



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

TOMMY WATERS
CHAIR & PRESIDING OFFICER
ANDRIA TUPOLA
VICE CHAIR
ESTHER KIA'ĀINA
FLOOR LEADER
RADIANT CORDERO
TYLER DOS SANTOS-TAM
SCOTT Y. NISHIMOTO
VAL A. OKIMOTO
AUGIE TULBA
MATT WEYER

JOURNAL

REGULAR MEETING
17TH SESSION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
3RD FLOOR, HONOLULU HALE
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Note: A copy of the video of the full proceedings of this meeting may be requested by calling the City Clerk's Office at (808)768-5822.

CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to adjournment, the regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by the Chair and Presiding Officer, Tommy Waters, at 10:18 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following Councilmembers present:

Councilmembers Cordero, Dos Santos-Tam, Kia'āina, Nishimoto, Okimoto, Tulba, Tupola, Weyer, Waters – 9.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Councilmember Kia'āina introduced members of the City Administration, Boards and Commission nominees, stakeholders who are presenting testimony, and community members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Tupola moved that the Session Minutes as posted on the agenda be approved, subject to corrections by Councilmembers within 30 days. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

There was no public testimony.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

ORDER OF THE DAY

ADOPTION

RESOLUTION 25-320, CD1 – COMMITTEE REPORT 16(26)

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF GEENA THIELEN TO SERVE ON THE BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

Councilmember Kia'āina moved that Committee Report 16(26) and Resolution 25-320, as amended to CD1 be adopted. Seconded by Councilmember Tupola.

The following individual testified:

Geena Thielen (M-31[26]) (General comment)

Councilmember Tupola stated her support for the nominee and thanked her for her continued service.

Committee Report 16(26) and Resolution 25-320, CD1, as amended, were adopted.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

Related communication:

M-31(26) Testimony on Resolution 25-320

ADOPTION

RESOLUTION 25-321 – COMMITTEE REPORT 18(26)

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF GAISON ONTAI TO SERVE ON THE FIRE COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

Councilmember Tulba moved that Committee Report 18(26) and Resolution 25-321 be adopted. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

The following individual testified:

Gaison Ontai (General comment)

Committee Report 18(26) and Resolution 25-321 were adopted.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

Related communication:

CC-9(26) Disclosure of Interest Statement submitted by Councilmember Okimoto.

DEFERRED TO LATER IN THE MEETING
RESOLUTION 25-322 – COMMITTEE REPORT 19(26)

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF GARY YABUTA TO SERVE ON THE POLICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

Councilmember Tulba moved that Committee Report 19(26) and Resolution 25-322 be adopted. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

There being no objections from 9 members present, Council Chair Waters postponed Resolution 25-322 until the arrival of the appointee.

(Note: Later in the meeting, Committee Report 19(26) and Resolution 25-322 were adopted. See page 4.)

CANCELLED
RESOLUTION 26-8

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF STERLING HIGA TO SERVE ON THE ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

Note: Prior to the start of the meeting, Council Chair Waters announced that Resolution 26-8 was cancelled and would not be considered.

PUBLIC HEARING/RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION 26-9

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF PERRY WHITE TO SERVE ON THE ETHICS COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

The following individual testified:

Perry White (General comment)

Chair Waters referred Resolution 26-9 to the Committee on International & Legal Affairs for further discussion.

The Council Chair returned to Resolution 25-322 (See Page 3).

ADOPTION

RESOLUTION 25-322 – COMMITTEE REPORT 19(26)

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF GARY YABUTA TO SERVE ON THE POLICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

The following individuals testified:

1. Gary Yabuta (General comment)
2. Shelby Billionaire (Support)
3. Tim Garry (Support)

Council Chair Waters acknowledged the appointee's impressive credentials and thanked him for his willingness to serve.

Councilmember Tupola stated her support for the appointee. She expressed confidence that he is well-suited for the position given his background as a former Chief of Police and thanked him for his willingness to serve.

Committee Report 19(26) and Resolution 25-322 were adopted.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, OKIMOTO, TULBA,
TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 8.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: NISHIMOTO – 1.

The Council Chair returned to the agenda order.

PUBLIC HEARING/RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION 26-10

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF JULIE PIOTROWSKI TO SERVE ON THE GRANTS IN AID ADVISORY COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

The following individuals testified:

1. Julie Piotrowski (General comment)
2. Natalie Iwasa (M-40[26]) (General comment)

Council Chair Waters referred Resolution 26-10 to the Committee on Budget for further discussion.

Related communication:

M-40(26) Testimony for Resolution 26-10

PUBLIC HEARING/RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION 26-11

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF DEBBI ELENEKI TO SERVE ON THE FIRE COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

The following individual testified:

Debbi Eleneki (General comment)

Councilmember Tupola thanked the appointee for her years of service and contributions to the Commission, noting that the Honolulu Fire Department's (HFD) 150th Anniversary celebration event reflected long-standing dedication and legacy within the HFD. She expressed appreciation for the appointee's continued willingness to serve.

Councilmember Kia'āina commended the appointee for her willingness to continue serving on the Fire Commission. She expressed hope that the Fire Commission and the HFD can work collectively together to ensure there is a clear and comprehensive fire mitigation and exit strategy for communities. She emphasized the importance of strengthening the City's response capacity and looks forward to working collaboratively with first responders and key stakeholders.

Council Chair Waters referred Resolution 26-11 to the Committee on Public Safety & Economy for further discussion.

PUBLIC HEARING/RESOLUTION
RESOLUTION 26-12

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF DEBORAH LUI-ANDERSON TO SERVE ON THE ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

The following individual testified:

Deborah Lui-Anderson (General comment)

Council Chair Waters referred Resolution 26-12 to the Committee on Energy, Environment & Sustainability for further discussion.

PUBLIC HEARING/RESOLUTION
RESOLUTION 26-13

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF RYAN KAMO TO SERVE ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

The following individual testified:

Ryan Kamo (General comment)

Council Chair Waters referred Resolution 26-13 to the Committee on Zoning & Planning for further discussion.

Related communication:

CC-10(26) Disclosure of Interest Statement submitted by Councilmember Okimoto.

FIRST READING
BILL 78 (2025)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO PARKING.

Councilmember Tupola moved that Bill 78 (2025) pass first reading. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

The following individuals testified:

1. Micah Munekata, Ulupono Initiative (M-20[26]) (Support)
2. Tim Garry (General comment)
3. Joli Tokusato (General comment)
4. Chris Clark, Chief Planner, Department of Transportation Services (Support)

Councilmember Nishimoto stated that he will be voting with reservations.

Bill 78 (2025) passed first reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO*, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

*Councilmember Nishimoto voted aye with reservations.

Related communication:

M-20(26) Testimony on Bill 78 (2025)

FIRST READING

BILL 1 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER.

Councilmember Tupola moved that Bill 1 (2026) pass first reading. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

There was no public testimony.

Bill 1 (2026) passed first reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

Related communication:

M-41(26) Testimony on Bill 1 (2026)

FIRST READING

BILL 4 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO INCENTIVES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING.

Councilmember Tupola moved that Bill 4 (2026) pass first reading. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

The following individuals testified:

1. Shelby Billionaire (M-21[26]) (Support)
2. Geena Thielen (M-21[26]) (Support)

Councilmember Tupola stated that the Bill focuses on strengthening pre-construction subsidies while also addressing the need for post-construction support to reduce project vulnerability, rising costs, and financial gaps. She noted that there are multiple bills impacting Chapter 32 and Bill 7 (2019) projects and that her office is working to consolidate these measures into a single vehicle to allow the Council to evaluate departmental needs, industry perspectives, and the most effective outcomes for the community.

Councilmembers Nishimoto, Cordero, and Kia'āina stated they will be voting with reservations.

Bill 4 (2026) passed first reading.

AYES: CORDERO*, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA*, NISHIMOTO*, OKIMOTO, TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

*Councilmembers Cordero, Kia'āina, and Nishimoto voted aye with reservations.

Related communication:

M-21(26) Testimony on Bill 4 (2026)

FIRST READING

BILL 5 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS IN THE APARTMENT AND APARTMENT MIXED-USE DISTRICTS.

Councilmember Tupola moved that Bill 5 (2026) pass first reading. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

The following individuals testified:

1. Angela Young, CARES (General comment)
2. Donald Sakamoto (Support)
3. Wilfred Motosue (M-47[26]) (Support)
4. Perry Arrasmith, Housing Hawai'i's Future (M-22[26]) (Support)

Bill 5 (2026) passed first reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO, TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.
NOES: None.

Related communications:

M-22(26) Testimony on Bill 5 (2026)
M-47(26) Testimony on Bill 5 (2026)

FIRST READING

BILL 6 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS IN THE APARTMENT AND APARTMENT MIXED-USE DISTRICTS.

