MISC. COMM. 421

*INTERNATIONAL & LEGAL AFFAIRS (ILA)

Resolution to Authorize Legal Action to Demolish Unsafe Structure on the Real Property Located at 525 Avocado Street, Wahiawā, Hawai‘i 96786 Testimony

***INTERNATIONAL & LEGAL AFFAIRS (ILA) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Aug 20, 2025 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 46

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Carlton Saito	storieswithheart@yahoo.com	96826
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 15, 2025 @ 10:06 AM

Testimony:

I fully support the demolition of the structures at 525 Avocado Street in Wahiawa.

As a former Wahiawa resident, I have often driven past 525 Avocado Street. The structures there are eyesores that have been unused as long as I can remember.

Instead, they attract the homeless.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Nahoku Ahlo	nahoku@ahlo.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 15, 2025 @ 12:51 PM

Testimony:

I am writing to express my strong support for the resolution authorizing legal action to demolish the unsafe structure located at 525 Avocado Street, Wahiawā, Hawai‘i 96786.

This property has long been a concern for the community due to its deteriorated condition, which poses significant safety hazards. The structure’s current state not only endangers the health and safety of residents and passersby but also negatively impacts the neighborhood’s aesthetic.

Allowing this unsafe structure to remain standing exposes the community to risks such as structural collapse, fire hazards, and potential illegal activities often associated with abandoned buildings. Furthermore, it undermines efforts to maintain a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for all residents.

Taking legal action to demolish the structure is a necessary and responsible step to protect public safety, uphold community standards, and promote neighborhood revitalization. I urge the council/committee to move forward swiftly with this resolution to prevent any further risk or damage.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your commitment to the wellbeing of the Wahiawā community.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Shari Marushige-Nham	dsns07@gmail.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Support	Aug 15, 2025 @ 01:48 PM

Testimony:

Please Demolish that building! That area is unsafe and has never-ending issues. Crime and drug use in the open. Sure makes Wahiawa look worse than it is. It has been too long that nothing has been done! And that park they built was a waste of funding. Just gave houseless and their dogs a fenced in place to go.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Paige Prem	paige@ahlo.com	96797
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 15, 2025 @ 01:50 PM

Testimony:

I work in Wahiawā and am writing to express my support for the resolution to take legal action to demolish the unsafe building at 525 Avocado Street.

This structure has been in poor condition for a long time, and it's become an eyesore and a safety risk in our neighborhood. I worry that it might collapse or cause accidents, especially for kids or neighbors walking by. It also seems like the kind of place where unwanted activities could happen, which makes the area feel less safe. Removing this dangerous building would be a positive step for the community. It would help keep people safe and could open up opportunities for better use of the space in the future. Thank you for considering my thoughts. I hope the council will act quickly to protect our neighborhood.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Cathy Cachola	catd808@yahoo.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 15, 2025 @ 02:27 PM

Testimony:

Every morning, I have taken my children to school in town and we pass the structure at least four out of the seven days and we have seen homeless live here we have seen it boarded up and taken down and it's a structure that has no relevance in our city and a creates a place where homeless as well as People who are on drugs, a place to continue their actions while being in public. It feels unsafe being in the area since people are continuously in and out of the area and with your support, this demolition would really help clean up the area and possibly avoid further illegal actions that occurs and make it a little bit more safe when we drive or support businesses in the area.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ranya Phillips	ranya@sfhawaii.com	96791
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 15, 2025 @ 03:00 PM

Testimony:

I work in Wahiawā and as someone who spends a significant part of my day in this community, I have witnessed firsthand

the negative impact that the unsafe structure at 525 Avocado Street has had on the neighborhood. The building's deteriorated condition poses a clear safety hazard to residents, workers, and visitors alike. Its current state creates a risk of structural failure and attracts unwanted activities that contribute to a decline in neighborhood safety and morale. This situation affects not only the immediate vicinity but also the broader community where I live and work. Removing this unsafe structure is an important step toward ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Wahiawā's residents and maintaining the pride we have in our community. Demolition will help eliminate a dangerous eyesore and open opportunities for positive redevelopment or community use in the future. I strongly support the resolution to authorize legal action to demolish this building and encourage the council to act promptly. Protecting our community's safety and quality of life must be a top priority.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kristie Sasamura	ksas96786@gmail.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 15, 2025 @ 04:41 PM

Testimony:

Demolish the buildings so the homeless will not live in those buildings

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Wendy Kalani	wknakasone@gmail.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 15, 2025 @ 08:11 PM

Testimony:

We need to demolish this structure! It is a haven for criminal activity and it is eye sore as people enter Wahiawa. Please help keep our community beautiful and safe! Mahalo!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Noelle Meyer	noelles1214@gmail.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 16, 2025 @ 03:48 PM

