BILL015(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 248

BUDGET (BUD)

BUDGET (BUD) Meeting

Meeting Date: Apr 29, 2025 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
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Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Ulupono Initiative	Support	Apr 28, 2025 @ 07:58 AM

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HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON BUDGET
Tuesday, April 29, 2025 — 9:00 A.M.

Ulupono Initiative supports Bill 15 CD 1, creating a fund to receive and expend moneys to support climate resiliency.

Dear Chair Dos Santos-Tam and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports Bill 15 CD 1, which establishes the Climate Resiliency Fund within the City and County of Honolulu.

Ulupono supports dedicated resources for the City's climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. We believe that this fund is key to ensuring Honolulu remains resilient in spite of the many climate change challenges we face today and into the future.

We ask the Council to consider adding language for the Climate Resiliency Fund to support efforts to increase local food production, thus limiting our over-reliance on imported food, reducing Honolulu's vulnerability to import disruptions, and creating a more resilient local agricultural industry. We also recommend language that expands provisions for clean transportation choices across Honolulu, ensuring that the City can directly impact the negative effects of the transportation sector, which accommodates for the bulk of greenhouse gas emissions leading to devastating climate change events.

To this end, we submit the following amendments for consideration:

Adding language to the “Purpose” section, subsection (2), to read as (inserted language underlined):

“(2) Enhance the resiliency of the city to climate change impacts, including investments in green infrastructure, indigenous knowledge-informed solutions, invasive species prevention and control, local agricultural production, renewable energy, clean transportation options, and coastal protection measures;”

Adding language to the “Additional requirements” section, subsection (b), to read as (inserted language underlined):

“(b) Moneys in the climate resiliency fund may be used to finance a grant program for preventive and ameliorative measures relating to the experienced and anticipated effects of climate change, including but not limited to rising sea levels, heavier rainfall, flooding, extreme weather events, disruption of ecosystems, over-dependence on imports such as food and energy, and potential impacts on human health due to changing climate patterns. Preventive and ameliorative measures include funding for cesspool conversions or installation of new lateral sewer connections for unsewered properties that were not previously serviced by a public sewer main. Grants from this program may not exceed $50,000 and may only be awarded to households with a total household income under $100,000.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs