BILL076(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 5

*BUDGET (BUD)

***BUDGET (BUD) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Jan 13, 2026 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ted Kefalas	tkefalas@grassrootinstitute.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Support	Jan 9, 2026 @ 08:50 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jacob Wiencek	jacob.m.wiencek@pm.me	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jan 11, 2026 @ 06:17 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Councilmembers,

I am pleased to provide testimony in support of Bill 76. Greater public access to government finances is crucial to building trust and facilitating more informed civic discussions. This bill is a commonsense transparency reform. I strongly urge the Committee to SUPPORT this bill!

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Removing barriers to Hawaii's prosperity

Jan. 13, 2026, 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 76 (2025) — RELATING TO GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

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

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

Currently, members of the public can access county budget information through one of several annual and quarterly reports, but there is no simple way to locate specific expenditures across a range of dates.

An online database as proposed by Bill 76 (2025) 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 such a database would go a long way toward making Honolulu's government more transparent and accountable. Furthermore, an online database would help the public determine whether county funds were being spent in accordance with their intended purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii