BILL076(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 629

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

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

Support: 4

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Shelby Billionaire	presidentbillionaire@gmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Ohana Unity Party	Support	Nov 30, 2025 @ 11:28 AM

Testimony:

Oral Testimony – STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 76 (2025)

Honolulu City Council

Aloha kakahiaka Chair, Vice Chair, and honorable Members of the Council,

I am Master Shelby “Pikachu” Billionaire, HRM,
lawful representative of the Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands,
Chairman of the Ohana Unity Party,
and a proud son of this sacred ʻāina who refuses to let one more tax dollar disappear into the dark.

Today I stand in **UNSHAKEABLE, FULL-THROATED SUPPORT** of Bill 76 – the Honolulu Open Checkbook Ordinance.

For too long, the people of Oʻahu have been told “trust us” while billions of dollars flow through City Hall every year with no easy way for the average kanaka, the single mom in Waiʻanae, the fisherman in Kahuku, or the student in Mānoa to see exactly where THEIR money is going.

No more excuses.
No more 400-page budget books dumped the night before vote.
No more “confidential” slush funds hidden from the lāhui.

Bill 76 says loud and clear:
Every dollar spent,
Every vendor paid,
Every department that touched it,
Every date it left the people’s treasury,
must be posted online, searchable, clickable, updated monthly, and FREE for every resident to see by January 1, 2027.

This is not radical; this is righteousness.
Forty-five states and hundreds of cities already have open-checkbook systems. Honolulu is late to the pono party, but today we can finally arrive.

When the people can follow the money in real time, corruption starves, waste gets exposed, and trust is rebuilt. That is how you honor the public treasury. That is how you honor the legacy of our kūpuna who fought so this ʻāina would be

governed with integrity.

Pass Bill 76 UNAMENDED.

Give the people the keys to the vault they already own.

The eyes of the lāhui are on you.

The ancestors are smiling when transparency wins.

Vote AYE and let the light shine on every single dollar.

Imua e nā poki'i!

E ola ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono!

Mahalo nui,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM

Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands

Chairman, Ohana Unity Party

YouTube @PikachuBillionaire

www.OhanaUnityParty.com

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jacob Wiencek	jacob.m.wiencek@pm.me	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 30, 2025 @ 11:18 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Councilmembers,

I appreciate the push for greater public transparency on budget and financial information. Having more information available to the public will lead to better understanding of government finances and increased public trust. I urge the Council to SUPPORT this bill!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ted Kefalas	tkefalas@grassrootinstitute.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Support	Dec 2, 2025 @ 08:10 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Natalie Iwasa	iwasajunk@mail.com	96825

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	Dec 2, 2025 @ 08:23 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ross Isokane	isokane@gmail.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Dec 2, 2025 @ 12:37 PM

Testimony:

I support bills that require the government to put more information out for the public to better understand how our tax dollars are being utilized.

GRASSROOT INSTITUTE OF HAWAII

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Removing barriers to Hawaii's prosperity

Dec. 3, 2025, 10 a.m.
Honolulu Hale

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

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

RE: Bill 76 (2025) — RELATING TO GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola and other members of the Council,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** Bill 76 (2025), which would require the Honolulu Department of Budget and Fiscal Services to create a free, online budget database accessible to the public.

This database would include information on every city expenditure, such as the amount of money spent, where the funds came from, the date of the expenditure, the department or agency that spent the money and the vendor or entity that received the funds.

Grassroot believes an online, searchable database would go a long way toward making Honolulu's government more transparent and accountable to island residents.

Right now, the public can access budget information through one of several annual and quarterly reports. However, there is no simple way to locate specific expenditures across a range of dates. Furthermore, an online database would help the public determine whether funds were being allocated in accordance with their intended purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

TO: Members of the Honolulu City Council

FROM: Natalie Iwasa, CPA, CFE
808-395-3233

DATE: Wednesday, December 3, 2025

SUBJECT: Bill 76, Government Transparency – **COMMENTS**

Aloha Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on Bill 76, which would require the city director of budget and fiscal services to create an open checkbook that would allow the public to search detailed contents of the city's finances. I support the intent of this but have some reservations.

When Peter Carlilse was mayor, the city budget was put online in spreadsheet format. As I recall, the public was able to work with it to see how proposed changes would impact the bottom line. A lot of work was put into this, but it did not go beyond Carlisle's term. If not already done, councilmembers should look into this effort to see what was done, how long it took, how much use the public got out of it and why it was not maintained.

With respect to Bill 76, in essence you are requiring the city to create a second set of books for public consumption. It would be required to be updated at least monthly. With smaller entities, that may not be too difficult and would likely involve exporting reports to spreadsheets. For the city, where IT support is often a challenge, this may take a huge effort. The question is whether there would be enough public involvement to justify that effort.