From: Pikachu Billionaire <presidentbillionaire@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2026 7:50 AM
To: Waters, Tommy; Okimoto, Val; Tupola, Andria; Tulba, Augie; Nishimoto, Scott; Dos Santos-Tam, Tyler; Weyer, Matthew; Cordero, Radiant; Kiaaina, Esther
Subject: Honolulu City Council July 8, 2026 Testimony for the Entire Agenda by Pikachu Shelby Billionaire

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Subject: Notice of Consolidated Testimony Submission — July 8, 2026 Regular Meeting

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, Floor Leader Kiaʻāina, and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Shelby Billionaire, a lifelong resident of Waiʻanae, Oʻahu (ZIP Code 96792) and candidate for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees At-Large. I am writing to notify the Council of my intended testimony format for the July 8, 2026 Regular Meeting.

In the interest of efficiency — both for the Council's time and my own — I will be submitting my testimonies on all relevant agenda items in a single consolidated email, rather than item by item. Each testimony will be clearly labeled by bill or resolution number for easy reference and routing by the Clerk's Office.

I have been a consistent and engaged testifier before governing bodies across the State of Hawaiʻi. As the sole civic voice representing ZIP Code 96792 among Honolulu's 1.4 million residents at this level of engagement, I take seriously my responsibility to ensure that the Nānākuli and Waiʻanae Coast community is heard — not only by this Council, but on the record for those who will govern and live in these islands long after us.

My testimonies will be submitted in advance of the meeting in accordance with the Council's deadlines. I trust the Clerk's Office will ensure they are properly entered into the record.

Mahalo nui loa for your continued service to the people of Honolulu. I look forward to engaging with the Council on the important items before you on July 8.

Me ke aloha,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM

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Honolulu City Council — July 8, 2026

Item-by-Item Analysis

Mayor's Veto — Bill 22 (Operating Budget) SUPPORT OVERRIDE The Council passing the budget over the Mayor's veto on lined items reflects legislative independence. Review specific line items vetoed — if they include community services, parks, housing, or Native Hawaiian programs, override is warranted.

APPOINTMENTS & CONFIRMATIONS

Resolution 26-129 — Krishna F. Jayaram as Managing Director SUPPORT Managing Director is the city's top administrative officer. Confirmation hearings exist for accountability. Support the process proceeding; no public red flags on record. The Council should vet qualifications on the record.

Resolution 26-130 — Melanie Islam reappointment, Climate Change Commission SUPPORT Reappointments signal continuity on climate work. Honolulu faces acute sea level rise risk — NOAA projects 1–3 feet of rise by 2100 threatening coastal infrastructure citywide. Experienced commissioners are an asset, not a rubber stamp.

Resolution 26-154 — Shannon Smith, Board of Review I (Real Property Tax Appeals) SUPPORT Independent review boards are essential to taxpayer fairness. No basis to oppose a qualified appointment.

Resolution 26-155 — Shannon Alivado, Grants in Aid Advisory Commission SUPPORT Grants in Aid funds community nonprofits citywide — over $4M annually distributed. Qualified community members on this commission protect equitable distribution. Support.

CR-176(26) — Luca Cuniberti, Rate Commission SUPPORT WITH SCRUTINY The Rate Commission sets utility rates affecting every Honolulu household. Rates for water and sewer have increased significantly in recent years. Council should confirm this appointee has independence from utility industry interests before final adoption.

LAND USE — FIRST READING

Bill 42 (2026) — Lāʻie Agricultural to Urban, 8.188 acres OPPOSE / PROCEED WITH CAUTION Reclassifying agricultural land to urban is irreversible. Koʻolau Loa is one of Oʻahu's last rural corridors. Applicant is the City's own Dept. of Design & Construction — meaning this is government-driven, not developer-driven, which warrants scrutiny about what's being built. Oʻahu has lost over 100,000 acres of farmland since statehood. Any agricultural-to-urban conversion should require demonstrated public necessity and food security impact analysis.

