BILL048(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 360

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Jul 9, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 15

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Noah Hull	noahhull01@gmail.com	96797
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 5, 2025 @ 02:55 PM

Testimony:

The conversion of Chaplain lane into a pedestrian mall, similar to Fort St. is beneficial for several reasons. It helps with the cities' project of achieving vision zero, and increases walkability within the area, makes the street safer for those already traversing, and is beneficial for business within the area. It additionally will help add to sanitation and crime reduction upon Chaplain Lane.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Mercy Texeira	mercytexeira@yahoo.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 6, 2025 @ 03:11 PM

Testimony:

I support this notion because it will make this area a cleaner and safer environment for businesses, and patrons of those businesses, alike. Chinatown is a small and vibrant community that needs to be protected.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Amanda Emmett	amandaemmett32@gmail.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 6, 2025 @ 03:11 PM

Testimony:

I'm in support of this, it will help support businesses, beneficial to the neighborhood and make the area much safer.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kellen Ferguson	kelferg6@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 6, 2025 @ 03:12 PM

Testimony:

For primarily safety reasons. Prevent reckless driving and clean pathways for local citizens

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Georgia Swan	gapeachesswan@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 6, 2025 @ 03:14 PM

Testimony:

Safety measures need to be enforced

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Abigail Elder	abjeci02@gmail.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 6, 2025 @ 03:15 PM

Testimony:

This would really help support small business who would benefit greatly from increased pedestrian traffic. Additionally, it makes it a safer area for all pedestrians to feel comfortable walking around.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Casey Ishitani	cishitani@gmail.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 6, 2025 @ 03:24 PM

Testimony:

This bill would provide security and support for the numerous pedestrians and businesses that utilize Chaplain Lane, daily. It would help revitalize Chinatown-Downtown and give residents and patrons a much needed third space

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Karolynn Cevidanes	kcevi001@gmail.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 7, 2025 @ 10:31 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Councilmembers,

My name is Karolynn aka Cevi, and I am writing in strong support of Bill 48 to designate Chaplain Lane as a pedestrian mall.

Chaplain Lane is located in one of the most culturally and historically significant areas of Honolulu. Yet for years, it has suffered from neglect by the City and County. Though rarely used by vehicles, the lane has become a hotspot for unsafe and unsanitary conditions due to ongoing issues with substance abuse, mental health crises, and inadequate maintenance. It frequently floods, accumulates trash, and has even been the site of human waste — with clean-up efforts often falling on nearby business owners like those at Proof Social Club.

Despite these challenges, Chaplain Lane holds immense potential. Establishing it as a pedestrian mall would not only improve safety and sanitation, but also open the door to thoughtful revitalization. This measure could help uplift the neighborhood, provide space for cultural events and art, and create a more walkable and inviting experience for locals and tourists alike.

This is a chance to invest in the future of Chinatown and honor its historical roots, while also reinvigorating the local

economy through increased foot traffic, improved public perception, and support for small businesses.

In short, this measure is long overdue. I urge the Council to pass Bill 48 and take this vital step toward restoring and reimagining this important part of our city.

Mahalo for your time and dedication to the community.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Cheryl Burghardt	burgharc@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 7, 2025 @ 06:26 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Minda Goodman	mindag@hawaii.edu	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 8, 2025 @ 04:12 PM

Testimony:

I support having Chaplain's Lane zoned as a pedestrian mall.

Mahalo nui loa.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ross Isokane	isokane@gmail.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 8, 2025 @ 04:45 PM

Testimony:

I support this bill as I believe it will further our efforts to revitalize Downtown-Chinatown. I'm on the current neighborhood board (although submitting as an individual), and I believe this incremental step (as a continuation of the recently signed bill to transfer Downtown Malls to DTS with the intent of unlocking more community-building events) is a smart use of Chaplain Lane.

After reading the proposed changes in the draft bill, I also applaud the overall effort to continue cleaning up other dated language in ROH (i.e., cleaning up the other language in Article 25: Pedestrian Malls). Continuing to re-read and refine older ordinances is a great initiative!

One minor suggestion for Fort Street Mall vehicle exceptions: would it be worthwhile to include an exception for the private security vehicles that provide much-needed and welcome presence on the mall (assuming they’re authorized perhaps by the Business Improvement District)? Minor point as I don’t think anyone’s complaining about the presence of these security vehicles (notwithstanding that I don’t think they’re technically allowed under ordinances).

