

BILL020(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 459

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

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

Support: 2

Oppose: 1

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Matthew Herrera	Email: mattmherrera@icloud.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Aug 30, 2025 @ 07:45 PM
Testimony: I oppose this bill because I live in a 2 person household and combined we make barely over the 120% AMI tier. Which means we don't qualify for the Down Payment Loan Assistance Revolving Fund. I think that is unfair considering while we do think this a good idea it is unfortunate that we can take advantage of it. It's not like one of us can just quit our job just to make this happen then we would be struggling just to make ends meet. While I do think this a nice gesture at the same time I don't think the 120% AMI is a good reflection of everyday local people being able to take advantage of this.		
Name: Jacob Wiencek	Email: jacob.m.wiencek@pm.me	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 31, 2025 @ 10:48 AM
Testimony: Aloha Councilmembers, I am glad to see this bill continue to advance through our legislative process. Vice Chair Tupola and Councilmember Cordero have correctly identified housing as one of the key drivers of Honolulu's affordability crisis. We've got to do more to ensure housing stability and support so working- and middle-class families can remain here. This bill will help advance us to that goal. I urge the Council to continue SUPPORTING this bill!		
Name: Suzanne Young	Email: anakama@wik.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Honolulu Board of Realtors	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 2, 2025 @ 11:13 AM

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Testimony by Suzanne Young, CEO
Honolulu Board of REALTORS®

Bill 20 (2025)
Relating to Funds

Honolulu City Council
Tommy Waters, Chair
Andria Tupola, Vice Chair

City Council Chamber
Wednesday, September 3, 2025
10:00 A.M.

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and members of the City Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Bill 20 (2025). On behalf of our more than 6,800 members, the Honolulu Board of REALTORS® (HBR) and its City Affairs Committee express **support** for Bill 20 (2025), Relating to Funds.

Affordable housing remains a serious challenge for first-time homebuyers, with the cost of a down payment serving as one of the most significant obstacles to homeownership. While existing down payment assistance programs—including those supported by Housing and Urban Development (HUD)—are a valuable resource, they often face limitations in their flexibility and reach.

Bill 20 (2025) establishes a dedicated fund that sets the groundwork for local down payment support initiatives. The creation of this fund is a critical first step that will enable the City to design flexible and inclusive solutions tailored to the unique needs of kamaʻāina workforce and residents.

As the fund's future use is developed, we encourage consideration for strategies that accommodate a broader demographic, including but not limited to first responders, teachers, health care workers, hospitality employees, and civil service professionals who may not qualify under existing programs. Programs supported by this fund should aim to provide flexible eligibility criteria and innovative assistance structures, helping more families achieve stable homeownership and build equity.

HBR is committed to collaborating with the Department of Community Services and other stakeholders, offering our resources and expertise to help guide the thoughtful development and deployment of programs supported by this fund.



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