BILL053(26)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 325

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

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

Support: 11

Oppose: 2

I wish to comment: 1

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jonathan Huynh	jhweather123@yahoo.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	Aug 7, 2026 @ 07:56 AM

Testimony:

Aloha,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition of the strongest possible term to this bill.

This bill is not a solution. It is a cruel and profoundly misguided attack on our most vulnerable neighbors. It criminalizes the act of survival by making it illegal to possess a shopping cart, punishable by a $2,000 fine, 30 days in jail, and the confiscation of one's possessions. Let me be clear about what this means: this ordinance targets those who have no home, who use a simple cart to carry what little they own. It is a legislative weapon against the poor, disguised as a public safety measure.

While abandoned carts do present challenges, this bill's approach is grossly disproportionate and inhumane. The language is so sweeping that it could technically penalize a good Samaritan for returning a neighbor's cart to the store. It does nothing to address the root causes of why a person might need a cart to transport their belongings, namely, the lack of stable housing and adequate social services.

This bill represents a failure of imagination and compassion. It seeks to erase visible poverty from our streets rather than confronting it with meaningful support. A truly safe and healthy community is not achieved by punishing those who have the least, but by building a system where no one is forced to rely on a shopping cart as their primary storage.

I urge you to reject this bill outright. Instead of punitive measures, let us direct our collective energy toward proven solutions: expanding access to affordable housing, increasing funding for social services, and creating designated storage facilities. Let us build a community that offers a hand up, not a slap down.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
John White	johnawhite@hotmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 7, 2026 @ 07:44 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Johnnie-Mae Perry	waianaenb569@gmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	I wish to comment	Aug 8, 2026 @ 01:52 AM

Testimony:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, comment on BILL053(26)

RELATING TO SHOPPING CARTS.

Retail/business experiencing major problem of stolen/missing shopping carts. Fines are great, but realistically the offenders are the unsheltered homeless population, who has how much money? As mentioned strongly to CM Tupola at the Wai'anae Coast NB #24 August meeting, "I am fed up" zigzagging for those who DO NOT FOLLOW THE LAWS! The shopping carts is one example, of NO CARTS at Longs Drugs Wai'anae! Speed humps are another!

However, more recently, Longs Drugs Wai'anae invested in new shopping carts that has an "automatic lock" in place when the cart goes beyond a certain distance. Unlocking the cart must be done by a human. I RECOMMEND THE CITY OFFER SOME INCENTIVE TO THE RETAILERS/BUSINESSES TO PURCHASE THESE SAFETY LOCK CARTS. Otherwise, the cost of missing/stolen carts will be passed on to consumers, like you and me.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jacob Wiencek	jacob.m.wiencek@pm.me	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 8, 2026 @ 02:55 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Councilmembers,

I strongly support the intent of Bill 53. The presence of rogue shopping carts in our community might come off as a trivial issue but there are important reasons for stricter penalties on stolen shopping carts. All too often, they are dumped in our waterways creating dangerous blockages or they are abandoned at bus stops, parks, and other public spaces contributing to dirty and unsafe environments. The pressure applied to both businesses and individuals with stolen shopping carts is fair and a necessary tool to reclaim the quality of our public spaces.

I strongly urge the Council to SUPPORT passage of this bill!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
David Erdman	derdman@rmhawaii.org	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Retail Merchants of Hawaii	Support	Aug 10, 2026 @ 01:20 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Trevor Abarzua	tabarzua@waikikibid.org	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Waikiki Improvement Association	Support	Aug 10, 2026 @ 01:34 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jillian Anderson	jillianforhawaii@gmail.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 10, 2026 @ 04:39 PM

Testimony:

While I am submitting this testimony in a personal capacity, I thank Council Chair Waters for introducing this bill as a result of discussions that took place at the Waikiki Neighborhood Board's Legislative Engagement Committee for which I serve as Chair. The presence of shopping carts outside the locations where they are intended to be used creates concerns for our neighborhood and businesses alike.

