed. Ordinance 17-44 (2017) implements Charter Section 13-103.2, which mandates the periodic review and evaluation of certain City boards and commissions as provided by ordinance.

The Commission was established by Charter Section 9-205 to advise the City on grants in aid to federal income tax exempt nonprofit organizations consistent with priorities established by Council resolution. The Commission consists of seven members, appointed by the Mayor, who serve for staggered terms of five years and until their successors have been appointed and qualified.

By Department Communication 133, dated February 11, 2025, the Commission submitted to the Council a report on its accomplishments and activities, as required by Ordinance 17-44 (codified as ROH Section 3-15.4).

The Director Designate of the Department of Community Services ("DCS"), Anton Krucky, provided comments.

The DCS Administrator, Shane Akagi, provided comments.

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ADOPTED ON _____

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. XXX

Your Committee, after due consideration, makes the following findings:

- For transparency and ease of the grant solicitation process, it is important to publish the solicitation requirements and grant scoring criteria by which the Commission operates;
- While the Commission has striven to meet the \$250,000 specific and exclusive funding level for each Council District as provided in Resolution 20-263, CD1 (2020) and Resolution 24-118 (2024), in order to meet this requirement, the Commission has recommended funding for organizations that have scored well below other organizations that have been recommended for funding. In addition, there have not been enough organizations applying to fund services in each Council District to meet this requirement; and
- Continued federal funding for grants is currently uncertain. With the potential loss of federal funding to nonprofits, the Grants in Aid ("GIA") process may need to be expanded, or become more flexible for the next few years to address these concerns.

Based on the foregoing, your Committee recommends that the Commission:

- Include general summaries of the policies and priorities, set forth in Resolution 20-263, CD1 (2020) and Resolution 24-118 (2024), that guide the Commission's reviews and scores;
- Base recommendations of funding strictly by the score that a proposal receives. This will allow organizations with the highest quality applications to receive funding and provide a fair award process; and
- Develop a process by which the GIA process could be expanded or become more flexible, such as opening the process for a second time during the year, which can also assist in awarding any remaining funds.

Your Committee on Budget recommends that this Committee Report be scheduled for a public hearing and be adopted by the Council as the Council's determination on the review and evaluation of the Grants in Aid Advisory Commission. (Ayes: Cordero, Dos Santos-Tam, Kia'aina, Nishimoto, Weyer – 5; Noes: None

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Respectfully submitted,

Committee Chair

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