Bill 43 (2026) — Waialua Country to R-5 Residential rezoning CONDITIONAL SUPPORT Private applicant rezoning Country District land to residential. Waialua has housing needs but also agricultural heritage. R-5 is single-family density. Support only if traffic, infrastructure, and water capacity studies are completed. Waialua's aging infrastructure may not support density increases without investment.

Bill 44 (2026) — Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) disposition SUPPORT Directing TAT revenue to city coffers is critical. Honolulu receives over $100M+ annually in TAT. Ensuring proper disposition — not diversion away from housing, infrastructure, or Native Hawaiian programs — is a community priority. Details of the formula matter; Council should ensure Waiʻanae Coast and rural communities get proportional benefit.

Bill 45 & Bill 46 (2026) — Real Property Tax Home Exemption amendments STRONG SUPPORT Two companion bills amending the home exemption. Honolulu's median home price exceeds $900,000. Working-class homeowners — especially on the Waiʻanae Coast — are being priced out or taxed out of their ancestral land. Any expansion of the home exemption protects local resident homeowners against speculative assessment increases. This directly benefits your Nānākuli community.

Bill 47 (2026) — Motor Vehicle Weight Tax SUPPORT WITH REVIEW Weight tax reform can be used to incentivize lighter, more fuel-efficient vehicles and disincentivize large trucks that cause disproportionate road damage. Oʻahu's road maintenance backlog exceeds $300M. Details of the rate structure matter — ensure it doesn't disproportionately burden working families who drive trucks for work.

Bill 48 (2026) — Condemnation notice requirements SUPPORT Clarifying notice requirements for condemnation protects property owners — especially Native Hawaiian and working-class families — from being blindsided by government takings. Transparency in the condemnation process is a civil rights issue. Strong support.

Bill 49 (2026) — TAT revenues and funds (companion to Bill 44) SUPPORT Same reasoning as Bill 44. Proper TAT disposition is essential for community benefit.

Bill 50 (2026) — Land Conservation Fund amendments STRONG SUPPORT The Land Conservation Fund protects open space, agricultural land, and watershed. O'ahu's remaining natural lands are under intense development pressure. Conservation funding directly benefits communities like Wai'anae and Nānākuli by protecting mauka watershed that feeds coastal communities. Strong support.

SECOND READING

CR-162(26) Bill 29 — Real property tax exemptions SUPPORT Expanding or clarifying exemptions protects resident homeowners. See Bills 45/46 rationale above.

CR-163(26) Bill 40 CD1 — Real property taxation SUPPORT WITH DETAILS Broad real property tax reform. Support in principle; the CD1 amendment should be reviewed for any provisions that shift burden onto resident owner-occupants.

CR-167(26) Bill 18 CD1 — Affordable rental housing STRONG SUPPORT Honolulu has a critical affordable housing shortage. Vacancy rates hover near 2–3%. Over 50% of Honolulu renters are cost-burdened, spending more than 30% of income on rent. Any bill strengthening affordable rental housing provisions is a community priority, particularly for Wai'anae Coast families. The Disclosure of Interest statements from Tupola and Tulba should be noted — transparency matters.

CR-168(26) Bill 30 CD1 — Public parks use SUPPORT WITH SCRUTINY Parks policy affects houseless populations disproportionately. Ensure amendments don't criminalize houseless individuals sheltering in parks without offering alternatives. Honolulu's houseless population remains one of the highest per capita in the nation.

CR-169(26) Bill 31 CD1 — Cultural sites in public parks STRONG SUPPORT Protecting cultural sites in public parks is a Native Hawaiian rights and preservation issue. Mauna Lahilahi, Pūowaina, and countless other sites sit within city park land. Cultural site protections align with constitutional and treaty obligations to Native Hawaiians. Strong support.

CR-170(26) Bill 32 CD1 — Parks, recreational facilities, botanical gardens SUPPORT Maintaining and improving park infrastructure benefits all communities. Wai'anae Coast parks are chronically underfunded relative to urban Honolulu parks. Advocate for equitable distribution in implementation.