Councilmember Tupola moved that Bill 6 (2026) pass first reading. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

The following individuals testified:

1. Angela Young, CARES (General comment)
2. Donald Sakamoto (Support)
3. Wilfred Motosue (M-48[26]) (Support)
4. Perry Arrasmith, Housing Hawai'i's Future (M-34[26]) (Support)

Bill 6 (2026) passed first reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO, TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.
NOES: None.

Related communications:

M-34(26) Testimony on Bill 6 (2026)
M-48(26) Testimony on Bill 6 (2026)

FIRST READING
BILL 7 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO SIGN STANDARDS FOR APARTMENT AND APARTMENT MIXED-USE DISTRICTS.

Councilmember Tupola moved that Bill 7 (2026) pass first reading. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

There was no public testimony.

Councilmember Tupola stated that the Bill is a result of collaborative efforts with Ho'opili and other mixed-use communities to address visibility challenges faced by neighborhood-serving businesses. She noted that small businesses are essential to walkability and daily life in apartments and mixed-use districts, however, current Land Use Ordinance (LUO) rules make finding these businesses difficult. She explained that although the Bill modernizes the LUO in a limited and thoughtful approach, her intention is to further refine the Bill by reducing the allowable sign area from 12 to 9 square feet as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Bill 7 (2026) passed first reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.
NOES: None.

Related communication:

M-42(26) Testimony on Bill 7 (2026)

FIRST READING
BILL 8 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO FUNDS.

Councilmember Tupola moved that Bill 8 (2026) pass first reading. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

The following individual testified:

Natalie Iwasa (M-44[26]) (Oppose)

Councilmember Okimoto expressed her appreciation to the Office of the City Auditor for being cognizant in addressing the Council's desire for transparency and proper accountability of taxpayer funds, and to the Honolulu Fire Department for working in tangent with her office. She explained that based on the recommendations of the Auditor, the Bill codifies the existing Fire Prevention Fund in the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu to maintain transparency. She stated that the intent of the Bill is to ensure that the funds are appropriately spent and for the purposes as specified in the Fire Code, noting the consolidation of annual fund information into one report and a reporting requirement tied to the annual budget process.

Councilmember Cordero stated that she will be voting with reservations.

Bill 8 (2026) passed first reading.

AYES: CORDERO*, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.
NOES: None.

*Councilmember Cordero voted aye with reservations.

Related communication:

M-44(26) Testimony on Bill 8 (2026)

FIRST READING

BILL 9 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO FUNDS.

Councilmember Tupola moved that Bill 9 (2026) pass first reading. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

The following individual testified:

Natalie Iwasa (M-45[26]) (Support)

Bill 9 (2026) passed first reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

Related communication:

M-45(26) Testimony on Bill 9 (2026)

FIRST READING

BILL 10 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO LEASE AND RENTAL OF CITY REAL PROPERTY.

Councilmember Tupola moved that Bill 10 (2026) pass first reading. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

The following individuals testified:

1. Natalie Iwasa (M-30[26]) (General comment)
2. Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock (Support)

Bill 10 (2026) passed first reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

Related communication:

M-30(26) Testimony on Bill 10 (2026)

FIRST READING

BILL 11 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING INCENTIVES.

Councilmember Tupola moved that Bill 11 (2026) pass first reading. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

There was no public testimony.

Councilmember Weyer stated that he will be voting with reservations and expressed his concerns when reducing funding or removing tools needed to build affordable housing.

Councilmember Tupola stated that the Bill will ensure preservation of all the incentives the City maintains for affordable housing, while establishing a coherent and transparent process to publicly disclose information on how and to whom these incentives are offered, including what the City receives in return. She expressed that this is in response to requests from the public and looks forward to working with the City Administration to ensure these requirements are not overly burdensome but intended as a transparency tool.

Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam stated that he will be voting with reservations.

Bill 11 (2026) passed first reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM*, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER*, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

*Councilmembers Dos Santos-Tam and Weyer voted aye with reservations.

FIRST READING

BILL 12 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO SEWERS, DRAINAGE, AND CESSPOOLS.

Councilmember Tupola moved that Bill 12 (2026) pass first reading. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

The following individual testified:

Shelby Billionaire (M-38[26]) (Support)

Bill 12 (2026) passed first reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

Related communication:

M-38(26) Testimony on Bill 12 (2026)

FIRST READING

BILL 13 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE CLEAN WATER AND NATURAL LANDS FUND.

