

BILL023(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 261

BUDGET (BUD)

BUDGET (BUD) Meeting

Meeting Date: May 12, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 11

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 5

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	waianaenb569@gmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 7, 2025 @ 01:54 PM
Testimony: I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry STRONGLY SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING 2013067 Waianae Wastewater Treatment Plan Improvements/Upgrade \$1.9M 2019050 Waianae WWTO Recycled Water & Improvements \$801K 2009027 Herbert K. Pilila'au Community Park \$5,565,000 2002067 Kaupuni Neighborhood Park \$400K		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Carla Houser	chouser@rysehawaii.org	96814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 9, 2025 @ 03:40 PM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jennifer Mullin	jmullin3809@gmail.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	May 9, 2025 @ 07:48 PM
Testimony: Please approve the budget for the Tantalus Road Guard Rails. We are in need of an attractive and safe solution for our designated historic highway. The current temporary ORANGE PLASTIC guardrails are unsightly and honestly a disgrace to such a majestic roadway. I am happy to work towards permanent and beautiful guardrails for our historic Tantalus Road. It is imperative that this budget line gains approval and we are able to start on a safe and worthy solution. Warmest Mahalos. Jennifer Mullin		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Robin Glass	glassr@hawaiihome.cc	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 9, 2025 @ 07:55 PM
Testimony: Written Testimony in Support of Bill 23 (25), CD2 Amendment – Tantalus Drive Shoulders Reinforcement		

Position: Support

Name: Robin Glass

Representing: Self

Aloha Chair and Members of the Budget Committee,

I write in strong support of Item #12 of the Proposed CD2 Amendments to Bill 23 (25), which allocates \$250,000 for shoulder reinforcement along the Hogsback section of Tantalus Drive.

As a longtime Tantalus resident, I am alarmed by the continued use of large, sand-filled plastic barriers as temporary guardrails along this one-lane, recently repaired ridgeline road. These barriers:

Encroach into the narrow roadway, reducing clearance and complicating emergency and residential access;

Apply a significant and continuous surcharge load on a structurally vulnerable section, increasing the risk of slope destabilization or pavement failure;

Are non-engineered and likely non-conforming with standards under HRS §264-1, which governs the safe design and maintenance of public highways.

Moreover, the roadway design itself appears deficient, as the repaired section lacks a centerline crown to facilitate stormwater runoff. This may result in:

Standing water, which creates dangerous hydroplaning conditions;

Subsurface saturation, undermining the structural base and hastening pavement failure — thereby wasting the recent investment in repairs.

Additionally, I urge the Council to examine the inadequacy of one-lane warning signage. Current signage appears insufficient to deter drivers from entering the narrow passage at speed from opposing directions. This increases the risk of:

Head-on conflicts on a blind, cliffside section;

Overfalls or shoulder collapse if a vehicle is forced to swerve or brake abruptly;

False assumptions by drivers that two vehicles can pass when, in fact, they cannot safely do so.

If no formal engineering study has been conducted to assess the roadbed's structural capacity, surface drainage adequacy, or signage visibility and driver behavior, such a study should be urgently initiated to safeguard both the public and the City's infrastructure investment.

Mahalo for your attention to these safety-critical concerns and for your continued service to the community.

Sincerely,

Robin C. Glass

Tantalus Resident

[glassr@hawaiihome.cc]

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Richard Tagore Erwin	richard@tagore-erwin.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 9, 2025 @ 10:46 PM

Testimony:

Please support Bill 23 to remove the ugly plastic barriers on Tantalus along Hogsback and either remove them in their entirety, or replace them with something visually pleasing. There had not been any plastic barriers before Hogsback was repaired, and the plastic barrier cut into width of the roadway making it dangerous for walkers and bike riders.

