



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET

Voting Members:

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

WRITTEN SUMMARY FOR VIDEO RECORD

REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
3RD FLOOR, HONOLULU HALE
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Note: A copy of a DVD of the full proceedings of this meeting may be requested by calling the City Clerk's Office at (808) 768-5822 or the video may be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/live/TwAp0wesJUA>.

The time references below indicate the point in the video recording when the stated actions began.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Committee on Budget was called to order by Committee Chair Tyler Dos Santos-Tam at 9:01 a.m. Councilmembers Cordero (voting member), Kia'aina (voting member), Nishimoto (voting member), and Weyer (voting member) were present at the meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

[9:03 a.m.]

Council Chair Waters entered the Council Chamber.

[9:05 a.m.]

Councilmember Okimoto entered the Council Chamber.

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

[9:05 a.m.]

1. PRESENTATION BY ERNST & YOUNG LLP ON THE FIRST PHASE OF WORK COVERING THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED EMPTY HOMES TAX MEASURE PROPOSED IN BILL 46 (2024), CD2, FD1 RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY TAXATION.

[9:05 a.m.]

The Committee Chair called upon Ernst & Young LLP to provide a brief presentation of the Empty Homes Tax Program – Feasibility Analysis to the Committee. (D-316)

[9:07 a.m.]

Councilmember Tupola entered the meeting via videoconference.

[9:29 a.m.]

The following individuals testified:

1. Ross Isokane (M-247) (General comment)
2. Angela Melody Young, CARES (M-247) (General comment)
3. Tyler Masterson, TrueRoll (General comment)
4. Luciano Minerbi (General comment)
5. Natalie Iwasa (Oppose)
6. Donald Sakamoto (General comment)

[9:33 a.m.]

Councilmember Kia'āina exited the Council Chamber.

[9:36 a.m.]

Councilmember Kia'āina entered the Council Chamber.

[9:42 a.m.]

Councilmember Weyer exited the Council Chamber.

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[9:45 a.m.]

Councilmember Weyer entered the Council Chamber.

[9:51 a.m.]

Councilmember Kia'āina exited the Council Chamber.

[9:54 a.m.]

Councilmember Kia'āina entered the Council Chamber.

[10:21 a.m.]

Committee Chair Dos Santos-Tam exited the Council Chamber.

[10:23 a.m.]

Committee Chair Dos Santos-Tam entered the Council Chamber.

[10:33 a.m.]

Councilmember Kia'āina exited the Council Chamber.

[10:34 a.m.]

Councilmember Kia'āina entered the Council Chamber.

[10:44 a.m.]

Councilmember Tupola exited the meeting.

[11:01 a.m.]

Council Chair Waters exited the Council Chamber.

[11:04 a.m.]

Councilmember Nishimoto exited the Council Chamber.

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Related communications:

D-294	Department of Budget and Fiscal Services
D-312	Makiki / Lower Punchbowl / Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10
M-247	Testimony on the Presentation on Empty Homes Tax
M-251	Testimony on the Presentation on Empty Homes Tax

FOR ACTION

[11:06 a.m.]

2. BILL 60 (2024), CD1

RELATING TO SEWERS, DRAINAGE, AND CESSPOOLS. Amending portions of Chapter 43, Revised Ordinance of Honolulu 2021, as amended, by: (1) amending § 43-6.2 to include Accessory Dwelling Units in the “Residential” sewer service charge customer classification, (2) amending § 43-6.6 to remove all information related to nonresidential strength surcharges and replace it with information on wastewater disposal charges for waste haulers, (3) amending APPENDIX 43-A to include new sewer service charges, wastewater disposal charges, and to remove extra strength wastewater charges as well as a second customer category, (4) amending § 43-10.3 to include Accessory Dwelling Units, (5) amending § 43-10.4 to remove references to wastewater strength, and (6) amending Appendix 43-C to include new Wastewater System Facility Charges.

[11:07 a.m.]

Councilmember Kia‘āina exited and Councilmember Nishimoto entered the Council Chamber.

[11:09 a.m.]

Council Chair Waters entered the Council Chamber.

[11:16 a.m.]