Councilmember Tupola moved that Bill 13 (2026) pass first reading. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

The following individual testified:

Lea Hong, Trust for Public Land (M-37[26]) (Oppose)

Councilmember Weyer stated that he will be voting with reservations and deferred to organizations working in conservation and preservation to determine the most appropriate path forward.

Bill 13 (2026) passed first reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO, TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER*, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

*Councilmember Weyer voted aye with reservations.

Related communication:

M-37(26) Testimony on Bill 13 (2026)

FIRST READING

BILL 14 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR LOW-INCOME RENTAL HOUSING.

Councilmember Tupola moved that Bill 14 (2026) pass first reading. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

The following individuals testified:

1. Natalie Iwasa (M-23[26]) (Support)
2. Geena Thielen (M-23[26]) (Oppose)
3. McKinley Eads, Avalon Development Group (Oppose)

Councilmembers Weyer, Dos Santos-Tam, and Tulba stated that they will be voting with reservations.

Bill 14 (2026) passed first reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM*, KIA‘ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA*, TUPOLA, WEYER*, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

*Councilmembers Dos Santos-Tam, Tulba and Weyer voted aye with reservations.

Related communication:

M-23(26) Testimony on Bill 14 (2026)

FIRST READING

BILL 15 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING REQUIREMENTS.

Councilmember Tupola moved that Bill 15 (2026) pass first reading. Seconded by Councilmember Kia‘āina.

The following individuals testified:

1. Shelby Billionaire (M-24[26]) (Support)
2. McKinley Eads, Avalon Development Group (Oppose)

Councilmember Weyer stated that he will be voting with reservations and noted his support for reducing the duration of percentage and evaluating its effectiveness.

Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam stated that he will be voting with reservations and stressed the need to ensure housing policies align with on-the-ground conditions and create housing for local families at all affordability levels. He expressed that the housing supply is constrained and the City must focus on producing housing in appropriate areas.

Council Chair Waters explained that the intent of the measure is to get developers to build units people can and want to buy. He referenced past projects that constructed 300 square foot studio units that were not sold due to their small size. The developers returned to the Council to request approval to rent those studio units they could not sell. He stated that he looks forward to discussion in the Zoning & Planning Committee and hopes to receive input from developers on producing larger, more livable units.

Councilmembers Tulba and Tupola stated that they will be voting with reservations.

Bill 15 (2026) passed first reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM*, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA*, TUPOLA*, WEYER*, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

*Councilmembers Dos Santos-Tam, Tulba, Tupola, and Weyer voted aye with reservations.

Related communication:

M-24(26) Testimony on Bill 15 (2026)

FIRST READING

BILL 16 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF DOGS.

Councilmember Tupola moved that Bill 16 (2026) pass first reading. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

The following individual testified:

Stephanie Kendrick, Hawaiian Humane Society (M-35[26]) (Support)

Bill 16 (2026) passed first reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

Related communication:

M-35(26) Testimony on Bill 16 (2026)

FIRST READING

BILL 17 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING.

Councilmember Tupola moved that Bill 17 (2026) pass first reading. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

The following individuals testified:

1. Shelby Billionaire (M-26[26]) (Support)
2. Geena Thielen (M-26[26]) (Oppose)
3. Lance Berringer (M-26[26]) (General comment)
4. Kimi Wilkinson (Oppose)
5. Lee Wang (M-26[26]) (Oppose)
6. Mckinley Eads, Avalon Development Group (Oppose)

Councilmember Weyer stated he will be voting in opposition and expressed concerns that the Bill 7 (2019) program could cease because of concerns about a specific project. He emphasized the need for broader discussion on housing policy and cautioned that the Bill could place the entire Bill 7 (2019) program at risk and jeopardize projects currently in development or financing. He stressed the importance of ensuring an inclusive dialogue with community stakeholders, particularly those involved in housing production, and reiterated that allowing the Bill 7 (2019) program to sunset could have significant impacts.

Council Chair Waters stated that each Councilmember should have the ability to introduce legislation responsive to their community's needs, noting that the island's diversity is reflected in having representatives for different areas, and expressed his desire that this principle be respected going forward. He pointed out that the Council has approved more than 10,800 housing units during the current Council's tenure, including approximately 8,373 affordable units, and that no projects have been denied. He expressed support for continued discussion of the measures in Committee.

Councilmember Tulba stated that he will be voting with reservations and noted that he looks forward to further discussion in Committee.

Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam outlined concerns regarding the current housing crisis, citing insufficient rental and for-sale units affordable to residents. He noted that recent development has largely produced luxury high-rises and single-family homes, while small- and medium-sized apartment housing remains limited. He emphasized that increasing rental supply is critical to preventing further rent escalation and stated that the City should not move backward. He stated that he will be voting in opposition to a

repeal of the Bill 7 (2019) program and noted that these projects currently benefit from a General Excise Tax waiver under the State's 201H-36(a)(5) program, cautioning that misalignment between City and State policies could create confusion and undermine efforts to support affordable housing.

Councilmember Kia'āina commended Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam for pursuing innovative approaches to increasing housing supply and encouraged Councilmembers to allow all of Bill 7 (2019) -related measures to move forward. She noted that the Committees on Budget, Zoning & Planning, and Housing, Homelessness & Parks, along with an anticipated omnibus bill, would provide appropriate forums for comprehensive discussion. She highlighted two programs under Ordinance 25-02 (Bill 64[24]) that are administered by the Department of Planning and Permitting and underutilized, and asked housing advocates to please reach out to developers and homeowners who could avail themselves of these programs. She urged continued dialogue to better understand the intent and impacts of Bill 17 (2026).

Councilmember Cordero stated that she will be voting with reservations and expressed agreement that related policies including the Land Use Ordinance, Transit-Oriented Development plans, prior Interim Planned Development-Transit approvals, and traffic and parking regulations are more appropriate avenues for addressing concerns associated with Bill 7 (2019) projects. She noted that the focus in reviewing Bill 7 (2019) projects should be on evaluating subsidy structures and the quality of housing ultimately delivered.

Councilmember Tupola acknowledged the significant investment and progress associated with Chapter 32, Bill 7 (2019) projects and noted that, despite bureaucratic challenges, projects are breaking ground and becoming occupied. She explained that the proposed omnibus bill reflects extensive engagement with community groups, housing advocates, developers, and City departments and clarified that the intent is not to end the Bill 7 (2019) program but to incorporate constructive input to strengthen and preserve its most effective elements. She stated that she will be voting with reservations and expressed confidence that the Council will work collaboratively through committee review to identify a positive path forward, improve efficiency, and ensure the program continues to serve local families.

Councilmember Okimoto stated that she will be voting with reservations.

Bill 17 (2026) passed first reading.

AYES: CORDERO*, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO*, TULBA*, TUPOLA*,
WATERS – 7.

NOES: DOS SANTOS-TAM, WEYER – 2.

City Council Journal
Wednesday, January 28, 2026

*Councilmembers Cordero, Okimoto, Tulba, and Tupola voted aye with reservations.

Related communication:

M-26(26) Testimony on Bill 17 (2026)

PUBLIC HEARING/SECOND READING
BILL 76 (2025) – COMMITTEE REPORT 4(26)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY.

Councilmember Okimoto moved that Committee Report 4(26) be adopted and Bill 76 (2025) pass second reading. Seconded by Councilmember Nishimoto.

The following individual testified:

Joli Tokusato, UNITE HERE Local 5 (Support)

Committee Report 4(26) was adopted and Bill 76 (2025) passed second reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 8.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: TULBA – 1.

Related communication:

M-33(26) Testimony on Bill 76 (2025)

PUBLIC HEARING/SECOND READING
BILL 77 (2025) – COMMITTEE REPORT 5(26)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO BUDGET EXECUTION.

Councilmember Okimoto moved that Committee Report 5(26) be adopted and Bill 77 (2025) pass second reading. Seconded by Councilmember Nishimoto.

There was no public testimony.

Councilmember Tulba stated that he will be voting with reservations.

Committee Report 5(26) was adopted and Bill 77 (2025) passed second reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA*, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

*Councilmember Tulba voted aye with reservations.

PUBLIC HEARING/SECOND READING

BILL 8 (2025), CD1 – COMMITTEE REPORT 21(26)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ANIMAL NUISANCES.

Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam moved that Committee Report 21(26) be adopted and Bill 8 (2025) pass second reading as amended to CD1. Seconded by Councilmember Weyer.

The following individuals testified:

1. Stephanie Kendrick, Hawaiian Humane Society (M-50[26]) (Support)
2. Angela Young, ROAR (General comment)

Councilmember Okimoto expressed appreciation to all stakeholders for their collaboration on the measure and noted that the Bill will ensure community safety.

Committee Report 21(26) was adopted and Bill 8 (2025), CD1 passed second reading, as amended.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

Related communication:

M-50(26) Testimony on Bill 8 (2025)

RECESS/RECONVENE

At 12:10 p.m., the Council Chair called for a recess as noted on the agenda. With 8 members present, the Council Chair reconvened the meeting at 1:21 p.m.