Testimony:

I am in support of the demolition of the abandoned, unkempt, derelict structure(s) located at 525 Avocado St., Wahiawa, HI 96786. These buildings have attracted squatting by homeless individuals, excessive dumping of trash, illegal activity, derelict vehicles, and are not only an eyesore, but the unstable mental state of the people loitering on the property make it dangerous for the neighboring business, and passersby.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Sydney Lee-Manzano	sydneyleemanzano@gmail.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 16, 2025 @ 10:38 PM

Testimony:

This structure has become more than an eyesore. It poses a direct threat to the safety, health, and well-being of our community. Over the past year and a half (maybe even longer) residents have witnessed:

• Illegal activities including suspected drug transactions and unauthorized gaming operations.

• Public safety concerns, as the structure attracts loitering and activities that make families and children feel unsafe in the area.

• An unofficial encampment that, while highlighting the need for compassionate solutions to homelessness, has created unsanitary and unsafe conditions for both those staying there and nearby residents.

• Negative impacts on our community's image and property values, deterring investment and discouraging community pride.

While we recognize the broader issues of homelessness and public safety, leaving this structure standing only perpetuates these challenges. Removing it would not only eliminate an environment that fosters crime but also create an opportunity for the State to repurpose the land for positive community use.

On behalf of my family and neighbors, I respectfully ask the State to move forward with removal of this structure. Our community deserves a safe, healthy, and welcoming environment.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Donovan Dela Cruz	sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 18, 2025 @ 02:56 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
CAROLYN HAYASHI	cehayashi@lawcsilc.com	96786-2529
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 18, 2025 @ 03:32 PM

Testimony:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

That property on Avocado Street is both an eyesore and unsafe location. There have been police raids to stem illegal activities for a long time. There are homeless individuals who also squat in the buildings. It is also serves as a dumping grounds. It is at the corner of Avocado and Kamehameha, and across from legitimate businesses. Even during the day, it is scary to walk by that property, and I would rather go elsewhere than to visit those legitimate businesses to avoid the people , the trash and the emanating smells. Please get rid of the unsafe structures and fine the owners if necessary.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Josephine Askew	poni@hawaiianvinegarcompany.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Support	Aug 18, 2025 @ 04:32 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I strongly support the resolution to demolish the unsafe structure at 525 Avocado Street. This illegal building is a danger to our kupuna and families who live nearby, and it also puts the people squatting there at serious risk.

Additionally, the landowner must be held accountable with fines and legal recourse for allowing this to go on for so long. If the property continues to be neglected, I urge the City and State to explore condemnation through eminent domain so the property can be taken over for public safety.

Taking strong action under condemnation authority is important to:

1. Protect kupuna and residents living near the abandoned property.
2. Hold landowners accountable through fines and enforcement.
3. Demonstrate that C&C of HNL will not allow unsafe, unlawful, or abandoned commercial properties to remain in our communities.
4. Support Wahiawa's long-term revitalization and economic growth by clearing unsafe parcels and making room for legitimate commercial activity.

Mahalo for your leadership on this important issue. I urge you to pass this resolution and, if needed, begin condemnation proceedings to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Wahiawa's community.

Mahalo,

Poni Askew

poni@hawaiianvinegarcompany.com

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Darin Uesugi	darin@utopiaus.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Wahiawa Community Based Development Organization	Support	Aug 18, 2025 @ 04:45 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Yuuko Arikawa-Cross	burgundy.six@gmail.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 18, 2025 @ 05:17 PM

Testimony:

I am Yuuko Arikawa-Cross and I am a resident of Wahiawā. I am testifying in strong support of the demolition of the unsafe structures at 525 Avocado Street.

For too long, this property has been a source of significant concern for our community. Its dilapidated state not only poses a physical danger but also attracts unsavory activity, and is an eyesore. This has created an environment of unease and frustration for residents who live nearby and have to see this property every day.

I appreciate the collaborative efforts of the State and County to address this issue. It is reassuring to hear that action is finally being taken, and I believe that the demolition of these structures is a crucial and necessary step toward restoring safety and a sense of community pride.

Demolishing these buildings will eliminate a public nuisance and a hazard. It will also signal to our community that the government is responsive to our needs and is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to move forward with the demolition of these unsafe structures and help us turn the page on this long-standing issue.

Name: Deborah King	Email: dking0923@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 18, 2025 @ 09:26 PM

Name: Dawn Lee	Email: dawnlee_hi@yahoo.com	Zip: 96786
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 18, 2025 @ 10:56 PM

Testimony:

This structure has become more than an eyesore. It poses a direct threat to the safety, health, and well-being of our community. Over the past few years residents have witnessed:

• Illegal activities including suspected drug transactions and unauthorized gaming operations.