Councilmember Kia‘āina entered the Council Chamber.

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[11:22 a.m.]

The Committee Chair called upon Roger Babcock, Director, Department of Environmental Services to provide a brief presentation of the proposed sewer rate adjustments to the Committee. (D-319)

[11:22 a.m.]

Council Chair Waters exited the Council Chamber.

[11:25 a.m.]

Councilmember Weyer exited the Council Chamber.

[11:27 a.m.]

Councilmember Weyer entered the Council Chamber.

[11:30 a.m.]

Council Chair Waters entered the Council Chamber.

[11:54 a.m.]

Councilmember Cordero exited the Council Chamber.

[11:58 a.m.]

Councilmember Cordero entered and Councilmember Okimoto exited the Council Chamber.

[11:59 a.m.]

Councilmember Nishimoto exited the Council Chamber.

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[11:59 a.m.]

The following individuals testified:

1. Donald Sakamoto (M-243) (General comment)
2. Angela Young, CARES (Support)
3. Natalie Iwasa (M-243) (General comment)

[12:04 p.m.]

Councilmember Weyer exited the Council Chamber.

[12:06 p.m.]

Councilmember Nishimoto entered the Council Chamber.

[12:07 p.m.]

Councilmember Weyer entered the Council Chamber.

[12:10 p.m.]

At this juncture, the Committee Chair moved to the next Agenda Item No. 3, Bill 40 (2025).

[12:10 p.m.]

3. BILL 40 (2025) – COMMITTEE REPORT 146

RELATING TO FEES, CHARGES, AND FINES. Addressing fees, charges, and fines.

[12:11 p.m.]

At this juncture, Committee Chair Dos Santos-Tam returned to Agenda Item No. 2, Bill 60 (2024), CD1.

[12:11 p.m.]

2. BILL 60 (2024), CD1

RELATING TO SEWERS, DRAINAGE, AND CESSPOOLS. Amending portions of Chapter 43, Revised Ordinance of Honolulu 2021, as amended, by: (1) amending § 43-6.2 to include Accessory Dwelling Units in the “Residential” sewer service charge customer classification, (2) amending § 43-6.6 to remove all information related to nonresidential strength surcharges and replace it with information on wastewater disposal charges for waste haulers, (3) amending APPENDIX 43-A to include new sewer service charges, wastewater disposal charges, and to remove extra strength wastewater charges as well as a second customer category, (4) amending § 43-10.3 to include Accessory Dwelling Units, (5) amending § 43-10.4 to remove references to wastewater strength, and (6) amending Appendix 43-C to include new Wastewater System Facility Charges.

[12:11 p.m.]

Action on Bill 60 (2024), CD1 postponed to a date and time to be determined by the Committee Chair.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA‘ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, WEYER – 5.
NOES: None.

Related communications:

D-329 Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board No. 1
M-243 Testimony on Bill 60 (2024)

The Committee Chair returned to the agenda order.

[12:11 p.m.]

Councilmember Kia‘āina exited the Council Chamber.

[12:11 p.m.]

3. BILL 40 (2025) – COMMITTEE REPORT 146

RELATING TO FEES, CHARGES, AND FINES. Addressing fees, charges, and fines.

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[12:11 p.m.]

There was no public testimony.

[12:13 p.m.]

Councilmember Kia'āina entered the Council Chamber.

[12:13 p.m.]

Bill 40 (2025) amended to CD1 (OCS2025-0340/4/23/2025 1:05 PM) and reported out for passage on second reading and scheduling of a public hearing.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, WEYER – 5.
NOES: None.

Related communication:

CC-113 Disclosure of Interest Statement submitted by Councilmember Okimoto

[12:13 p.m.]

4. BILL 2 (2025), CD1 – COMMITTEE REPORT 140

RELATING TO FUNDS. Addressing certain funds.

[12:14 p.m.]

There was no public testimony.

[12:14 p.m.]

Bill 2 (2025), CD1 reported out for passage on third reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, WEYER – 5.
NOES: None.

[12:14 p.m.]

5. BILL 31 (2025) – COMMITTEE REPORT 143

RELATING TO THE TRANSIT CONSTRUCTION MITIGATION FUND. Addressing the Transit Construction Mitigation Fund.

[12:16 p.m.]

There was no public testimony.

[12:17 p.m.]

Bill 31 (2025) amended to CD1 (OCS2025-0349/4/23/2025 2:30 PM) and reported out for passage on second reading and scheduling of a public hearing.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, WEYER – 5.
NOES: None.

[12:17 p.m.]

6. BILL 35 (2025) – COMMITTEE REPORT 144

RELATING TO LEASE AND RENTAL OF CITY REAL PROPERTY. Amending Chapter 38, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 to address the lease and rental of City real property.

[12:20 p.m.]

The following individuals testified:

1. Eliza Talbot (M-246) (Support)
2. Kiran Polk, Kapolei Chamber of Commerce (M-246) (Support)
3. Nam Vu, Hub Coworking Hawai'i (Support)

[12:27 p.m.]

Bill 35 (2025) amended to CD1 (OCS2025-0252/3/28/2025 3:49 PM).

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO – 4.
NOES: WEYER – 1.

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[12:27 p.m.]

Bill 35 (2025), CD1 reported out for passage on second reading and scheduling of a public hearing.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, WEYER* – 5.
NOES: None.

*Councilmember Weyer voted aye with reservations.

Related communications:

MM-67	Office of Economic Revitalization
MM-71	Office of Climate Change Sustainability and Resiliency
D-112	Department of Land Management
M-246	Testimony on Bill 35 (2025)

[12:28 p.m.]

7. BILL 36 (2025) – COMMITTEE REPORT 145

RELATING TO FISCAL STABILITY. Addressing economic and revenue downturns and emergency situations.

[12:30 p.m.]

There was no public testimony.

[12:33 p.m.]

Bill 36 (2025) reported out for passage on second reading and scheduling of a public hearing.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, WEYER – 5.
NOES: None.

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[12:34 p.m.]

8. BILL 4 (2025), CD1 – COMMITTEE REPORT 141

RELATING TO SPONSORSHIPS. Reestablishing a process to obtain sponsorships for city facilities, parks, programs, equipment, and tangible property within set guidelines and procedures for the purpose of optimizing non-property tax revenue sources.

[12:35 p.m.]

There was no public testimony.

[12:36 p.m.]

Bill 4 (2025), CD1 amended to CD2 (OCS2025-0372/5/1/2025 12:09 PM) and reported out for passage on third reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, WEYER – 5.
NOES: None.

[12:37 p.m.]

9. BILL 18 (2024) – COMMITTEE REPORT 139

RELATING TO POUNDMASTERS. Removing ordinances relating to poundmasters.

[12:37 p.m.]

There was no public testimony.

[12:39 p.m.]

Bill 18 (2024) amended to CD1 (OCS2024-0945/10/18/2024 8:53 AM) and reported out for passage on second reading and scheduling of a public hearing.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, WEYER – 5.
NOES: None.

[12:39 p.m.]

10. BILL 15 (2025), CD1 – COMMITTEE REPORT 142

RELATING TO THE CLIMATE RESILIENCY FUND. Creating a fund to receive and expend moneys to support climate resiliency.

[12:43 p.m.]

There was no public testimony.

[12:46 p.m.]

Bill 15 (2025), CD1 amended to CD2 (OCS2025-0371/5/6/2025 3:59 PM) and reported out for passage on third reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, WEYER – 5.
NOES: None.

Related communications:

MM-68 Office of Climate Change Sustainability and Resiliency
M-248 Testimony on Bill 15 (2025)

[12:48 p.m.]

11. CC-119 (2025) – COMMITTEE REPORT 156

DRAFT COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF THE GRANTS IN AID ADVISORY COMMISSION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 3, ARTICLE 15, REVISED ORDINANCES OF HONOLULU 2021. The Committee will take action on a draft committee report making recommendations to the Council on whether the Ordinance establishing the Grants in Aid Advisory Commission should be retained, amended, or repealed.

[12:48 p.m.]

There was no public testimony.

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[12:50 p.m.]

Councilmember Weyer exited the Council Chamber.

[12:53 p.m.]

Councilmember Weyer entered the Council Chamber.

[12:55 p.m.]

Committee Report 156 reported out for scheduling of a public hearing and adoption, as amended.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, WEYER – 5.
NOES: None.

Related communications:

CC-129	Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam
D-133	Grants in Aid Advisory Commission
D-160 – A	Department of Community Services
D-160 – B	Proposals 1-44
D-160 – C	Proposals 45-89
D-160 – D	Proposals 90-111
D-160 – E	Proposals 112-134
D-160 – F	Proposals 135-176
D-160 – G	FY26 GIA Executive Summary

[12:55 p.m.]

Council Chair Waters exited the Council Chamber.

[12:56 p.m.]

12. RESOLUTION 25-107 – COMMITTEE REPORT 147

TRANSFER OF FUNDS (DTS). Authorizing the transfers of Highway Fund monies not to exceed \$199,200 from the Department of Transportation Services (“DTS”), Transportation Engineering activity (salaries character of expenditure (“COE”)) to the DTS, Transportation Technology activity (equipment COE); \$350,257.85 from the DTS, Transportation Technology activity (salaries COE) to the DTS,

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Transportation Technology activity (equipment COE); and \$127,000 from the DTS, Transportation Technology activity (current expense COE) to the DTS, Transportation Technology activity (equipment COE) required for receivables created in fiscal years 2016 through 2022 where no Capital Improvement Program grant funds actually existed.

[12:56 p.m.]

The following individual testified:

Royal House of Hawai'i (General comment)

[12:57 p.m.]

Resolution 25-107 reported out for adoption.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, WEYER – 5.
NOES: None.

Related communication:

D-240 Department of Transportation Services

[12:58 p.m.]

13. RESOLUTION 25-118 – COMMITTEE REPORT 148

TRANSFER OF FUNDS (CSD). Authorizing a transfer not to exceed \$1,386,000 in General Fund and \$318,000 in Highway Beautification and Disposal of Abandoned Vehicles Revolving Fund from the Department of Customer Service ("CSD") – Division of Motor Vehicles activity (salaries character of expenditure ("COE")) to CSD Division of Motor Vehicles activity (current expenses COE) for fiscal year 2025 to cover towing contracts for abandoned or derelict vehicles and law enforcement support within the CSD.

[12:59 p.m.]

There was no public testimony.

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[12:59 p.m.]

Resolution 25-118 amended to CD1 (OCS2025-0357/4/28/2025 8:15 AM) and reported out for adoption.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, WEYER – 5.
NOES: None.

Related communication:

D-289 Department of Customer Services

[1:00 p.m.]

14. RESOLUTION 25-119 – COMMITTEE REPORT 149

TRANSFER OF FUNDS (DLM). Authorizing a transfer not to exceed \$350,000 in General Fund monies from the Department of Land Management (“DLM”), Administration activity (current expenses character of expenditure (“COE”)) to DLM, Administration activity (equipment COE) for fiscal year 2025 to purchase a new chiller for the Kekaulike Courtyard Marketplace as the existing chiller has exceeded its useful life of 20 years.

[1:00 p.m.]

There was no public testimony.

[1:01 p.m.]

Resolution 25-119 reported out for adoption.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, WEYER – 5.
NOES: None.

Related communication:

D-290 Department of Land Management

[1:01 p.m.]

15. RESOLUTION 25-121 – COMMITTEE REPORT 150

TRANSFER OF FUNDS (ENV). Authorizing a transfer not to exceed \$1,400,000 in Sewer Fund monies from the Department of Environmental Services (“ENV”) Collection System Maintenance activity (current expense character of expenditure (“COE”)) to the ENV Administration activity (current expense COE) for the fiscal year 2025 to comply with the Memorandum of Agreement for the payment of billing services to the Board of Water Supply for billing periods from January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025.

[1:01 p.m.]

There was no public testimony.

[1:02 p.m.]

Resolution 25-121 reported out for adoption.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA’ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, WEYER – 5.
NOES: None.

Related communication:

D-293 Department of Environmental Services

[1:02 p.m.]