Mahalo for your support.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Laura Brancato	laura@yett.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 10, 2025 @ 03:59 AM

Testimony:

The road near hogsback and one lane bridge on Tantalus is at best a safety hazard in its current state. The orange cones placement take away from two car (big cars) passing at the same time. To drive this area at night is very difficult. Please vote to fund the expense to provide guardrail in place of this current fix. The people who live on the mountain have endured much with road closures during the last few years. The orange cones and plastic barricades for road safety should not be a permanent solution.

Mahalo.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Debra Duggan-Takagi	Debradt@icloud.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 10, 2025 @ 06:13 AM

Testimony:

Tantalus/ Roundtop Drive is a beautiful oasis in the heart of Honolulu. It must be maintained, protected and preserved for the enjoyment of locals and visitors alike.

The hideous orange plastic guardrails must be replaced with aesthetically pleasing and historically appropriate alternatives for this road well traveled by sightseers, joggers, bicyclists, dog walkers, bird-watchers and nature lovers.

Name:

John Stevenson

Email:

ulua3@hotmail.com

Zip:

96822

Representing:

Self

Position:

Support

Submitted:

May 10, 2025 @ 07:05 AM

Testimony:

The use of color was poorly selected. Please replace with appropriate color for a neighborhood such as ours.

Name:

Kathleen Douglas

Email:

kmdouglas.law@gmail.com

Zip:

96822

Representing:

Self

Position:

Support

Submitted:

May 10, 2025 @ 07:21 AM

Testimony:

I am writing to encourage the council to APPROVE funds for the removal of orange curb barriers located at the top of Tantalus Drive. The "temporary" barriers have been in place long after completion of the Hogsback project. The road has an historic designation and is heavily used by both residents and tourists. The barriers are eyesores, now covered in weed and graffiti, not in keeping with the watershed environment. They also narrow the already narrow roadway, creating an unsafe situation. As an aside, we could also use funds to repair the egregiously bad sections of road that shake our cars to pieces. Thank you!

Name:

Mark Bernstein

Email:

markdbernstein@gmail.com

Zip:

96822

Representing:

Tantalus Community Association

Position:

Support

Submitted:

May 10, 2025 @ 10:47 AM

Name:

Carolyn Carley

Email:

Carley@sourceithawaii.com

Zip:

96822

Representing:

Self

Position:

Support

Submitted:

May 10, 2025 @ 03:53 PM

Testimony:

My name is Carolyn Carley. I've been a Tantalus resident for 48 years having lived at 4050 Tantalus Drive since December 1976. I utilize Tantalus Drive every day to go up and down the hill. I understand that Hog's Back (where the road narrows to one lane as it goes over the rim of the crater) needed to be shored up and made structurally sound.

After construction, the orange barricades were left in place resulting in an eyesore.

Tantalus/Round Top Drives are on the national historic register and as such, should be a model for a scenic drive, not an eyesore.

Those orange barricades need to be removed, and replaced with something structurally sound and pleasing to the eye.

Name:

Alan Ewell

Email:

ewell@hawaii.rr.com

Zip:

96822

Representing:

Self

Position:

I wish to comment

Submitted:

May 10, 2025 @ 06:43 PM

Testimony:

I am writing to support funding for much-needed Tantalus/Round Top Drive road improvements.

As you may know, there are many areas in the ten mile loop road that, without immediate attention, will degrade from "in need of major repair" to "road failure/rebuilding required." Some major patches have been done in the past, but the entire road has not been repaved in over twenty years.

Meanwhile, the rebuilding of the one lane Hogsback bridge is complete except for replacing the water filled plastic barriers with a permanent guardrail - a \$200,000 project, we are told. Please find this project as soon as possible.

Please refer to the 2019" Tantalus-Round Top Drive Corridor Management Plan" (prepared by Planning Solutions Inc.) for more details about the specific areas on the road in need of repair, the estimated cost of each project, and its priority.

