BILL030(26)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 253

*HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS & PARKS (HHP)

***HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS & PARKS (HHP) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Jun 23, 2026 @ 02:30 PM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kathleen Pahinui	kpahinui@gmail.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jun 19, 2026 @ 07:32 PM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ted Kefalas	tkefalas@grassrootinstitute.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Support	Jun 22, 2026 @ 06:42 AM

Kathleen M. Pahinui
67-237 Kaui Street
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June 25, 2026

Committee Chair Andria Tupola
Committee on Housing, Homelessness & Parks
City Council of the City and County of Honolulu
530 S. King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony in Support of Bill 30

Aloha Chair Tupola and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of Bill 30, which would allow recognized nonprofit organizations to operate farmers markets in underutilized parks within their communities. This measure would help revitalize public parks, ensure these spaces better serve surrounding neighborhoods, and provide residents with improved access to fresh, locally available produce.

Farmers markets also create meaningful opportunities for neighbors to gather, share information, support local vendors, and strengthen community connections in a positive setting.

In our North Shore community of Waialua, we have a wonderful farmers market tucked away at the back of the sugar mill. Just next door, there is a lovely park that would be well suited for this type of community activity. The park includes a small bandstand that could support music and other programming, creating an inviting gathering place for residents. Bill 30 would help make this opportunity possible.

For these reasons, I respectfully request the Committee to support Bill 30.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mālama ʻāina,

Kathleen M. Pahinui

Kathleen M. Pahinui
Waialua Resident

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Removing barriers to Hawaii's prosperity

June 23, 2026, 2:30 p.m.
Honolulu Hale

To: Honolulu City Council Committee on Housing, Homelessness and Parks
Andria Tupola, Chair
Augie Tulba, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: Bill 30 (2026), CD1 — RELATING TO PUBLIC PARKS

Aloha Chair Tupola, Vice Chair Tulba and other members of the Committee,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** Bill 30 (2026), CD1, which would allow farmers markets and food distribution events hosted by nonprofit organizations to operate in city parks with a permit from the Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation.

Farmers markets and most other commercial activities are not currently allowed within city parks. Certain recreational activities, such as camping and sports leagues, can use park facilities with a permit, and this legislation would add farmers markets and food distribution events hosted by nonprofits to the list.

Selling food or homemade wares at a farmers market is a low-cost, low-risk way for people to turn an idea into a business. This measure would give more Oahu residents the opportunity to start up small businesses and participate in the tourism industry.

Grassroot welcomes this and other legislation that would lower barriers to entrepreneurship.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii