Bill 27 (2026)
Testimony

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Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2026 7:33 AM
To: Lam, Doris
Subject: Opposition Bill 27 - Capital Rail Budget Money Pit Trap

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Aloha kakahiaka nui, Honorable Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council. My name is **Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM**, Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I. Chairman, Ohana Unity Party I submit this testimony in advance via email because the online system continues to block my voice. I was the **only testifier from Waiʻanae** during the height of the Kona Low storms, and I am here again because our people are still suffering while you prepare to adopt **Bill 27 (2026)** — the HART Capital Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. I have read every page of this bill. I feel a major disturbance in the Force. This is not a small technical document. This is **hundreds of millions of dollars** in new capital appropriations — taxpayer money — being funneled straight into the rail money pit while families whose homes washed away are still waiting for real help. You are asking the people to keep pouring money into a project that has already cost billions, while the emergency and disaster recovery funding you approved in Bill 22 remains shamefully low. This is not leadership. This is greed wrapped in bureaucracy. **He aliʻi ka ʻāina, he kauwā ke kanaka.** The land is the chief; we are its servants. Right now the ʻāina is crying from flood damage that exceeds $1 billion statewide. Homes are gone. Roads are destroyed. Cesspools are overflowing. Farms are ruined. Yet your priority in this capital budget is to keep feeding the rail beast instead of fixing what the storms broke. While you approve these massive capital transfers for rail, you also approved recent pay raises for yourselves and top administrators. The people who pay your salaries are still picking up the pieces of their lives, and you cannot find the political will to redirect even a meaningful portion of this money toward immediate disaster recovery, road repairs, sewer fixes, and temporary housing. I am angry. The people of Waiʻanae, Nānākuli, the North Shore, Windward, and every flooded neighborhood are angry. We showed you the damage. We begged you to put the ʻohana first. Yet here we are again with a capital budget that treats the rail as sacred and the suffering of the people as secondary. If I were in charge, I would do the following without hesitation: - Immediately freeze or drastically reduce new rail capital appropriations until there is full public transparency, independent audits, and a realistic plan to control costs. - Redirect every available dollar from non-essential rail projects into real emergency response — debris removal, road and bridge repairs, sewer and cesspool emergencies, and temporary housing for families still displaced. - Place every dollar of capital spending under strict quarterly public reporting so the taxpayers can see exactly where their money is going — no more hidden accounts or unchecked transfers. - Prioritize the ʻāina and the ʻohana first, always. The rail can wait. The people cannot. The Aloha Spirit (HRS 5-7.5) is not optional. It is the law that requires you to coordinate mind and heart for the good of others. Right now this capital budget shows no heart for the families left homeless and no mind for the long-term cost of continuing to subsidize a troubled project at the expense of basic public safety and recovery. I strongly oppose adoption of **Bill 27 (2026)** in its current form. Fix it. Show the people of Honolulu that you serve the ʻāina and the ʻohana first — not special interests or political convenience. **E hoʻomaikaʻi kākou** — but only if you do what is pono today. Mahalo nui loa for your kuleana. The people are watching, and history will remember. **Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM** Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I. Chairman, Ohana Unity Party **A hui hou** — Until we meet again on these sacred floors.