RES26-127
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 224

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Jun 3, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 5

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
John Titchen	johnkamalei@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 31, 2026 @ 07:26 AM

Testimony:

I write in strong support of Resolution 26-127. This City Council once again has an opportunity to do what the current county Administration will not and cannot – lead with vision, community support and thoughtful respect of our unique way of life on O'ahu. Several of the office buildings on Wai'alae Avenue – old and new – have "vintage" photos of the busy thoroughfare through the decades of the 20th century. Residents can almost always use the iconic theater sign as a reference point to see and learn from the past, as we move through the years.

A restored Queen Theater could be many things: a public museum, public art gallery, meeting space, small concert hall, etc. Neighbor island communities have saved similar theaters and those buildings now serve as a way to demonstrate that profit isn't always progress. Ask around, the community will contribute. Where can I 'buy a brick,' or a plaque for a seat a bench or the wall? Vote yes on 26-127, save the Queen Theater and listen to the voters on how to overcome the simple 'problems' cited by the Administration in its short-sighted obstruction to this outstanding idea.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Pikachu Shelby Billionaire	presidentbillionaire@gmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Ohana Unity Party	Support	May 31, 2026 @ 07:32 AM

Testimony:

Public Testimony in Strong Support of Resolution 26-127

(Revision to the Public Infrastructure Map for Queen Theater Acquisition in Kaimukī)

Submitted for the Honolulu City Council Regular Meeting – June 3, 2026

Aloha kakou e nā Councilmembers,

My name is **Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM**, Chairman of the Ohana Unity Party, a proud Honolulu resident, taxpayer, and passionate kahu (guardian) of our Hawaiian culture, history, and local communities.

I submit this testimony in **strong, enthusiastic, and unwavering SUPPORT** of **Resolution 26-127**, which revises the Public Infrastructure Map (PIM) in the Primary Urban Center to facilitate the City's acquisition of the historic **Queen Theater** in Kaimukī.

This is the Right Thing to Do

The Queen Theater is far more than a 10,396 square-foot building on Waiʻalae Avenue — it is a **cultural pōhaku** (foundation stone) and a landmark of Kaimukī's vibrant history. For decades, it has stood as a gathering place for entertainment, arts, and community connection. Allowing it to continue deteriorating would be a profound loss. Supporting this resolution shows that the City Council values historic preservation, community revitalization, and smart stewardship of public resources.

Key Reasons for Strong Support:

- **Historic and Cultural Preservation**: The Queen Theater is a treasured landmark in one of Honolulu's most beloved neighborhoods. Revitalizing it honors our kūpuna and preserves a piece of living Hawaii history for future generations.

- **Community and Economic Revitalization**: A restored Queen Theater can become a multipurpose cultural venue — hosting live performances, arts events, educational programs, film screenings, and small business opportunities. This creates genuine, ground-up economic activity in Kaimukī that benefits local residents and merchants, not just large developers.

- **Responsible Use of Infrastructure Tools**: This resolution simply updates the Public Infrastructure Map to include the necessary government building symbol. It is a practical, procedural step that enables acquisition and eventual restoration without unnecessary delays.

- **Community-Driven Initiative**: Many Kaimukī residents and cultural advocates have long supported the "Save the Queen" effort. Passing this resolution demonstrates that the Council listens to the people and prioritizes quality-of-life projects in existing neighborhoods.

"He aliʻi ka ʻāina, he kauā ke kanaka" — The land is the chief, and we are its servants. This resolution embodies that sacred kuleana by protecting and restoring a cherished place instead of letting it fade away.

In a meeting where major budget and development decisions are being made, approving Resolution 26-127 stands as a positive, unifying action that puts culture, history, and community first.

I respectfully urge the Honolulu City Council to **unanimously adopt Resolution 26-127** and move forward with the acquisition and revitalization of the Queen Theater.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and for your commitment to Honolulu's future. I request that this testimony be entered into the official public record.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM

Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I.