• Public safety concerns, as the structure attracts loitering and activities that make families and children feel unsafe in the area.

• An unofficial encampment that, while highlighting the need for compassionate solutions to homelessness, has created unsanitary and unsafe conditions for both those staying there and nearby residents.

• Negative impacts on our community's image and property values, deterring investment and discouraging community pride.

• Environmental concerns - it is right next Lake Wilson. Dump of trash on the property has been there for months.

While we recognize the broader issues of homelessness and public safety, leaving this structure standing only perpetuates these challenges. Removing it would not only eliminate an environment that fosters crime but also create an opportunity

for the city to repurpose the land for positive community use.

On behalf of my family and neighbors, I respectfully ask the city to move forward with removal of this structure. Our community deserves a safe, healthy, and welcoming environment.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Lawrence Meacham	meacham.hawaii@gmail.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 06:58 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kaitlynn Felipe	kaitlynn.felipe@gmail.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 08:35 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I am writing in strong support of the proposed demolition of the unsafe structures located at 525 Avocado Street.

For years, during our family's daily commute, we have witnessed firsthand the ongoing destruction of this property, the squatting that continues to occur, and the way it has become an "eye-sore" to the community and surrounding neighborhood. It has long posed safety hazards and taken away from the pride and well-being of the area.

Wahiawā is a beautiful and vibrant community, and with more beautification efforts and supportive social programs to uplift and educate our community members, it has the potential to truly thrive. But it all starts with strong infrastructure and accessibility. Removing these unsafe structures is a necessary first step toward restoring safety, preventing further misuse, and setting the foundation for a healthier, more connected community.

I believe this action is long overdue, and I respectfully urge you to move forward with demolition for the benefit of our neighborhood and all who call Wahiawā home.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Kaitlynn Felipe

Community Member

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Timothy Renken	timothyrenken9@gmail.com	96813

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaii Self Advocacy Advisory Council	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 08:45 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Erin Mendelson	blabbering1@yahoo.com	96786

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 08:48 AM

Testimony:

The Real Property Located at 525 Avocado Street continues to harbor unsafe activities. The vacant lot and structures provide a meeting point for what appears to be illegal activities. There is illegal dumping with piles of trash. All hours of the day and night, people are lurking, sleeping, and gathering. This property is within a residential area and is dangerous. There are no sidewalks on this street so pedestrians have to walk directly in front of the property. By tearing down this building, it will not solve the root causes of the lack of affordable housing and environmental hazards. However, this property creates a sense of blight and neglect, negatively impacting the overall quality of life in our community. We need big solutions and action. Thank you for proposing this resolution and considering public comment.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Tricia Matsukawa	tricia@matsukawainsurance.com	96786

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 09:56 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair and Councilmembers,

My name is Tricia Matsukawa, and I am a resident and business owner in Wahiawa. I am writing to strongly urge the City and County of Honolulu to take immediate action to demolish the abandoned structure located at 525 Avocado Street.

This property has long been a public safety concern for our community. It sits at the entrance of our town, where it is one of the first sights residents and visitors see. Unfortunately, instead of being a welcoming entryway, it has become a blight on our neighborhood. The structure is abandoned, unsecured, and wide open to anyone at any time of day or night. As a result, it has become a gathering place for unsafe and negative activities that put our residents, families, and visitors at risk.

Our fears are real—that someone could be taken inside and harmed. The building is often filled with rubbish, and we do not know what kind of activity occurs inside after dark. This creates a sense of fear and unease when simply driving past the area, and discourages us from supporting small businesses nearby. For example, a new Vietnamese restaurant recently opened right next door, and while our community wants to support this new small business, many residents, including myself, feel unsafe because of the activity surrounding the abandoned building.

Wahiawa is a community working hard to uplift and revitalize itself. Local business owners are investing their time, money, and heart into making this town a brighter, more welcoming place. Leaving 525 Avocado Street in its current condition undermines these efforts, drags down our neighborhood, and creates real dangers to public safety.

For the good of our community, I respectfully ask the City and County to take urgent action to demolish this structure and remove the hazards it presents. Doing so will not only eliminate an unsafe environment but also show support for our residents, families, and small businesses who are striving to make Wahiawa a better place.

