

**BILL061(25)**  
**Testimony**

**MISC. COMM. 457**

COUNCIL

## **COUNCIL Meeting**

Meeting Date: Sep 3, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

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| Jacob Wiencek                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | jacob.m.wiencek@pm.me          | 96815                   |
| Representing:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Position:                      | Submitted:              |
| Self                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Support                        | Aug 29, 2025 @ 09:46 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Councilmembers,</p> <p>Ensuring the proper, sustainable development of the Kakaako neighborhood is core to the future sustainability and success of Honolulu. This proposed measure seems to balance the fiscal, developmental, and sustainability concerns well. The proposed reduction in property tax will also provide urgent relief to our deeper affordability crisis.</p> <p>I urge the Council to SUPPORT this bill!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                |                         |
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| Name:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Email:                         | Zip:                    |
| Shelby Billionaire                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | presidentbillionaire@gmail.com | 96792                   |
| Representing:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Position:                      | Submitted:              |
| www.ohanaunityparty.com                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Support                        | Sep 1, 2025 @ 06:03 PM  |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p><b>**Testimony in Support of Bill 61 (2025) – Honolulu City Council**</b></p> <p><b>**Meeting Date: September 3, 2025 – **</b></p> <p>City and County of Honolulu</p> <p>530 South King Street</p> <p>Honolulu, HI 96813</p> <p>Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,</p> <p>My name is Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM, representing the Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I., and Chairman of the Ohana Unity Party (www.OhanaUnityParty.com). I am submitting this testimony in strong support of Bill 61 (2025), which amends Section 8-10.31 of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 to expand the real property tax exemption for properties in the Central Kakaako industrial zone, allowing eligibility for those with a maximum floor area ratio (FAR) between 1.5 and 3.5, as determined by the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) due to inadequate infrastructure. This bill supports industrial businesses and workers, fostering economic equity and aligning with our mission to uplift our ohana.</p> <p><b>**Reasons for Support:**</b></p> <p>Bill 61 enhances economic stability for industrial businesses in Central Kakaako by expanding the existing real property tax exemption, originally enacted under Ordinance 16-21 (effective July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2027). Key provisions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>**Expanded Eligibility**</b>: The bill adjusts the exemption to include properties with an FAR between 1.5 and 3.5, reflecting</li> </ul> |                                |                         |

updated HCDA rules (Hawaii Administrative Rules § 15-217-57, effective February 7, 2024). This accommodates more industrial parcels limited by infrastructure constraints, such as those along Waimanu, Kamakee, and Queen Streets (Tax Map Keys listed in Exhibit 1).

- **Economic Relief**: The 50% exemption on assessed value reduces financial burdens for businesses engaged in industrial uses like manufacturing, warehousing, and repair services, which must be fully enclosed. According to the Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (2024), Kakaako's industrial sector employs over 2,000 workers, many from Native Hawaiian and working-class communities. This relief supports job retention and business viability.

- **Retroactive Application**: Effective retroactively to February 7, 2024, the bill ensures alignment with HCDA's updated rules, providing immediate relief without disrupting the exemption's 2017-2027 timeline.

- **Safeguards**: The requirement for HCDA certification and biennial recertification ensures only eligible properties benefit, maintaining fiscal responsibility.

#### **Community Impact**

The Ohana Unity Party champions policies that promote equitable economic opportunities for Native Hawaiian and low-income communities. Bill 61 supports small businesses and workers in Central Kakaako, a vital industrial hub, by reducing tax burdens that could otherwise lead to closures or layoffs. A 2024 Honolulu Star-Advertiser report noted that high property taxes threaten small industrial businesses in Kakaako, where infrastructure limitations already restrict development. By easing these costs, the bill fosters economic resilience, benefiting workers and families while supporting the City's 2022 Oahu Housing Strategy goal of sustainable community development.

#### **Call to Action**

I urge the Honolulu City Council to pass Bill 61 (2025) to support Central Kakaako's industrial businesses and workers. I recommend:

- Outreach to Businesses**: Partner with HCDA and the Department of Budget and Fiscal Services to inform eligible businesses about the exemption and application process, ensuring accessibility for Native Hawaiian-owned firms.
- Impact Assessment**: Monitor the number of businesses benefiting and jobs preserved to evaluate the exemption's effectiveness.
- Community Engagement**: Promote the bill's benefits through public campaigns, including my platform (@OhanaUnityParty, @PikachuBillionaire on YouTube), to highlight support for local workers.

Bill 61 is a critical step toward economic equity and community vitality in Central Kakaako. I encourage the Council to approve this ordinance to strengthen our ohana and local economy. Mahalo for your commitment to Honolulu's future.

Sincerely,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM  
Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I.  
Chairman, Ohana Unity Party

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@AmericanPartyOG

YouTube: @PikachuBillionaire (<https://www.youtube.com/@pikachubillionaire>)

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#OhanaUnityParty #KakaakoEconomy #EconomicEquity