THIRD READING

BILL 54 (2025), CD2 – COMMITTEE REPORT 1(26)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO PUBLIC TRANSIT.

The following amendment was handcarried to the meeting:

Bill 54 (2025), CD2, Proposed FD1 (OCS2026-0043/1/26/2026 4:09 PM)

Councilmember Okimoto moved that Committee Report 1(26) be adopted and Bill 54 (2025), CD1 pass third reading as amended to CD2. Seconded by Councilmember Nishimoto.

Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam moved that Bill 54 (2025), CD2 be amended to the handcarried FD1 (OCS2026-0043/1/26/2026 4:09 PM). Seconded by Councilmember Weyer.

The following individuals testified:

1. Shelby Billionaire (M-27[26]) (Support)
2. Junmi Chen (M-27[26]) (Oppose)
3. Dale Vanderbrink (Oppose)
4. Luca Cuniberti (M-27[26]) (General comment)
5. Donald Sakamoto (M-27[26]) (Oppose)
6. Joli Tokusato, UNITE HERE Local 5 (Oppose)
7. Roger Morton, Director, Department of Transportation Services (General comment)

Councilmember Cordero stated that concerns regarding fare increases have been consistently raised at community and town hall meetings in her District over the past six months. She noted that a prior fare increase proposal was rejected by the previous Council and explained that, although she had initially supported a fare adjustment, current conditions do not warrant a fare increase. She stated that she will be voting in opposition to the CD2 version and in support of the handcarried FD1 amendment.

Councilmember Weyer stated that he supports the proposed FD1 version to prevent an immediate increase in transit rates, however, would be voting with reservations on the final version. He noted that fare reclassification options are being explored.

Councilmember Okimoto expressed appreciation to all the stakeholders involved in the collaboration of the Bill and noted that the majority of the recommendations were made by the Rate Commission and not by influence of the Council. She emphasized that the CD2 proposal preserves protections for kupuna, low-income riders, and TheHandi-Van users, including their personal care attendants. While acknowledging that fare increases

are difficult, she stated that maintaining free or unchanged fares are not financially sustainable. She cautioned that failing to adopt the recommended adjustments would adversely affect transit services, staffing, operations and that adequate funding is essential to support TheBus and TheHandi-Van service and compensate operators and maintenance personnel. She stated that she is in support of the CD2 version and in opposition to the handcarried FD1 amendment.

Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam expressed opposition to the proposed fare increases. He pointed out that bus services are essential for many families and the increases would severely impact those dependent upon public transportation. He stated that he will be voting in opposition to the CD2 version and urged support for the handcarried FD1 amendment in order to stop the fare increases and allow further discussion on a more equitable fare structure.

Councilmember Tupola highlighted the heavy reliance on bus service in West O'ahu, noting that early-morning routes are consistently full and that any reduction in services would significantly impact residents' ability to get to work. She acknowledged concerns regarding affordability but emphasized that degraded operations, reduced routes, deferred maintenance, or staffing shortages would be more harmful to the community. While recognizing the need to explore long-term solutions and additional partnerships, she stated that based on current conditions, she supports the current CD2 version.

Bill 54 (2025), CD2 failed to receive the majority vote of the entire membership of the Council needed to be amended to the handcarried FD1 (OCS2026-0043/1/26/2026 4:09 PM).

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, WEYER – 3.

NOES: KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO, TULBA, TUPOLA, WATERS – 6.

Committee Report 1(26) was adopted and Bill 54 (2025), CD2 passed third reading, as amended.

AYES: KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO, TULBA*, TUPOLA, WATERS – 6.

NOES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, WEYER – 3.

*Councilmember Tulba voted aye with reservations.

Related communications:

D-47(26) McCully – Mō'ili'ili Neighborhood Board No. 8
D-48(26) Honolulu Rate Commission
M-27(26) Testimony on Bill 54 (2025)
M-43(26) Testimony on Bill 54 (2025)

THIRD READING

BILL 55 (2025), CD2 – COMMITTEE REPORT 2(26)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO MULTI-FAMILY RENTAL HOUSING PROGRAM FEES.

Councilmember Okimoto moved that Committee Report 2(26) be adopted and Bill 55 (2025), CD1 pass third reading as amended to CD2. Seconded by Councilmember Nishimoto.

There was no public testimony.

