BILL052(26)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 324

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Aug 12, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 7

Oppose: 1

I wish to comment: 1

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jonathan Huynh	jhweather123@yahoo.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	Aug 7, 2026 @ 07:47 AM

Testimony:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition this bill.

While the stated goal of maintaining unobstructed pedestrian access is one I support, this bill represents a fundamentally flawed and punitive approach that will harm our most vulnerable residents without solving the underlying problem. This ordinance criminalizes poverty by imposing severe financial penalties on those engaged in subsistence vending, rather than addressing the systemic issues that make sidewalk vending a necessity.

From an urban planning perspective, this bill is counterproductive. A truly vibrant and livable public realm is not one that is sterilized and cleared of all human activity. The most successful public spaces in the world incorporate appropriate commerce and life. This bill, with its steep fines, does not create vibrancy. It excludes people from public spaces.

Therefore, I urge you to reject this bill. Instead of punitive measures, I request that the Council's efforts be redirected toward developing a proactive, positive solution: the creation of a formal, low-barrier vending program. This program would establish designated spaces where vending is permitted and encouraged, integrating it into the urban fabric in a way that enhances public life without compromising pedestrian flow.

Such an approach would achieve the dual goals of maintaining clear walkways and providing economic opportunity for those who need it most. I oppose this bill and stand ready to support a more humane and effective alternative.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Johnnie-Mae Perry	waianaenb569@gmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	Aug 8, 2026 @ 01:37 AM

Testimony:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, comment on BILL052(26)

RELATING TO STREETS, SIDEWALKS, MALLS, AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES.

First of all, is the HPD enforcing the city new law passed by council(?) on homeless stationed at the bus stop shelters? Does the city or state judiciary system have a tracking mechanism in place of citations being PAID? HPD officers often

complain that the seating judge toss out citations, as a result loss of revenue for the SOH and waste of resources in issuing citations that cannot be collected and/or toss out of court.

Otherwise, I would support if fines can be collected on a regular basis. Most of the offenders are the unsheltered. Non-profit doing, they job or just collecting taxpayers hard earn wages?

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jacob Wiencek	jacob.m.wiencek@pm.me	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 8, 2026 @ 02:39 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Councilmembers,

I strongly support the intent of Bill 52. This is important legislation that will help us reclaim our public spaces. Ordinary citizens of Honolulu should not have to endure the indignity of harassing behavior by peddlers. It worsens and coarsens the quality of life here. I strongly urge the Council to SUPPORT this legislation!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
John Mark Mageo	jmageo@abcstores.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
ABC Stores	Support	Aug 8, 2026 @ 04:59 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
David Erdman	derdman@rmhawaii.org	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Retail Merchants of Hawaii	Support	Aug 10, 2026 @ 01:04 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Trevor Abarzua	tabarzua@waikikibid.org	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Waikiki Improvement Association	Support	Aug 10, 2026 @ 01:28 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
shannon smith	shannon2listen.waiks@gmail.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 11, 2026 @ 07:58 PM

Testimony:

I support this the peddling and illegal activity. I have lived in Waikiki in since1993 and this activity has become more frequent and aggressive. You are accosted walking down the street people trying to sell. THey are well aware of how and

who to target and i see people trying to be nice and their time is wasted. These products skin care etc are total BS. They are total scams and they are wasting people times. These people are so in your face and they should not be allowed to come onto the street and stop people and impede pedestrians. They should ONLY be allowed to stay in their place of business and people walk into their business this has to STOP. Thanks to Chair Waters. Please support this makes so much sense.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Reine Ah Moo	boardinwaikiki@gmail.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 11, 2026 @ 09:49 PM

Testimony:

Keeping our streets, sidewalks, and other public spaces safe and accessible is an important responsibility of the City. Residents, visitors, businesses, and individuals with disabilities all depend on public rights-of-way remaining open and free from unnecessary hazards.

As the Council considers this measure, I respectfully request that implementation focus on consistent and fair enforcement. Any updates to the ordinance should clearly distinguish between activities that create legitimate safety concerns and those that do not. Clear standards will help ensure that enforcement is equitable while preserving public confidence.

I also encourage the City to continue coordinating with outreach and social service providers whenever appropriate so that enforcement is balanced with compassionate solutions.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Robert Finley	bob22224@gmail.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 12, 2026 @ 09:56 AM

Testimony:

I am in favor of Bill 52.

ABC Stores
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August 7, 2026

Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair
Honolulu City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu Hale
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

Re: Testimony in Support of Bill 52 (2026), Relating to Streets, Sidewalks, Malls, and Other Public Places

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of ABC Stores in **strong support of Bill 52 (2026)**, relating to streets, sidewalks, malls, and other public places. This measure would increase fines for violations of peddling regulations under ROH Chapter 13, Article 6, and is a necessary step to discourage unlawful peddling and protect public access in areas heavily used by residents, visitors, and businesses.

For businesses that operate in compliance with City and County requirements, the ongoing presence of illegal kiosks and unlawful peddling creates a real hardship. These operations can obstruct sidewalks, affect pedestrian flow, and create an unfair environment for businesses that follow the rules, maintain proper permits, pay rent, employ local workers, and contribute taxes back into the community.

It is frustrating to see some violators appear comfortable treating the current fines as a cost of doing business. When penalties are too low, they may not be enough to change behavior or deter repeat violations. Increasing the fines from $100 to $500 for a first violation, from $250 to $750 for a second violation, and to $1,000 for two or more prior violations sends a stronger message that unlawful peddling will not be tolerated.