Ohana Unity Party, Chairman

Presidentbillionaire@gmail.com

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Name:	Email:	Zip:
Anna Viggiano	anna.m.viggiano@gmail.com	96826
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jun 1, 2026 @ 11:53 AM

Testimony:

I strongly support the purchase of the Queen Theatre in Kaimuki by the City and County of Honolulu in order to develop the theatre into a multipurpose venue for the community to enjoy. This corner has been vacant while the surrounding area has become a vibrant neighborhood community. The shops and restaurants are an asset to this lovely community. Adding an entertainment venue would complete the package!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Victoria Kiana Hiroko Dudoit	squishywings@gmail.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jun 2, 2026 @ 02:21 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Becky Gardner	beckypgardner@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jun 2, 2026 @ 10:01 PM

June 2nd, 2026

God Save The Queen!!!

Aloha Chair and Council Members,

My name is Kiana! I'm a 25 year old woman and I believe I am in a unique position to advocate for Resolution 26-127, as a songwriter, music producer, and vocalist for a band called Squishy. Our band is fairly new to live performance and we have been navigating the ins and outs of the local music scene in Honolulu. I would love to say there are many venues for smaller artists/bands to perform at, but that is not the case. There are many music venues that cater towards tourist crowds and well-established musicians, but there is a huge need for more stages that are intentionally for incubating talented, rising locals whose audience is local as well. Besides the stage, perhaps the upper portion of the building could allot for a community funded recording studio or workshop space as well.

This would not only be a space for bands/musicians/solo artists/comics, but also theatre programs. I felt personally moved to make a statement regarding theatre, after hearing Tommy Waters correctly state, "Kalani High School doesn't have a performing arts center."
As former President of the Musical Theatre Club during my time as a Kalani Falcon, I can concur. Although we worked with what we had, which was the classroom of our lovely and supportive chorus teacher, Mrs. Kaaua, it would have been so much more fulfilling to be able to rehearse and perform on a real stage with my peers. More desperate endeavors had my fellow theatre kids and I driving all the way to Mililani and Castle High School just to ensure we were cast in a play or musical at least once within the timeline of our high school careers. All drama aside, this was a real problem we had to settle less for– which future thespians at Kalani shouldn't have to go through. They deserve to have a *real* theatre experience and they deserve a *reasonably accessible* theater to perform in.

I would like to take a moment to remind everyone who the Queen Theater commemorates and my main reason why it is so important for us to fight to restore it. I found it surprising that Queen Lili‘uokalani was not mentioned at all in any of the other testimonies, but I will gladly be the one to honor her legacy today in remembrance.

Queen Lili‘uokalani was the last reigning monarch of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i. In 1893, after exhausting her every last effort to fight for her kingdom, the weight of the kingdom fell upon her shoulders and even while being imprisoned in her own home, she gave us the greatest example of aloha by responding not with retaliation, but with grace, composing songs and writings that expressed her love for her people. This history echoes throughout all of Hawai‘i and many still mourn the loss of our sovereignty and land to this day. **It would be truly inconsiderate to not recognize the symbol it bears** not only for our island communit**y**, but especially towards Native Hawaiians like myself who value respecting and preserving what remains of our culture and history. And despite those who desecrated the theater in times past, the symbol of Her Majesty remains and will be honored in an exciting new way, starting with your support.

Additionally, a couple of my bandmates and I have proactively begun establishing a public purpose by street performing in front of the Queen Theater, with extremely positive reactions from the neighborhood. We are committed to perform as many times as needed to assure the Council that there is a public purpose and we are it–not just us, but so many other artists new to the scene who are also very passionate about music/arts. Artists are just as important as everyone else in society, and I am raising my voice up for all the other creatives who will thrive in a restored and revitalized Queen Theater.

I respectfully urge the Council to vote yes on Resolution 26-127. Mahalo for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,
Victoria Kiana Hiroko Dudoit

TikTok/Instagram
@hirokiana
@squishywings

June 3, 2026

Honolulu City Council
530 King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Testimony in Support for Resolution No. 26-127 Re: Queen Theater

Wednesday, June 3, 2026 9:00am

Re: Resolution 24-176 - Adopting A Revision to the Public Infrastructure Map for the Primary Urben Center Development Area

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council:

Thank you for your continued attention to the future of the Queen Theater — one of Kaimukī's most iconic and emotionally significant landmarks.

My name is Becky Gardner. I'm an attorney, small business owner, longtime Kaimukī resident, former resident of Center Street (the corner of which Queen Theater is located), and an active member of the Kaimukī Neighborhood Board for nearly a decade. I submit this testimony in **strong support** of the City's acquisition of the Queen Theater property and the broader effort to restore and reactivate this historic space for community benefit.