Committee Report 2(26) was adopted and Bill 55 (2025), CD2 passed third reading, as amended.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO, TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

Related communications:

D-41(26) Department of Housing and Land Management

M-32(26) Testimony on Bill 55 (2025)

THIRD READING

BILL 63 (2025), CD1 – COMMITTEE REPORT 3(26)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY TAXATION.

Councilmember Okimoto moved that Committee Report 3(26) be adopted and Bill 63 (2025), CD1 pass third reading. Seconded by Councilmember Nishimoto.

The following individual testified:

Natalie Iwasa (M-36[26]) (General comment)

Committee Report 3(26) was adopted and Bill 63 (2025), CD1 passed third reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO, TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

Related communications:

CC-8(26) Disclosure of Interest Statement submitted by Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam.
M-36(26) Testimony on Bill 63 (2025)

THIRD READING

BILL 66 (2025), CD1 – COMMITTEE REPORT 9(26)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO EXCEPTIONAL TREES.

Councilmember Tupola moved that Committee Report 9(26) be adopted and Bill 66 (2025), CD1 pass third reading. Seconded by Councilmember Tulba.

There was no public testimony.

Committee Report 9(26) was adopted and Bill 66 (2025), CD1 passed third reading.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

ADOPTION

RESOLUTION 25-327 – COMMITTEE REPORT 6(26)

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

Councilmember Okimoto moved that Committee Report 6(26) and Resolution 25-327 be adopted. Seconded by Councilmember Nishimoto.

There was no public testimony.

Committee Report 6(26) and Resolution 25-327 were adopted.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

ADOPTION

RESOLUTION 25-331 – COMMITTEE REPORT 7(26)

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

Councilmember Okimoto moved that Committee Report 7(26) and Resolution 25-331 be adopted. Seconded by Councilmember Nishimoto.

There was no public testimony.

Committee Report 7(26) and Resolution 25-331 were adopted.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.
NOES: None.

ADOPTION

RESOLUTION 26-5, CD1 – COMMITTEE REPORT 8(26)

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

Councilmember Okimoto moved that Committee Report 8(26) and Resolution 26-5, as amended to CD1 be adopted. Seconded by Councilmember Nishimoto.

There was no public testimony.

Committee Report 8(26) and Resolution 26-5, CD1, as amended, were adopted.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.
NOES: None.

ADOPTION

RESOLUTION 25-330 – COMMITTEE REPORT 10(26)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GIFT OF ONE HI-BACK TRADITIONAL BENCH VALUED AT \$3,274.51 TO THE CITY FROM BRADLEY NAKAMURA FOR PREPARATIONS OF THE GROUNDS AND A BRONZE PLAQUE WITH AN INSCRIPTION TO READ “DONATED BY THE FAMILY OF BJ & BRAEDE NAKAMURA” TO BE PLACED AT PU'ULOA BEACH PARK.

Councilmember Tupola moved that Committee Report 10(26) and Resolution 25-330 be adopted. Seconded by Councilmember Tulba.

There was no public testimony.

Committee Report 10(26) and Resolution 25-330 were adopted.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

ADOPTION

RESOLUTION 25-332, CD1 – COMMITTEE REPORT 11(26)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR THE MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION FOR THE REVIEW OF PERMITTED PROJECTS IN THE CHINATOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT AND MERCHANT STREET COMMERCIAL AND CIVIC HISTORIC DISTRICT.

Councilmember Cordero moved that Committee Report 11(26) and Resolution 25-332, as amended to CD1 be adopted. Seconded by Councilmember Okimoto.

There was no public testimony.

Committee Report 11(26) and Resolution 25-332, CD1, as amended, were adopted.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

Related communication:

M-25(26) Testimony on Resolution 25-332

ADOPTION

RESOLUTION 25-316, CD1 – COMMITTEE REPORT 387(25)

RESOLUTION REQUIRING SPECIFIC COMMUNITY BENEFITS TO BE FUNDED BY THE APPLICANT OF A PLANNED DEVELOPMENT-RESORT PROJECT AT 133 KA'IULANI AVENUE, AS REQUIRED BY CONDITION 9 OF RESOLUTION 16-52, CD1, FD1, AS AMENDED BY RESOLUTION 19-67, CD1.

Councilmember Kia'āina moved that Committee Report 387(25) and Resolution 25-316, as amended to CD1 be adopted. Seconded by Councilmember Tupola.