Presently, there is difficulty enforcing against the possession of shopping carts. Bill 53 would serve as a much needed mechanism to help protect businesses from theft, make our community cleaner, and create for fewer hazards in our public spaces. For these reasons, urban communities like Waikiki appreciate your support of this measure.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Natalie Iwasa	iwasajunk@mail.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	Aug 10, 2026 @ 10:32 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Lauren Zirbel	LaurenZirbel@HawaiiFood.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaii Food Industry Association (HFIA)	Support	Aug 11, 2026 @ 10:13 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
shannon smith	shannon2listen.waiks@gmail.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 11, 2026 @ 07:41 PM

Testimony:

I would like to support bill 53. The shopping carts need to be confiscated and i am so excited to see this bill and it makes so much sense. The police need so much help in order to remove these carts from all over the place. I am to see Chair Waters bring this up. Please support his bill.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Reine Ah Moo	boardinwaikiki@gmail.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 11, 2026 @ 08:03 PM

Testimony:

Abandoned shopping carts negatively impact neighborhoods, create safety hazards, obstruct sidewalks, and increase cleanup costs for taxpayers. Establishing reasonable regulations regarding the possession and abandonment of shopping carts is a practical step toward improving the appearance and safety of our communities.

I encourage the Council to work collaboratively with retailers to ensure timely retrieval of abandoned carts while also educating the public about the ordinance. Enforcement should prioritize chronic offenders and illegal abandonment while recognizing that some individuals may need assistance accessing transportation or social services.

With thoughtful implementation, this bill can improve public spaces without creating unnecessary burdens.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
John Deutzman	deutzman@icloud.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 11, 2026 @ 08:35 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters and Council Members,

Bill 53 is a long overdue law that will improve the quality of life for all of our residents, visitors, and stakeholders. Anyone opposing this bill would be signaling that they support the theft and/or use of stolen shopping carts for purposes other than their intended purpose. People will be allowed to use any other device they wish to tote items around, with the exception of shopping carts.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Dale VanderBrink	sandmandfgh@gmail.com	96814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 11, 2026 @ 11:56 PM

Testimony:

I support Bill 53

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Robert Finley	bob22224@gmail.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 12, 2026 @ 09:57 AM

Testimony:

This is a decades old issue and I support Bill 53

Statement in Support of Bill 53 (2026)

I strongly support Bill 53.

Abandoned and unlawfully removed shopping carts are more than an eyesore. They are a **public safety, accessibility, environmental, and quality-of-life problem** in our neighborhoods - and they impose real costs on businesses and taxpayers.

The scope of the problem is significant. A July 2024 Civil Beat investigation reported that Honolulu's Department of Facility Maintenance was averaging approximately 350 shopping-cart pickups every month - about 4,200 carts per year. The same report noted that Down to Earth's Kakaʻako location loses approximately 100 shopping carts a year, costing about $35,000, with similar losses reported at its King Street location.

Shopping carts left on sidewalks can force pedestrians into the street and create hazards for seniors, people with disabilities, and residents using wheelchairs or other mobility devices. Carts can block bus stops, create hazards in parks, and end up in streams and drainage channels, where they can obstruct water flow.

Bill 53 establishes a simple and reasonable principle: **shopping carts should remain under the control of their lawful owners and on property where their use is authorized.**

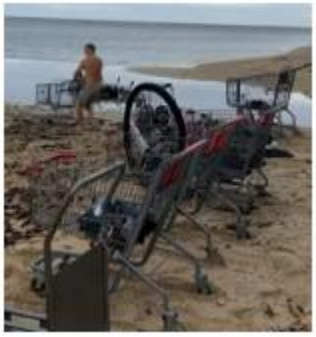
The bill also gives HPD and City and County personnel a clearer enforcement tool. Requiring businesses to identify their carts makes it easier to determine ownership when a cart is found far from the business that owns it.

Businesses are given **180 days to comply**, so this is not an overnight mandate.

This is also a very real environmental issue.

In Kāhala, Hawaii News Now documented shopping carts and other debris washing down a drainage canal and onto Kāhala Beach following heavy rains.





In Waipahu, a drainage canal was found with **24 shopping carts**, along with hundreds of pounds of trash.