For many of us, the Queen Theater is not merely an old building; an eyesore, dilapidated by neglect. It is memory. It is identity. It is a symbol of what Kaimukī once was; and a promise of what it may become.

Over the years, I have heard countless stories from residents, kūpuna, artists, families, and business owners about what the theater meant to them. Many remember seeing films there as children with their families and friends. Others recall first dates, surf films, live performances, and the unique glow of the marquee overlooking Waialae Avenue. The Queen Theater is woven into the emotional and cultural fabric of this community.

Five years ago, under the direction of community matriarch - the late Sharon Schneider - Envision Kaimukī conducted a survey of local residents on their views of the theater. Respondents repeatedly described the theater as "iconic," "historic," "the heart of Kaimukī," and one of the last remaining structures giving the neighborhood its unique identity and sense of place. Many expressed support for restoring the theater into a community arts center, educational venue, live performance space, cultural hub, or neighborhood gathering place.

Others emphasized that preserving the theater is not simply about nostalgia, but about maintaining the character, walkability, and vitality of Kaimukī itself.

At the same time, the survey and years of Neighborhood Board discussions make clear that the current condition of the property has become untenable. Residents have consistently raised concerns regarding structural deterioration, falling debris, illegal activity, fire hazards, vagrancy, graffiti, and public safety surrounding the neglected property.

As someone who lived nearby with two young daughters, I personally experienced these concerns firsthand. We often avoided walking directly in front of the theater because of illicit activity, unsafe conditions, and individuals congregating in and around the property. I have personally witnessed debris falling from the marquee, individuals climbing onto the roof, and unsafe and unsanitary conditions adjacent to the building.

Yet despite all of this, the community has never abandoned hope for the Queen.

In multiple community forums, residents continue to express their views — not merely to complain, but to dream. They envisioned youth arts programming. Independent film screenings. Jazz performances. Cultural events. Educational programming. Community theater. A revitalized gathering place capable of serving not just Kaimukī, but East Honolulu more broadly.

Communities do not fight this hard – for so long - for places that are meaningless.

Allowing Queen Theater to continue deteriorating sends a message of abandonment and decline. **Restoring it, however, could become the cornerstone of a broader economic and cultural revitalization strategy for the neighborhood.**

Across the country, we have seen how historic theaters and cultural districts can anchor successful redevelopment efforts. Communities have leveraged public-private partnerships, historic preservation tax credits, arts investment, and strategic redevelopment initiatives to transform aging landmarks into thriving economic engines and cultural assets. In Hawaii alone, there is the Palace Theater in Hilo, the Iao Theater on Maui, and similar restoration efforts throughout the state which demonstrate what is possible when government, nonprofits, businesses, and communities work together toward a shared vision.

Kaimukī deserves that same level of investment and vision.

Thus, I respectfully urge not only the City and County of Honolulu, but also the State Legislature, state agencies, and broader public sector partners to actively engage in this effort moving forward. Restoring the Queen Theater should not be viewed as a standalone

construction project, but as part of a larger economic redevelopment strategy for the Kaimukī business district and surrounding community.

Moreover, I urge the City and County to encourage participation from State government — particularly with respect to historic preservation funding, rehabilitation tax credits, infrastructure support, cultural grants, transit and streetscape improvements, and the potential creation of an arts, cultural, or economic enterprise zone surrounding the theater corridor. Should this resolution move forward, I will personally commit to advocate for state partnership and coordinated investment.

This is not simply about saving an old building. It is about restoring Queen Theater's dignity. Improving quality of life. Boosting community pride. Supporting local businesses. Creating safe and vibrant gathering spaces. Preserving cultural identity. Investing in arts and education. Strengthening walkability and neighborhood vitality. And ensuring that future generations inherit a Kaimukī that still remembers itself.

The Queen Theater has waited long enough – and so has the community.

I respectfully urge this Council to continue taking decisive action toward acquisition, preservation, restoration, and community-centered redevelopment of this irreplaceable landmark.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your continued commitment to the health, safety, cultural preservation, and economic vitality of the Kaimukī community.

Save the Queen - and may we all prosper under her timeless, resilient reign.

With Aloha,



Rebecca (Becky) Gardner, Esq.
Owner-Founder, Policy Matters LLC
Law Office of Rebecca P. Gardner, LLC