

BILL008(26)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 152

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Apr 15, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 5

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Michael Robinson	Email: csnakamura808@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Hawaii Pacific Health	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 13, 2026 @ 05:40 PM
Name: Dylan Armstrong	Email: dylan.p.armstrong@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 14, 2026 @ 01:45 PM
Testimony: With no further elaboration needed, I support this measure.		
Name: Alyce Hong	Email: honga004@gmail.com	Zip: 96797
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 14, 2026 @ 09:22 PM
Testimony: On behalf of Coach Ken Suenaga, who I am providing testimony in favor of Councilmember Weyer's amendment to the Capital Improvement Project budget adding \$1,000,000 to improve the K. Mark Takai Veteran's Memorial Aquatics Center. VMAC was Coach Ken's dream to build a competitive swimming facility that would be used for Statewide, National, as well as International swim meets. While the City supported his dream, over the past decade, due to lack of funding, the city has not been able to maintain the facility to the initial standard. Hawai'i is the hub of the Pacific and has the potential of drawing worldwide recognition for the swimming community as well as increase interest on Oahu to positively impact our economy. Improvement of this facility alone has the potential to put Hawai'i on the map as a desired location for not only swimming, but waterpolo, diving and synchronized swimming. Hawai'i is paradise to the world and we have the opportunity to not only provide opportunities for our local children, but to expand competition worldwide! We need to invest in the facility to make it competitive compared to other aquatic locations across the nation. The funds added to the Capital Improvement Project budget is exactly what is needed to make the facility marketable which in turn will draw interest to positively impact our economy. Please support this request.		
Name: Nina Davidson	Email: ninasongdavidson@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 14, 2026 @ 09:46 PM
Testimony: The VMAC facility is in need of repairs. It is a facility that benefits our keiki throughout the islands. Swimmers water polo players recreational swimmers of all ages. Our state needs to upkeep this facility		

Name: Christine Sweeney	Email: ngoChris25@yahoo.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 14, 2026 @ 11:06 PM
Testimony: Support		

April 13, 2026

To: The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair and
Presiding Officers and Members
Honolulu City Council

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

**Re: Bill 22 (2026), CD1 – Executive Operating and Program for the
Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over seventy locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I also serve as a member of the Board of Parks and Recreation ("Board"). In my role on the Board, I have had the opportunity to observe firsthand the Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) commitment to providing our community with access to recreational opportunities at Hawai'i's beaches, trails, and botanical gardens, as well as the programs aimed at preserving our natural resources despite funding constraints.

I am writing in strong support of DPR's proposed FY2027 Operating Budget. The proposed budget initiatives, which were presented by Director Laura Thielen, will support critical priorities, including park maintenance, staffing support, safety improvements, program expansion, and facility repairs. These efforts are critical in improving the conditions of our parks and beaches which will support health and safety.

I continue to support DPR's goals and strategic priorities, which are essential to preserving the quality, accessibility, and sustainability of our park and recreation system. The requested funding will help ensure that DPR can effectively carry out its responsibilities and meet the needs of residents across Oahu.

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration and full funding of DPR's FY2027 Operating Budget.