RES26-083
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 193

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: May 13, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Pikachu Shelby Billionaire	presidentbillionaire@gmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Ohana Unity Party	Support	May 9, 2026 @ 07:09 PM

Testimony:

This resolution approves the **collective bargaining agreement cost items** for the **Hawai‘i Fire Fighters Association (HFFA)** – Bargaining Unit 11 (firefighters and excluded managerial employees).

Key Terms:

- **Contract Period**: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2029 (4 years)
- **Salary Increases**:
- 3% across-the-board retroactive to July 1, 2025
- Another 3% across-the-board on July 1, 2026
- Additional wage adjustments, health benefit contributions (EUTF), and other fringe benefits.
- Total estimated cost to the City is substantial (multi-million dollars over the contract term, with millions in the first two years alone).

This is a standard post-arbitration approval after negotiations failed and an arbitrator ruled.

Red Flags:

- **Retroactive pay** — firefighters get backpay for almost a full year already passed.
- **Significant cost** during a very tight city budget (FY2027 operating budget only +0.97% growth).
- Firefighters are essential, but these raises add long-term pressure on the General Fund, pensions, and future budgets.
- Council is essentially required to approve these after arbitration (limited ability to reject).

Testimony – In Support with Serious Concerns (Balanced & Professional)

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

I submit this testimony regarding the resolution approving collective bargaining cost items for **Hawai‘i Fire Fighters Association Bargaining Unit 11**.

First, I want to thank our firefighters for the dangerous and critical work they do protecting Honolulu residents every day. Their service is deeply appreciated.

However, I have **serious concerns** about the timing and cost of this agreement:

- This contract includes **3% salary increases** retroactive to July 1, 2025 and another 3% in July 2026, plus increased health and fringe benefits.
- These costs come at a time when the City's FY2027 operating budget grew by only **+0.97%**, infrastructure spending was cut significantly, and emergency reserves remain dangerously low.
- Taxpayers are already struggling with high property taxes while seeing reduced services in other areas.

While I understand the arbitration process limited the Council's options, I urge you to:
- Approve this resolution only because it is legally required after arbitration.
- Aggressively seek ways to offset these costs through efficiencies, vacancies, or other savings.
- Prioritize long-term budget sustainability so that future contracts do not continue to strain Honolulu's limited resources.

Our firefighters deserve fair compensation, but Honolulu taxpayers also deserve fiscal responsibility. The Council must find a better balance moving forward.

Mahalo for your service.

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM
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Ohana Unity Party, Chairman
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