BILL050(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 418

*BUDGET (BUD)

***BUDGET (BUD) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Aug 19, 2025 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 1

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jacob Wiencek	Jacob.m.wiencek@pm.me	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 15, 2025 @ 05:03 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Committee Members,

As a homeowner in Honolulu, I acutely feel our broader cost-of-living crisis that is driving out decent, hardworking middle- and working-class families. Housing and tax costs are core to what's making our city unaffordable, and I applaud Council Chair Waters and Councilmember Okimoto in pushing this bill to offer real relief to families. I strongly urge this Committee to continue SUPPORTING this bill through the legislative process!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ted Kefalas	tkefalas@grassrootinstitute.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Support	Aug 18, 2025 @ 10:03 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Natalie Iwasa	iwasajunk@mail.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	Aug 18, 2025 @ 09:43 PM

Testimony:

I oppose this bill for reasons I have stated dozens of times over the years. For those who are having a difficult time paying their real property taxes, there's the RPT credit.

GRASSROOT INSTITUTE OF HAWAII

1050 Bishop St. #508
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-864-1776
info@grassrootinstitute.org

Removing barriers to Hawaii's prosperity

Aug. 19, 2025, 9 a.m.
Honolulu Hale

To: Honolulu City Council Committee on Budget
Val Okimoto, Chair
Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: Bill 50 (2025) — RELATING TO PROPERTY TAXATION

Aloha Chair Okimoto, Vice Chair Nishimoto and other members of the Committee,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** Bill 50 (2025), which would increase the real property tax homeowner exemption for those 64 years old and under from $120,000 to $140,000 beginning in fiscal 2028.

Increasing the homeowner exemption by $20,000 would save each homeowner $70 at the current residential tax rate of $3.50 per $1,000 in assessed value.[1]

The exemption was last increased in 2023, for tax years beginning with fiscal 2024.[2] Passing Bill 50 (2025) would head off possible increases in property values that could occur in the next two years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

[1] "Real Property Tax Rates for Tax Year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025," City and County of Honolulu, accessed July 3, 2025.
[2] Ordinance 23-33, Honolulu Records Collection, accessed July 3, 2025.