CR-171(26) Bill 33 CD1 — City funds (parks-related) SUPPORT Fund structure amendments supporting parks. Support so long as funds are protected from diversion and West O'ahu communities receive proportional allocation.

CR-142(26) Bill 35 — Curbside tellers / outdated provisions SUPPORT Housekeeping legislation removing obsolete code. No opposition warranted.

CR-175(26) Bill 41 — Transportation / vehicles and transportation devices SUPPORT WITH REVIEW Transportation policy affects mobility across O'ahu. Wai'anae Coast residents face among the longest commutes on the island — up to 90 minutes each way to urban Honolulu. Any transportation bill should be reviewed for equity impacts on rural commuters.

THIRD READING

CR-161(26) Bill 20 CD1 — First-time homebuyer fund STRONG SUPPORT Creating a dedicated fund to assist prospective homebuyers is a direct response to Honolulu's housing affordability crisis. Native Hawaiian homeownership rates have declined significantly over decades. A city-backed homebuyer assistance fund could meaningfully help working families on the Wai'anae Coast access homeownership. Strong support.

BOND RESOLUTIONS

CR-164(26) Resolution 26-145 — $205M General Obligation Bonds CONDITIONAL SUPPORT $205M in GO bonds finances capital budget projects. Support contingent on equitable geographic distribution of projects — West O'ahu and Wai'anae Coast have historically received disproportionately less capital investment per capita than urban Honolulu. Debt service should be transparent.

CR-165(26) Resolution 26-146 — $11M GO Bonds for Rail SUPPORT WITH ACCOUNTABILITY Honolulu Rail has faced massive cost overruns — original $5.1B estimate now exceeds $12B. However, completion is essential; abandonment would waste billions already spent. Support continued financing only with strict project accountability and a firm completion timeline.

CULTURAL / COMMUNITY RESOLUTIONS

CR-91(26) Resolution 26-65 — Mauna Lahilahi Cultural Garden restoration STRONG SUPPORT Mauna Lahilahi is a sacred Native Hawaiian cultural site on the Waiʻanae Coast — your home community. Restoring the cultural garden honors ancestral connections and supports community healing and identity. This directly serves Nānākuli and Waiʻanae. Strong support. Councilmember Tupola's proposed FD1 amendment adding "update" language is reasonable and should be included.

CR-172(26) — $5,000 gift for Kahala Community Park SUPPORT Private community gifts for park maintenance are welcome.

CR-173(26) — $5,000 gift for Senior Citizens' Valentine's Dance SUPPORT Supporting kupuna programming is a community value.

CR-174(26) — $6,750 gift for Ala Moana Regional Park SUPPORT Community stewardship of public parks through private gifts is positive.

INFRASTRUCTURE / LEGAL

CR-177(26) — Hawaiki Submarine Cable easement, Kahe Point Beach Park SUPPORT WITH CONDITIONS Submarine cables are critical Pacific communications infrastructure. However, Kahe Point is on the Waiʻanae Coast — any easement through a community beach park must include ironclad protections for public beach access, cultural access, and environmental restoration obligations on the cable company.

CR-179(26) — Travel gift from Trust for Public Land SUPPORT TPL is a legitimate land conservation nonprofit. Attending their DC advocacy event aligns with the city's conservation interests.

CR-180, CR-181 — Special Counsel retentions SUPPORT Routine legal representation. No basis to oppose.

CR-182(26) — Legal action against unpermitted B&B/TVU operators STRONG SUPPORT Unpermitted vacation rentals remove housing stock from local residents. Honolulu has estimated 10,000+ illegal short-term rentals. Enforcement action directly addresses housing availability for working families. Strong support.

CONSERVATION

CR-188(26) — Conservation easement, Ke Kīpuka o Kalaeuila, Kahuku STRONG SUPPORT Twelve parcels in Kahuku protected via conservation easement. Kahuku is one of the last remaining areas of intact native lowland habitat on O'ahu. Conservation easements are permanent — this is generational protection. Strong support.

CR-190(26) — Conservation easement, Wailupe SUPPORT Additional conservation easement protecting coastal land in Wailupe. Supports watershed and reef health. Support.