Mahalo for your time and for prioritizing the safety and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,
Tricia Matsukawa
702 California Avenue
Wahiawa, HI 96786

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Dawn Chang	dawn.chang@hawaii.gov	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
State of Hawaii Dept. of Land and Natural Resources	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 12:21 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Akila Arecchi	akila@sfhawaii.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 12:21 PM

Testimony:
I work in Wahiawā and am writing to express my support for the resolution to take legal action to demolish the unsafe building at 525 Avocado Street. This structure has been in poor condition for a long time, and it's become an eyesore and a safety risk in our neighborhood. I worry that it might collapse or cause accidents, especially for kids or neighbors walking by. It also seems like the kind of place where unwanted activities could happen, which makes the area feel less safe. Removing this dangerous building would be a positive step for the community. It would help keep people safe and could open up opportunities for better use of the space in the future. Thank you for considering my thoughts. I hope the council will act quickly to protect our neighborhood.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Lisa Gomes	juslisa@hotmail.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 12:43 PM

Testimony:
It is an eye-sore at the entrance of Wahiawa.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Daintry Bartoldus	daintry.bartoldus@doh.hawaii.gov	96706
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
State Council on Developmental Disabilities	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 12:49 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Deo Rhoden	deorhoden@gmail.com	96716
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 01:25 PM

Testimony:

I’m support the county of Honolulu’s aim to demolish an unsafe structure.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jennifer Koldingnes	honu73@msn.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 02:32 PM

Testimony:

I would like to express my strong support for the demolition of the property located at 525 Avocado Street in Wahiawa. For far too long, this property has been a hub of illegal drug activity and violence, which has significantly impacted the safety and well-being of our community. We have seen:

Frequent scenes of violence and property destruction. Car tires being slashed. Individuals carrying items to harm others. Deaths due to overdose in adjacent areas. Yelling, screaming and intimidation.
The presence of individuals engaged in illegal activities has created an atmosphere of fear and insecurity in the neighborhood.
The building's deteriorating condition further compounds the problem, making it attractive to those engaged in illicit activities and posing a potential fire and safety risk to surrounding properties and residents.

While addressing the root causes of drug use and violence is crucial, we also need immediate action to remove this clear and present danger from our neighborhood. Demolition, in this case, sends a clear message that our community will not tolerate illegal activities and provides an opportunity to create a safer environment for our families and children.
I urge you to prioritize the demolition of this building. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Brian Kelley	b.briankelley@gmail.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 02:36 PM

Testimony:

I fully support removal of the unsafe structures on Avocado St. The current structures present a public safety issue which can be resolved by approving this bill. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Frank Adrian Brillante	frank.a.brillante@gmail.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 02:36 PM

Testimony:

Aloha I am Frank Adrian Brillante I support the demolition of the building in 525 Avocado ST. As a resident of Wahiawa who lived their entire life in the town I believe the demolition would greatly prevent homelessness and drug use in Wahiawa. Throughout the years I noticed this structure only brought negative actions through the community by having many illegal activities occur there with none to stop them. Although actions are being made to help improve the town of Wahiawa I believe the demolition of this unsafe structure to be a very important start to Wahiawa safety and ohana.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Chris Lang	clanger808@gmail.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 02:37 PM

Testimony:

This building has been a problem for the neighborhood. It has been used for drug activity and other illegal activities for a long time. People are coming and going at all hours.

The property is unsafe and a danger to the community. Families do not feel safe walking by, and it lowers the quality of life for everyone nearby.

Demolition sends a clear message that the community will not tolerate illegal activities and provides an opportunity to create a safer environment for our families and children. I urge you to prioritize the demolition of this building. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Eric Bartolome	maverickmuaythai808@gmail.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Maverick Muay Thai Academy	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 02:52 PM

Testimony:

Aloha, I am the owner of Maverick Muay Thai Academy operating beside these buildings proposed for demolition. I have students starting from age five all the way to adults. We have over 100 students who visit this location throughout the week.

Since coming to this location in December, I've had multiple instances where I've asked men doing drugs to step away from our building. I've also asked our keiki to turn away when they had to retrieve two dead bodies who overdosed under the bridge. On another instance, one of my 13-year-old students was propositioned by a woman living in one of the abandoned buildings. I have also had an incident of someone living in that building taking a large knife to the tires of my student's vehicles. More recently, I had asked the parents of my students to not drop them off alone as there can be risk of danger in the area.