Another concern is fairness. Compliant businesses pay taxes, follow regulations, and absorb the significant costs of operating legally in Honolulu. It is difficult to understand how illegal operators can continue to benefit from public spaces without being held to the same responsibilities. Bill 52 is an important step toward restoring accountability and creating a more level playing field.

We respectfully urge the Council to pass Bill 52 (2026). Strengthening enforcement through meaningful penalties will help deter illegal kiosks, preserve safe and accessible sidewalks, and support businesses that are doing their part to comply with the law.

Mahalo,

John Mark Mageo
Employee Relations and Government Affairs Manager

RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAIʻI
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL 52 (2026)
RELATING TO STREETS, SIDEWALKS, MALLS, AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES

August 12, 2026, 10:00 AM

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Aloha. My name is David B. Erdman, Interim President & CEO of the Retail Merchants of Hawaiʻi (RMH). I am a Honolulu resident living in Council District V, 96814, and the RMH office is located at 3610 Waialae Avenue in Kaimuki, Council District IV, 96816.

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Retail Merchants of Hawaiʻi and our members in strong support of Bill 52 (2026), which increases penalties for violations of the City's regulations relating to unlawful peddling on streets, sidewalks, malls, and other public places.

RMH represents retailers and businesses throughout Hawaiʻi, including many businesses on Oʻahu that are directly affected by activities occurring on public sidewalks and other public areas adjacent to their establishments.

A continuing concern for our retailers is unlawful peddling activity that occurs on public sidewalks, sometimes directly outside established businesses. These activities can obstruct or disrupt pedestrian traffic, create congestion, and interfere with access to businesses for customers, employees, residents and visitors.

Of particular concern are repeat violations. When an individual can be cited, pay a relatively small fine and then return to the same location and resume the same unlawful activity, the existing penalty is not providing an effective deterrent. A fine that is too low can simply become a cost of continuing to operate illegally.

Bill 52 appropriately addresses this problem by establishing more meaningful penalties, particularly for repeat violations. Increasing the fines to $500 for a first violation, $750 for a subsequent violation within two years, and $1,000 for multiple repeat violations provides a stronger deterrent and reinforces the importance of complying with the law.

Sidewalks are public infrastructure. They should remain safe and reasonably accessible for residents, employees, customers and visitors. This is particularly important for seniors, persons with disabilities, families with children, and others who may have difficulty navigating around obstructions and congested pedestrian areas.

There is also an important issue of fairness to legitimate businesses. Hawai‘i's retailers face significant and increasing costs of doing business. They pay rent and property-related expenses, taxes, wages, insurance, utilities, licensing and permitting costs, and must comply with numerous City, State and federal requirements.

Businesses and individuals conducting unlawful commercial activity in public spaces should not be allowed to create an unfair competitive environment for retailers that make these investments, provide jobs, contribute taxes to our community, and meet their legal and financial obligations. The situation is especially frustrating when unlawful peddling takes place immediately outside a retailer that is paying substantial costs to legally operate at that location.

Our concern is not with legitimate businesses operating legally and in appropriate locations. It is with commercial activity that violates existing City regulations and the repeated violations that occur when the consequences are insufficient to change that behavior.

RMH believes that laws governing our public spaces must be clear and consistently enforced. Bill 52 provides the city with a more meaningful enforcement tool while sending a clear message that repeated violations will have consequences.

At the same time, RMH supports fair, reasonable and consistent enforcement. We are prepared to work with the Council, the city, law enforcement, appropriate agencies and community partners on approaches that maintain pedestrian access, support legitimate businesses, and help keep Honolulu's public spaces safe, accessible and welcoming.

For these reasons, Retail Merchants of Hawai‘i respectfully supports Bill 52 (2026) and the proposed increase in penalties for violations of the City's peddling regulations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

David B. Erdman
Interim President & CEO
Retail Merchants of Hawai‘i
3610 Waialae Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96816

Waikīkī
Business Improvement District

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Andrew Kawano
Honolulu Dept. of Budget and Fiscal Services

Robert Finley
Waikiki Neighborhood Board

August 12, 2026

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Honolulu City Council:

On behalf of the Waikiki Improvement Association, I am submitting testimony in strong support of Bill 52 (2026), which increases the penalties for violations of the City's peddling regulations.

Waikiki's sidewalks are among the most heavily used public spaces in Hawaii. Every day, residents, employees, visitors, kupuna, families with strollers, and people with disabilities depend on these sidewalks to safely move throughout the district. Unlawful peddling—particularly organized or repeated commercial activity—can obstruct pedestrian movement, create aggressive or uncomfortable interactions, and expose visitors to deceptive sales practices.

This activity also creates an unfair environment for the many Waikiki businesses that follow the rules, maintain storefronts, pay rent and taxes, employ local residents, and invest in our community. When the penalties for unlawful peddling are too low, repeat violators may simply treat the fines as a cost of doing business. The current penalties do not provide a meaningful deterrent for operators who can earn considerably more through their unlawful activity.

WIA strongly supports thoughtfully managed activities, events, and authorized vendors that contribute positively to the visitor and resident experience. However, commercial activity in our public spaces must be lawful, safe, accessible, and respectful of the people and businesses around it.

A negative encounter with an aggressive or deceptive peddler does more than affect one visitor. It can damage trust in legitimate local businesses and harm Waikiki's reputation as a welcoming, world-class destination. Protecting that reputation is important not only for Waikiki, but for Hawaii's broader economy.

We respectfully urge the Council to pass Bill 52. Meaningful penalties, coupled with consistent and equitable enforcement, will help preserve safe and accessible sidewalks, protect residents and visitors, and support the businesses that contribute to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Trevor Abarzua
President and Chief Executive Officer
Waikiki Improvement Association

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