16. RESOLUTION 25-122 – COMMITTEE REPORT 151

TRANSFER OF FUNDS (HESD). Authorizing a transfer not to exceed \$500,000 from the Honolulu Emergency Services Department (“HESD”), Administration activity (salaries character of expenditure (“COE”)) to HESD Emergency Medical Services activity (salaries COE) for fiscal year 2025 to cover the increased overtime costs.

[1:02 p.m.]

There was no public testimony.

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[1:02 p.m.]

Resolution 25-122 reported out for adoption.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, WEYER – 5.
NOES: None.

Related communication:

D-298 Honolulu Emergency Services Department

[1:03 p.m.]

17. RESOLUTION 25-123 – COMMITTEE REPORT 152

TRANSFER OF FUNDS (DPR). Authorizing the transfers of General Fund monies not to exceed \$209,000 from the Department of Parks and Recreation (“DPR”) Administration activity (salaries character of expenditure (“COE”)) to DPR Administration activity (current expenses COE); \$1,300,000 from the DPR Recreation Services activity (current expenses COE) to DPR Grounds Maintenance activity (current expenses COE); \$281,000 from the DPR Urban Forestry activity (salaries COE) to DPR Urban Forestry activity (current expenses COE) for Fiscal Year 2025 to cover shortfalls due to unanticipated increases in security guard services, cost of water, sewer, and electricity costs, and irrigation supplies, green waste tip fees, and portable toilet rentals and security guard fees for Botanical Gardens.

[1:03 p.m.]

There was no public testimony.

[1:04 p.m.]

Resolution 25-123 reported out for adoption.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, WEYER – 5.
NOES: None.

Related communication:

D-300 Department of Parks and Recreation

[1:04 p.m.]

18. RESOLUTION 25-127 – COMMITTEE REPORT 155

TRANSFER OF FUNDS (DPR). Authorizing a transfer of \$220,000 in Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve Fund monies from the Department of Parks and Recreation (“DPR”) Recreation Services activity (salaries character of expenditure (“COE”)) to DPR Recreation Services activity (current expenses COE) for Fiscal Year 2025 to meet budget shortfalls for Security Guard services.

[1:04 p.m.]

There was no public testimony.

[1:04 p.m.]

Resolution 25-127 reported out for adoption.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA’ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, WEYER – 5.
NOES: None.

Related communication:

D-309 Department of Parks and Recreation

[1:05 p.m.]

19. RESOLUTION 25-124 – COMMITTEE REPORT 153

TRANSFER OF FUNDS (DES). Authorizing a transfer not to exceed \$170,000 from the Department of Enterprise Services (“DES”) Auditoriums activity (salaries character of expenditure (“COE”)) to DES Auditoriums activity (current expenses COE) for the fiscal year 2025 required to cover increased energy costs, and public health and safety needs at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center and Tom Moffatt Waikiki Shell campuses, including structural integrity assessments for the Neal S. Blaisdell Center arena roof and parking structure.

[1:05 p.m.]

There was no public testimony.

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[1:05 p.m.]

Councilmember Kia'āina exited the Council Chamber.

[1:05 p.m.]

Resolution 25-124 reported out for adoption.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, NISHIMOTO, WEYER – 4.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: KIA'ĀINA – 1.

Related communication:

D-302 Department of Enterprise Services

[1:05 p.m.]

Councilmember Kia'āina entered the Council Chamber.

[1:05 p.m.]

20. RESOLUTION 25-125 – COMMITTEE REPORT 154

TRANSFER OF FUNDS (DES). Authorizing a transfer not to exceed \$317,000 from the Department of Enterprise Services ("DES"), Honolulu Zoo activity (salaries character of expenditure ("COE")) to DES Honolulu Zoo activity (current expenses COE) for the fiscal year 2025 to cover costs necessary for retrofits to animal exhibits and habitats to accommodate new animals; perform safety and welfare repairs; and address the recent introduction of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Hawai'i.

[1:06 p.m.]

There was no public testimony.

[1:06 p.m.]

Resolution 25-125 reported out for adoption.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, WEYER – 5.
NOES: None.

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Related communication:

D-303 Department of Enterprise Services

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.