I believe we should have a safer community so that organizations like mine can offer a secure neighborhood for our keiki free from being exposed to drug use or any dangers to their safety.
Based on the above, I support the proposition to have these buildings removed. In addition to the comments above, I would like to provide oral testimony at the meeting tomorrow. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Melissa Gibo	mgibo@lanakilapacific.org	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Lanakila Pacific	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 03:01 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Shannon Moose	shannonmoose11@gmail.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Maverick Muay Thai	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 03:06 PM

Testimony:
I believe the abandoned buildings on Avocado Street should be cleaned up and reclaimed. The empty and dilapidated buildings leave opportunities for illegal and unsafe activities for surrounding homes and businesses. The land in Hawaii is so limited and to leave these areas undeveloped or discarded as abandoned would be a missed opportunity to utilize the area for bettering the community. There are many options to put these brick walls to use for the better.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Nicole Sung	ngongo121@gmail.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 05:42 PM

Testimony:
The city of Wahiawā is making strides to beautify the community but having abandoned buildings hinder this process and keep down the other businesses in the area. The cost of removal is less than cost of the police. If the area is safer then the community will flourish.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Domingo Layugan	Dvljr1@yahoo.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 06:14 PM

Testimony:
I have kids that train at Maverick Muay Thai next door. I do not feel safe having my 9 year old daughter walk along Avocado street. I walk her to the gym and then walk back to my car for fear that my car would get broken in. I see homeless/houseless people going in and out. Some yelling at each other. The rubbish piling up is an eyesore with chickens foraging in it. It is possible the rubbish pile is falling off the back hill into lake wilson. If it is not being used to bring good to the community like Dixons Tae Kwon Do had done before, I think it is a good idea to tear these buildings down.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Leah Schnabel	Leah.schnabel@yahoo.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 07:29 PM

Testimony:
I support the demolition of the structure in order to deter further illegal / dangerous activity taking place in the structure and to improve community safety.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Shyanne Macalino	shyannehuialoha@gmail.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 08:05 PM

Testimony:
My name is Shyanne Macalino, and I have been born and raised in Wahiawa. I am an elementary educator within the community and a parent of a child with disability who has built confidence and resilience since starting lessons at Maverick Muay Thai, which is located on Avocado St.

I'm speaking tonight not just for myself, but for the many families in our community who feel a growing sense of unease and frustration. The issue is the abandoned buildings in our city, specifically, the structures on Avocado St.

When structures are left in a deteriorated state, it sends a clear message that no one is watching and no one cares. This neglect is an open invitation for crime to breed. These properties become havens for illegal dumping, game rooms, vandalism, and graffiti. More seriously, they provide shelter for illicit drug activity and squatting, attracting additional dangers to our city's streets. We've seen firsthand how these structures become a hub for crime.

Our children should not have to see this, grow up with this, or think that it is the "norm." Children have the right to feel safe and grow up with a sense of pride for their city. We as community members have the right to to not live in fear of taking a walk after the street lights come on or worrying about the activity going on within or around those structures. The presence of these structures lowers our sense of community and security, and tells criminals that this is a place where

they can operate without consequence.

We cannot afford to let this decay continue. As a community member, educator of small children, and as a parent, I urge you to take decisive action: I ask you to support initiatives that help reclaim these spaces, whether through demolition, rehabilitation, or other revitalization projects.

Protecting our community is our shared responsibility, for our children and the next generation to come. By addressing the problem of abandoned structures, we can take a significant step toward reducing crime and restoring the safety and pride of our city. Thank you for your time.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Leticia Miner	tktikm@aol.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 09:00 PM

Testimony:
These buildings have been abandoned for so long! It not only is an eye sore but extremely dangerous as numerous homeless and chronic will hang around the area. They accumulate numerous trash and litter and often will either run or ride their bike or even push their shopping cart through traffic causing cars driving by to have to slam their brakes! We need these buildings removed immediately we deserve better as a community of Wahiawa!!!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Mele Ahonima-Rosario	meleahonimarosaio@gmail.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Maverick Thai	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 09:25 PM

Testimony:
Aloha, I support this project

Let's make a change for Wahiawa
We have a business/ Family that wants to support a better change for our community , it's OUR chance to lend a helping hand.
We can get this community back to what it was like a couple years ago. Let's do it for our keiki!!
We adults are responsible for what our keiki will be in this world, let's make it a good place for them to grow.
Let's go WAHIAWA!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Elaina Smith	xsonny14@live.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2025 @ 09:38 PM

Testimony:

Aloha ,

I support this resolution because the children living in wahiawa , as well as the residents , deserve to safely be able to visit businesses ,schools , and other public areas of their community safely.

Next to these proposed buildings for demolition, is a Muay Thai school. The buildings that are to be demolished are often frequented by people engaging in violent , criminal or other disruptive activities . This can not only harm business at this location and the neighborhood economy , but also result in more police calls to this area where vulnerable members of the community frequent .

I believe that by demolishing the buildings , it will reduce disruptive and/or illegal activity in this immediate area and provide an opportunity for the space to be used safely by the community or repurposed. Please give this area a chance to become better, instead of letting it slowly fall apart and be a safety hazard for those who illegally enter it and those who may have to walk past it .