The following individual testified:

Trevor Abarzua, Waikīkī Business Improvement District (General comment)

Committee Report 387(25) and Resolution 25-316, CD1, as amended, were adopted.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

ADOPTION

RESOLUTION 25-299, CD1 – COMMITTEE REPORT 15(26)

RESOLUTION GRANTING A SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA MAJOR PERMIT TO ALLOW FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TWO-STORY SINGLE-UNIT DWELLING WITH ATTACHED EIGHT-CAR GARAGE AND INTERNAL ABOVE-GRADE SWIMMING POOL IN KAILUA, O'AHU.

Councilmember Kia'āina moved that Committee Report 15(26) and Resolution 25-299, as amended to CD1 be adopted. Seconded by Councilmember Tupola.

There was no public testimony.

Committee Report 15(26) and Resolution 25-299, CD1, as amended, were adopted.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

Related communication:

M-39(26) Testimony on Resolution 25-299

ADOPTION

RESOLUTION 25-329 – COMMITTEE REPORT 20(26)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GIFT OF NEW FENCING AND INSTALLATION, VALUED AT \$125,000 TO THE CITY FROM THE HONOLULU ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOR THE GIRAFFE EXHIBIT AT THE HONOLULU ZOO.

Councilmember Tulba moved that Committee Report 20(26) and Resolution 25-329 be adopted. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

There was no public testimony.

Committee Report 20(26) and Resolution 25-329 were adopted.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

ADOPTION

RESOLUTION 26-1 – COMMITTEE REPORT 22(26)

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE OF HAWAI'I TO EVALUATE AND CONSIDER REQUIRING A TEST OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE RULES OF THE ROAD FOR DRIVER'S LICENSE RENEWALS.

Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam moved that Committee Report 22(26) and Resolution 26-1 be adopted. Seconded by Councilmember Weyer.

There was no public testimony.

Committee Report 22(26) and Resolution 26-1 were adopted.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

Related communication:

M-28(26) Testimony on Resolution 26-1

ADOPTION

RESOLUTION 26-2 – COMMITTEE REPORT 23(26)

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE OF HAWAI'I TO INCLUDE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY, BICYCLIST RIGHTS AND INTERACTIONS, AND MULTIMODAL ROADWAY USE AS PART OF THE DRIVER EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.

Councilmember Dos Santos-Tam moved that Committee Report 23(26) and Resolution 26-2 be adopted. Seconded by Councilmember Weyer.

There was no public testimony.

Committee Report 23(26) and Resolution 26-2 were adopted.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

Related communication:

M-29(26) Testimony on Resolution 26-2

BALANCE OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ITTCR-12(26) Consideration of grant of sewer easements and covenants and restrictions easements S-1 and S-2; grant of sewer easements and covenants and restrictions easements S-3; and grant of sewer easement S-4 for public use in Honolulu. (Ward Block N-West) (D-866[25])
- ILACR-13(26) Request for authorization to settle a case against the City and County of Honolulu entitled Denise Saki v. City and County of Honolulu, et al., Civ. No. 1CCV-23-0001585 LWC (Cir. Ct.).
- ILACR-14(26) Request for authorization to settle a lawsuit against the City and County of Honolulu entitled Wendy L. Shelton v. City and County of Honolulu, Civ. No. 1CCV-24-0000001 JJK (Cir. Ct.).
- ZONCR-17(26) Granting a 90-day extension of time for Resolution 25-333 – Granting a Special Management Area Major Permit to allow for the construction of a new single-unit dwelling, pool, spa, garage, recreation room, and individual wastewater system in Waialua, O'ahu. (Applicant: Robert Vavul) (Deadline: 2/17/26 + 90 days)

Councilmember Tupola moved that the Balance of Committee Reports, as listed above, be adopted. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

There was no public testimony.

The Balance of Committee Reports was adopted.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

ADOPTION

RESOLUTION 26-14

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GIFT OF SHIPPING SERVICES VALUED AT \$8,500 TO THE CITY FROM THE HONOLULU ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF TWO FEMALE WARTHOGS FROM LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, TO THE HONOLULU ZOO.

Councilmember Tupola moved that Resolution 26-14 be adopted. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina.

There was no public testimony.

Resolution 26-14 was adopted.

AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO,
TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER, WATERS – 9.

NOES: None.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Weyer acknowledged and extended support to the families of Alex Pretti and Renee Good.

Councilmember Tulba wished Josh Koh from his office a happy birthday.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2:25 p.m., Councilmember Tupola moved that Council stand adjourned until Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 10 a.m. Seconded by Councilmember Kia'āina and there being no objections from the 9 members present, it was so ordered by the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

GLEN I. TAKAHASHI
City Clerk

dl

DATE APPROVED:

March 25, 2026