Name:	Email:	Zip:
James Goodman	goodmanj001@hawaii.rr.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 8, 2025 @ 05:12 PM

Testimony:

Dear Members of the Honolulu City Council,

I am writing in support of Bill 048(25). The closing of Chaplain Lane as a traffic bearing street makes sense as it is presently a very narrow street that dead-ends into Fort Street Mall. On the Diamond Head side of Chaplain Lane, smaller delivery trucks might drive down to the only surviving business left there, but Uber drivers won't. That area would be perfect for outside dining and small business vendors and could well help to revitalize Fort Street Mall by providing an attractive passageway from the offices, shops, and eateries on Nuuanu Avenue and Bethel Street.

Thank you,

James Goodman

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Joan Tuers	jfxt77@gmail.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 8, 2025 @ 06:25 PM

Testimony:

Support

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Amelia Keefe	ameliak@hawaii.edu	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 8, 2025 @ 11:21 PM

Testimony:

I support the bill to establish Chaplain Lane as a pedestrian mall. This will help small businesses and help to make the area safer for all. The community in the area will benefit from this.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Andrew Catanzariti	acatanz@gmail.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 9, 2025 @ 12:16 AM

Testimony:

I am in support of Bill 48 to establish Chaplain Lane as a pedestrian mall...

I am co - owner of Proof Social Club and I believe passing this bill will help to promote a more peaceful and prosperous atmosphere to Chinatown in general .... It will help provide a place for visitors, local families
and the community to gather in peace and promote cultural events in Chinatown . It will increase everyone's safety and peace of mind as well ... it will help make a cleaner brighter Chinatown for folks going to work, school or a nice night out with family and friends.

Thanks for your time,
Andrew Catanzariti

Testimony in Support of Bill 048
Relating to the Establishment of a Pedestrian Mall on Chaplain Lane

Aloha Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

I am writing in strong support of **Bill 048**, which proposes to convert a portion of **Chaplain Lane between Bethel and Fort Streets** into a designated pedestrian mall. This is a much-needed step toward revitalizing this underutilized block and supporting both public safety and the success of our local businesses.

Here are several reasons this bill is timely, practical, and beneficial to our city:

- **Improves Pedestrian Safety**
  Removing vehicle traffic reduces the risk of accidents in an area that sees regular foot traffic. Prioritizing pedestrian access creates a safer environment for residents, workers, and visitors alike.
- **Enhances Walkability and Livability**
  Establishing a pedestrian-only zone improves the overall experience of moving through Downtown Honolulu. It encourages people to walk, explore, and spend time in the neighborhood, contributing to a more livable and community-centered urban core.
- **Boosts Local Business**
  Pedestrian malls are proven to attract foot traffic, which benefits surrounding restaurants, cafes, and small businesses. Creating space where people can gather and linger is a direct investment in the success of the businesses that make downtown unique.
- **Reduces Noise and Air Pollution**
  Limiting vehicle access decreases exhaust and noise levels, improving the public realm for both customers and employees and making the space more enjoyable for everyone.
- **Supports Sustainable Transportation Goals**
  This bill aligns with Honolulu's broader goals to reduce dependence on cars, support multimodal transportation, and address climate resilience by designing streets for people, not just vehicles.

Additionally, converting this specific portion of Chaplain Lane would have direct, tangible benefits for existing and future businesses:

- **Creates Opportunities for Sidewalk Dining and Outdoor Activation**
  Businesses like Proof and any new tenants in the former crepe shop location would be able to utilize the pedestrian zone for outdoor dining, events, or creative storefront displays. This kind of activation not only drives sales but also draws more people into the area.
- **Encourages Business Visibility and Foot Traffic**
  Without the distraction or obstruction of passing vehicles, pedestrians are more likely to notice and engage with businesses. This slows down the pace of movement and creates more chances for spontaneous visits and community interaction.
- **Fosters a Unique District Identity**
  Transforming this block into a pedestrian mall would give it a distinctive character and make it a destination within the city. This branding opportunity could help create a vibrant hub for culture, commerce, and social connection in downtown Honolulu.

In closing, Bill 048 presents a low-cost, high-impact opportunity to support our local economy, improve urban design, and meet our city's livability and climate goals. I urge the Council to pass this bill and begin the transformation of Chaplain Lane into a people-first space that serves our community well into the future.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Dee Green

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu, Oahu