Mahalo ,

Elaina

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jeanne Ishikawa	injeanneish@yahoo.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 20, 2025 @ 01:42 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jessica Gellert	jessica@gellertmedia.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 20, 2025 @ 05:39 AM

Testimony:

The removal of these buildings will remove drug and negative activity in the area. I support this bill and its goal to make Wahiawa a better place for residents and visitors.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Robert Souza	Rsouza001@outlook.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 20, 2025 @ 08:04 AM

Testimony:

Aloha,

As a lifetime Wahiawa resident, I have watched our community slide as we continually allow illegal behavior to infiltrate our community.

This location has been a successful used car dealership, then nothing... homeless have occupied it and wreaked havoc in the buildings.

An illegal game room, and who knows what else.

If the owners will not take responsibility then something drastic must be done.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Robert Souza

Name:	Email:	Zip:
William Anonsen	wmanonsen@consultant.com	96814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
The Maritime Group	Support	Aug 20, 2025 @ 09:53 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Christina Gedo	christinagedo@gmail.com	96791
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 20, 2025 @ 12:43 PM

Testimony:

This unsafe structure attracts people who seem to be experiencing homelessness. I often see people coming in and out at all times of day and night. This building doesn't seem safe for the inhabitants or for the community. Keiki from my gym are dropped off very close to this area. I am in support of the demolition of this building to prevent injury to the inhabitants and to create a safer community. However, I hope resources can be made available to those who are seeking shelter in this building.

The Senate
Ka ʻAha Kenekoa

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAIʻI 96813

August 18, 2025

The Honorable Scott Nishimoto
Committee on International & Legal Affairs
Honolulu City Council
530 S King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Support of Legal Action to Demolish 525 Avocado Street

Dear Chair Nishimoto:

I am writing in strong support of the resolution to demolish the unsafe structure located at 525 Avocado Street. This resolution is a crucial step to address ongoing issues at this location, which have raised significant concerns regarding public safety, code compliance, and the well-being of the surrounding community.

The status of the property has led to unlawful activity and environmental degradation, negatively impacting nearby residents and businesses. Despite previous interventions, issues remain unresolved, underscoring the need for decisive legal action to protect the public's best interests.

By authorizing the pursuit of an injunction, this resolution will empower the City to take effective steps toward restoring the safety, health, and integrity of this area. I strongly support the injunction of 525 Avocado Street and urge its approval.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz

Hawaii State Senate
415 S. Beretania Street, Rm. 208
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-6090
Email: sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov

WAHIAWA

Community Based Development Organization (WCBDO)

PO Box 861191, Wahiawa HI 96786 *wahiawacbdo.org*

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Director

August, 17, 2025

Honolulu City Council
International and Legal Affairs
530 South King Street, Suite # 100
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: IN SUPPORT OF DEMOLITION OF 525 AVOCADO ST.

Aloha International and Legal Affairs Committee members,

Wahiawa Fresh! is a grassroots, community non-profit that works to improve Wahiawa through economic development. We have been working with Wahiawa's businesses and residents to build interest in and support for a number of improvements that we see as economically beneficial to our community. In particular, **we are very supportive of the proposed demolition of the property at 525 Avocado Street.**

We believe that this is the right solution for a number of reasons. Firstly, with limited response from the owner, this property has become a major eyesore and safety issue for our historic town. Residents have seen it decay and devolve into an unsafe gathering spot for houseless individuals, an open drug and gambling den, and a small scale trash dump.

It is doubly heartbreaking as the property is at the entrance to Wahiawa, and is seen by visitors coming into our town. It is also dangerous for children and kupuna who need to walk by to get to and from home.

Ask anyone in Wahiawa about 525 Avocado St. and they will tell you it should be razed and used for any other purpose. It is a literal case of "broken window policy"; leaving it as it is will continue to attract crime and blight.

As an economic development organization, Wahiawa Fresh! urges the Council to help our community by approving this demolition.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this urgent and important issue.

Sincerely,



Darin Uesugi,
Vice President
Wahiawa Community Based Development Organization
dba Wahiawa Fresh!

Gmail Deborah King <dking0923@gmail.com>

525 Avocado Street: Testimony to Support Demolition of Unsafe Structures

1 message

Deborah King <dking0923@gmail.com> Mon, Aug 18, 2025 at 9:22 PM
To: "Weyer, Matthew" <mweyer@honolulu.gov>
Cc: ": mayor@honolulu.gov" <mayor@honolulu.gov>, "Formby, Michael D" <mformby@honolulu.gov>

Aloha Councilmember Weyer,

I attended the Town Hall Meeting at Mililani High School on Thursday, April 24, 2025 and I heard about a property on Avocado Street that the city officials were trying to talk to the owner to cleanup.