Tantalus may be a small community, but our single access road is important to a much broader range of recreational sightseers, bikers, hikers, runners, and state-licensed pig hunters. As stated earlier, in the past few years, some sections of the road have failed. Some of these areas have been repaired, but many remain in dangerous condition.

I encourage you to be proactive. The longer these projects are delayed, the higher the cost of repair, and the greater the frustration for all users of this fabulous recreational area twenty minutes from Downtown Honolulu and the University of Hawaii.

Thanks very much for your consideration.

Name:

Damon McCullar

Email:

dcmccullar@gmail.com

Zip:

96822

Representing:

Self

Position:

Support

Submitted:

May 11, 2025 @ 08:33 AM

Name:

Malcolm Kirkpatrick

Email:

classesmod43@gmail.com

Zip:

96822

Representing:

Position:

Submitted:

Self	I wish to comment	May 11, 2025 @ 09:09 AM
Testimony: I support reconstruction of the ridgetop section of Tantalus Drive (the hogsback) as built before recent foundation work. Modern code requires higher barriers than originally constructed. Round Top/Tantalus is a historic road. The low barriers provide a comfortable place to sit and admire the view. Please leave the low stone and mortar barriers as they are.		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Natalie Iwasa	iwasajunk@mail.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	May 11, 2025 @ 10:39 PM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Herbert Allen	ccjunk@mailify.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	May 12, 2025 @ 09:52 AM
Testimony: Regarding CM Nishimoto's proposed amendment to Capital Budget which is stated as: "Plan, design, construct, inspect, and provide related equipment for security fencing around the community garden area in Makiki District Park." and the Departmental response is "DPR/BFS: Request deferral of amendment. Installation of fencing is an operating cost." I would like to point out that the submitted Capital Budget includes a nearly identical line-item on page 412 of the "B" Budget book (412 is PDF page number, labeled as 386 under Function/Sub-Function header), Project "2016074", 'Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Park Improvements' which is summarized as "Plan, design, construct and inspect fencing for Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Park" and was funded under the capital budget. It appears as though fencing could in-fact be a capital cost, and I request that this amendment remain and be passed by the council. "Plan, design, construct, inspect, and provide related equipment for security fencing around the community garden area in Makiki District Park." & "Plan, design, construct and inspect fencing for Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Park" Mahalo for your stewardship of City resources.		



Residential Youth Services & Empowerment

PO Box 11662 Honolulu, HI 96828

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

My name is Carla Houser, MSW, and I have served on the Board of Parks and Recreation for Honolulu as the Programs, Activities and Events Committee Chair since August 2023. I am testifying today in support of Bill 22 (2025), CD1 and Bill 23 (2025), CD1.

I support the department's efforts to evaluate and find opportunities to make improvements to services and programs the department provides such as Summer Fun and Senior Programs. The board continues to offer support on the department's goals set forth by the Recreation Support Services section to increasing the number of youth served, enhance staffing recruitment, leadership pipelines and provide a quality program aligned to over division-wide standards.

I am confident in the department's abilities to carry out the operations set forth in their budget request and ask for your favorable consideration to fully fund the Park's Department's operating budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Carla Houser!

Carla Houser, MSW
Executive Director

May 9, 2025

To: The Honorable Members of the
Committee on the Budget

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Chair
Chair Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Radiant Cordero
Esther Kia'āina
Matt Weyer

**RE: Proposed CD2 Amendments
Bill 23 Item # 12 relating to
Tantalus Drive Shoulders Reinforcement
Budget Meeting, City Council Chamber
Monday, May 12, 2025, 10:00 AM**

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Mark Bernstein, and I have lived on Tantalus for over 40 years and have served as the President of the Tantalus Community Association for 10 years. I and the members of the Tantalus Community support and urge the Committee to pass Bill 23 so we can move forward expeditiously to do the desperately needed shoulder reinforcement on Tantalus Drive at the area known as the Hogsback.

