BILL030(26)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 282

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Jul 8, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 5

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kathleen Pahinui	kpahinui@gmail.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 5, 2026 @ 10:04 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
SharLyn Foo	bpacker@maui.net	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 6, 2026 @ 11:37 AM
Testimony:		
Aloha I support bill 30		

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Larry McElheny	lkmcelheny@gmail.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 7, 2026 @ 06:39 AM
Testimony:		
Aloha I support this measure. Mahalo		

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Cassidy Keola	Ckeola@wcchc.com	96706
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
'Elepaio Social Services	Support	Jul 7, 2026 @ 09:42 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ted Kefalas	tkefalas@grassrootinstitute.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Support	Jul 7, 2026 @ 11:20 AM

Kathleen M. Pahinui
67-237 Kaui Street
Waialua, HI 96791

July 8, 2026

Council Chair Tommy Waters
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 Waters and Members of the City Council:

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 Council to support Bill 30.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mālama ʻāina,

Kathleen M. Pahinui

Kathleen M. Pahinui
Waialua Resident

‘ELEPAIO

86-120 Farrington Highway
Waʻianae, HI 96792
808-697-3709
Elepaio@wcchc.com

July 8, 2026

Honolulu Hale

To: Honolulu City Council

From: ‘Elepaio Social Services

Cassidy Keola, Director of Community Impact and Engagement

RE: Testimony in support of Bill 30

Aloha City Council members,

‘Elepaio Social Services supports Bill 30, which would allow farmers markets and food distribution events hosted by nonprofits to operate in city parks.

‘Elepaio distributes food to about 1,200 kūpuna each week through our four kūpuna pantries across the west side of Oʻahu. On Fridays we currently distribute at Nānāikapono Protestant Church. The church is in a tight residential area, which causes traffic and safety concerns for neighbors. Operating at a church also closes space access to church members.

Just five minutes from the church is Nānākuli Beach Park. Bill 30 would allow us to operate our Friday pantry in a larger and more accessible space. Holding food distributions at a park would improve operation logistics and efficiency and re-open the church to community members. Plus, hosting a distribution in a public and visible space such as park would help us reach more community members who may not know of our services.

For these reasons, ‘Elepaio Social Services fully supports Bill 30. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Cassidy Keola

‘Elepaio Social Services

Director of Community Impact and Engagement

GRASSROOT INSTITUTE OF HAWAII

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Removing barriers to Hawaii's prosperity

July 8, 2026, 10 a.m.
Honolulu Hale

To: Honolulu City Council
Tommy Waters, Chair
Andria Tupola, Vice Chair

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

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

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola and other members of the Council,

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