Mililani High School Town Hall (April 24, 2025)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4Z7AAFaIG8
16:44 out of 2:03:52

Apparently, the owner has made no efforts to take care of this issue since the City Council is proceeding with **525 Avocado Street: Testimony to Support Demolition of Unsafe Structures.** I decided to go tonight after reading the newsletter to get a visual of the current situation. I took a video and published it on YouTube, here is the link:

8 18 2025 525 Avocado Street Wahiawā IMG 1458.mov

https://youtu.be/vvVTSzBiniE?feature=shared

Due to current condition and a neighbor (Michael) who says that they have had break-ins, I ***strongly support*** the demolition. I hope by taking action we can show the community that we care. I hope to hear that crime is reduced by showing up for the community.

I will submit this email as my testimony to the International and Legal Affairs Committee.

A Big Mahalo to you for all that you and your colleagues do to keep us moving to a higher quality of life by utilizing the "Aloha Spirit" of love and compassion without making sacrifices that destroy our lives, our communities, our 'āina, our culture and our traditions.

Let me know if there is anything that I can do to help.

Mahalo,

Deborah W. King
Honolulu Park Place
1212 Nu'uanu Avenue Apt 2803
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817
Cellular Phone: 808.369.6370
Home Phone: 808.524.0954

8/19/25

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.

For many years, the 525 Avocado St. property has been the site of chronic problems, including trash, gambling, homeless squatting and drug dealing.

The owners have abused the permit systems with endless delays and doing tiny amounts of work on the property, without actually solving the problems.

Enough is enough. Let's demolish and take over what has become a flagrant public nuisance.

Thank you.

Lawrence Meacham

306B Lehua St.

Wahiawa

Testimony from the Hawai‘i Self-Advocacy Advisory Council
In Support of Demolishing the Unsafe Structure at 525 Avocado Street, Wahiawā, Hawai‘i 96786

Aloha Chair and Members,

My name is Timothy Renken, and I am the president of the Hawai‘i Self-Advocacy Advisory Council. I am writing to support taking down the unsafe building at 525 Avocado Street in Wahiawā.

This building is very scary for people who have to walk by it. The building smells bad, people hang out there, and sometimes they ask us for money. It makes us feel unsafe and afraid to walk in our own community.

We want to be able to walk to work and our programs without fear. We want our community to feel safe and welcoming for everyone.

Please help us by removing this unsafe building. It will make our neighborhood safer for all of us.

Mahalo,
Timothy Renken, President
Hawai‘i Self-Advocacy Advisory Council

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIAʻĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIAʻĀINA

STATE OF HAWAIʻI | KA MOKUʻĀINA ʻO HAWAIʻI
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA ʻOIHANA KUMUWAIWAI ʻĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N.S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Honolulu City Council Committee on
INTERNATIONAL & LEGAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, August 20, 2025
1:00 PM
City Council Chamber

In consideration of
MISC. COMM. 421
RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE LEGAL ACTION TO DEMOLISH UNSAFE STRUCTURES ON THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 525 AVOCADO STREET, WAHIAWĀ, HAWAIʻI, 96786

MISC. COMM. 421 proposes to authorize legal action to demolish unsafe structures on the real property located at 525 Avocado Street, in Wahiawā, Oʻahu. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this Resolution.**

The Department is aware of numerous concerns of the subject property including public safety hazards, code compliance, and environmental concerns. This measure would authorize the City and County of Honolulu to act and remove structures on the premises which have created unsafe conditions for the community by attracting unsavory, potentially illegal activities. We believe the removal of these structures would start the process to restore safety and increase community and environmental well-being in the area.

The Department appreciates the City's leadership in moving this measure forward to protect the public and revitalize the neighborhood.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

STATE OF HAWAIʻI
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAIʻI 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
August 20, 2025

Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Committee on International & Legal Affairs
Honolulu City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu, Hawaiʻi 96813

Testimony in Support of Authorizing Legal Action to Demolish Unsafe Structure at 525 Avocado Street, Wahiawā, Hawaiʻi 96786

Aloha Chair and Members,

The Hawaiʻi State Council on Developmental Disabilities strongly supports authorizing legal action to demolish the unsafe structure located at 525 Avocado Street, Wahiawā.

The structure poses significant public health and safety hazards. It has fallen into disrepair, is being used as an informal shelter, and is associated with unsafe and unsanitary conditions. The building also presents a serious fire risk due to its deteriorated condition and unregulated use.

For individuals with developmental disabilities who live and work in the area, this structure has become a source of fear and distress. Many rely on walking to day services or employment nearby, and their routes often take them past this property. They have reported being approached and asked for money, experiencing intimidation, and feeling unsafe due to the environment around the building. These conditions undermine their ability to travel independently, fully participate in community life, and maintain confidence in their own safety.

Demolishing this unsafe structure would not only address an immediate public health and safety concern but would also restore a sense of security to the neighborhood and protect some of our most vulnerable residents. Removal of the hazard would demonstrate a commitment to building safer, healthier, and more inclusive communities across Hawaiʻi.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your approval of this action.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

LANAKILA PACIFIC
BUILDING INDEPENDENCE
1809 Bachelot Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

August 20, 2025

Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Committee on International & Legal Affairs
Honolulu City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

Testimony in Support of Authorizing Legal Action to Demolish Unsafe Structure at 525 Avocado Street, Wahiawā, Hawai‘i 96786

Aloha Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee on International & Legal Affairs,

Lanakila Pacific respectfully supports the authorization of legal action to demolish the unsafe structure at 525 Avocado Street, Wahiawā, HI 96786.

Our organization operates an Adult Day Health program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities at 330 Walker Avenue, in close proximity to the aforementioned property. Many of our program participants rely on public transportation (TheBus) and must pass by this deteriorating structure to access our facility.

Both participants and staff have expressed concerns regarding their safety when traversing past the abandoned building, which is currently in severe disrepair and poses significant risks related to health, sanitation, and potential fire hazards. As a result, some program members choose to forgo travel training and bus coaching activities to avoid Avocado Street, limiting their opportunities for greater independence and community engagement.

Addressing this issue by removing the hazardous structure would not only mitigate immediate public health and safety risks but also contribute to restoring security within the neighborhood and safeguarding vulnerable residents. The removal would further exemplify a commitment to fostering safer, healthier, and more inclusive communities across Hawai‘i.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for this necessary action.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Melissa Gibo
Vice President of Programs

August 19, 2025

Honolulu City Council
Committee on International and Legal Affairs
Office of the City Clerk
Attn: Information Section
530 South King Street
Room 100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS
IN SUPPORT OF DEMOLITION OF UNSAFE STRUCTURES
LOCATED AT 525 AVOCADO STREET IN WAHIAWA

Aloha Committee Members:
I am submitting testimony IN SUPPORT of the City's proposed action to authorize legal action to demolish and remove the various structures and trash located at 525 Avocado Street in Wahiawa. Thereafter, we ask that area be secured/closed off from further illegal use or abuse. We want everyone in Wahiawa to feel safe and happy and joyful in our town.

This long-standing issue has raised numerous safety concerns within our community, especially the residents of Avocado Street and Walker Avenue areas who do their daily walks with caution, as well as the residents of the Silvercrest Senior Housing program on Pine Street.

In closing, and for transparency, I am the Chairwoman of the Wahiawa-Whitmore Village Neighborhood Board No. 26, and can confirm we have received many concerns regarding illegal activities on the Avocado Street location such as camping on-site, dumping of trash and materials, dropping off damaged vehicles, filling of water gallons from the water spigot, and breaking the fencing along the back area of the property so that individuals can walk/climb down to Lake Wilson ("Fresh Water Reservoir") which is illegal and trespassing.

We appreciate and thank Mayor Blangiardi and his staff, for working on these concerns in conjunction with the various City and State agencies. Our Mayor's Representative (Kevin Auger) has provided constant follow-up on this concern, and we appreciate his efforts too.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony for the safety and love of our Wahiawa.

Peace,
Jeanne Ishikawa
email: injeanneish@yahoo.com

August 20, 2025

Committee on International & Legal Affairs
Councilmember Scott Nishimoto, Chair, and Committee Members
Honolulu City Council
Honolulu, HI 96813

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM F. ANONSEN
MANAGING PARTNER/PRINCIPAL OF THE MARITIME GROUP
IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION TO DEMOLISH UNSAFE STRUCTURES

Aloha Chair and Members of the Council:

I write in strong support of the Resolution authorizing legal action to demolish the unsafe structures located at 525 Avocado Street, Wahiawā, Hawai'i 96786.

This long-neglected property has become a serious health and safety hazard for the surrounding neighborhood, attracting unlawful activity, posing increased fire risk, and impacting the sense of security and well-being of nearby residents, many of whom have raised their concerns for months, if not years. The Honolulu City Council's willingness to take responsible and decisive enforcement action is an important step toward restoring community confidence and ensuring neighborhood safety.

I appreciate the partnership between our City and County officials, State legislators, and the Wahiawā community in prioritizing this matter and moving toward a solution. Authorizing demolition sends a clear message that unsafe and deteriorating structures will not be allowed to negatively impact our communities. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to protecting our residents and improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods. I urge the committee to approve this Resolution and move swiftly to carry out the demolition of the unsafe structure at 525 Avocado Street.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support**.**

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Anonsen

William F. Anonsen
Managing Partner/Principal
THE MARITIME GROUP