This area of the only officially recognized historic road in Hawaii had its slope reinforced last year to prevent the road from collapsing. This project required the removal of thick vegetation, which when done, revealed that the scope of work for this project did not include a guardrail at the upslope end of the road. The absence of a guardrail created an immediate and serious risk of accidents, especially at night given that the road has no streetlights. In response to this hazardous condition, the Department of Design and Construction placed brightly colored (orange) waterfilled barriers. That was ten months ago.

These barriers were intended to serve as a temporary solution and the appropriation of \$250,000 is needed to fund the permanent solution. The current barriers not only protrude into an already narrow one lane section of Tantalus Drive, they are remarkably ugly and out of place on Hawaii's only historic road. .

The entire Tantalus/Round Top Drive community is anxious to resolve this unsightly and dangerous situation as soon as possible and passage of Bill 23 will enable a quality fix to be acheived this year.

The area in question is shown in both the 1931 J.H.Knickerbocker photo and my photo taken on Saturday May 10, 2025, which appear below.

For all these reasons I strongly urge the passing of the Bill with the amendments that will move this important public works project to completion now. I know how difficult it is to re-visit a project you thought had been completed, but it can't be completed without the passage of Proposed CD2 Amendment to BILL 23 (2025) CD1.

Mahalo for your service and willingness to read and consider the public's testimony.

Mark Bernstein

Mark Bernstein
President
Tantalus Community Association.





To: The Honorable Members of the
Committee on the Budget

May 11th, 2025

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Chair
Chair Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Radiant Cordero
Esther Kia'āina
Matt Weyer

**RE: Proposed CD2 Amendments
Bill 23 Item # 12 relating to
Tantalus Drive Shoulders Reinforcement
Budget Meeting, City Council Chamber
Monday, May 12, 2025, 10:00 AM**

Dear Members of the Committee:

I have lived in the Tantalus community for the last four years and have served on the Tantalus Community Association Board of Directors for the previous year and a half. I strongly urge the committee to approve the proposed funding for a guardrail on an area of Tantalus Drive colloquially called "The Hog's Back."

Last year, the slope on The Hog's Back was reinforced. A temporary barrier was installed when the project was completed. A permanent solution was not written into the contract when it was awarded, and an orange and white plastic barrier was installed. The Tantalus Community Association has advocated for a permanent solution since the temporary barrier was installed, which reflects the current barriers and restores the natural aesthetic to the mountain. Additionally, the current barrier protrudes into the one-lane road and is a hazard to motorists as much as a safeguard against driving off the road. Finally, the orange blinking lights carry across Makiki Valley at night and are a nuisance to the residents living on the neighboring ridge.

I sincerely hope that the committee will consider the items I have noted when deciding to fund a guardrail and vote in favor of funding.

/s/
Damon Carl McCullar
Damon McCullar

Member, Tantalus Community Association Board of Directors

TO: Members of the Budget Committee

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
808-395-3233

DATE: Monday, May 12, 2025

SUBJECT: Bill 23, CD1, CIP Budget - **COMMENTS**

Aloha Chair Dos Santos-Tam and Councilmembers,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on Bill 23, CD1. I **oppose the addition of cameras** at the Hawaii Kai Park and Ride and support their removal from the budget. I oppose the addition of cameras to other public facilities as well.

I support the safety improvements of approximately \$2.1 million at the Koko Head Shooting Complex and \$950,000 for the Koko Head District Park Community Center Roof. The last time I was in community center, it had leaks. If this line item is to fix those leaks, that work should have been done years ago.

With respect to the **\$350,000 renovation work at Koko Head Riding Stables**, I support the renovations **as long as none of that money goes to a paved parking lot**. Paving over the current dirt/gravel lot would require repairs at some point that would generate more construction waste for the PVT landfill. We currently have enough problems with landfill capacity and should not be adding to it when the parking facility we have had for decades works fine (as long as any holes are repaired in a timely manner). **Also note I think this is the "Koko Crater Stables."**