Our sidewalks, streets, parks, bus stops, drainage systems, and waterways are public spaces. Residents should not have to navigate around abandoned shopping carts, and taxpayers should not continually bear the expense of removing and disposing of them.

Addressing the misuse and abandonment of shopping carts does not mean ignoring the needs of people experiencing homelessness. The City can enforce reasonable rules protecting public spaces while continuing to provide meaningful assistance to those who need it**.** In fact, public resources repeatedly spent collecting abandoned shopping carts would be better directed toward constructive programs and services.

Bill 53 gives the City and County a meaningful tool to address a longstanding problem, improve pedestrian safety, protect accessibility, reduce unnecessary costs, protect our waterways, and preserve the quality of our neighborhoods.

For these reasons, I support Bill 53 and encourage its passage.

John White
Coordinator, Kāhala–Diamond Head Neighborhood Security Watch
Member, Waiʻalae-Kāhala Neighborhood Board (Subdistrict 4)

RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAIʻI

Testimony in Support of Bill 53 (2026) — Relating to Shopping Carts

Honolulu City Council
City and County of Honolulu
October 12, 2026
10:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council:

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

RMH is a trade association representing retailers, shopping centers, and allied members, including logistics partners and professional service organizations.

Retail Merchants of Hawaiʻi respectfully submits testimony in support of Bill 53 (2026), Relating to Shopping Carts.

Shopping carts are valuable business property. Shopping carts and trolleys are provided by retailers as a convenience and service to their customers. They are also valuable business property representing a significant investment.

When a shopping cart is removed from a retailer's premises without authorization, the retailer has not abandoned its property. The retailer has lost property it purchased and needs to serve its customers.

Commercial shopping carts are not inexpensive. Depending upon their size, construction, and features, larger carts can cost hundreds of dollars each and, in some cases, approach or exceed $1,000 to replace. In Hawaiʻi, freight, shipping, tariffs, and other expenses can further increase the cost of purchasing replacement carts.

One of our RMH members whose customers regularly utilize shopping carts and trolleys made the point clearly in testimony on separate legislation earlier this year: businesses do not voluntarily abandon this property. When carts are taken, the retailer has already suffered the loss.

The retailer has already been victimized through the unauthorized loss of its property. As implementation approaches are considered, we believe it is important to avoid creating a system that effectively penalizes that business a second time simply because its stolen or improperly removed property is subsequently found elsewhere. This concern was also raised by an RMH member in previous legislative testimony.

There is also a cost to consumers. Every stolen or missing cart adds to a retailer's cost of doing business. The business must absorb the loss, purchase a replacement, or determine that it cannot afford to replace all the missing carts.

Like other increases in operating expenses, these losses put additional pressure on a retailer's bottom line and can ultimately contribute to higher costs for consumers. Alternatively, if carts are not replaced, fewer may be available to customers.

That can create an inconvenience, particularly for kūpuna, families with young children, persons with mobility limitations, and customers making larger purchases. Reducing shopping-cart theft and unauthorized removal therefore benefits retailers and their customers.

Public safety, accessibility, and community impact are also important concerns. RMH recognizes that once carts are removed from retail property without authorization and are subsequently possessed, used, or abandoned in public areas, the problem extends well beyond the retailer.

Bill 53 identifies serious public-safety concerns. Shopping carts can obstruct sidewalks and streets, force pedestrians toward roadways, interfere with wheelchair and bus-stop access, create hazards in public parks, and even obstruct the flow of water in City waterways.

These are legitimate public safety, accessibility, environmental, and community quality-of-life concerns that deserve attention.

RMH supports the City's objective of addressing the unauthorized possession, use, and abandonment of shopping carts while recognizing the property rights of the businesses that own them. Bill 53 distinguishes an owner, or someone authorized by the owner, using an identified shopping cart on premises in which the owner has a legal interest.

RMH is prepared to work with the city on practical solutions. We believe the most effective approach will involve cooperation among retailers, the City and County of Honolulu, the City Council, law enforcement, appropriate agencies, and community partners.

We're prepared to work with the Council, the City, law enforcement, appropriate agencies, and community partners on prevention, signage, identification and notification, retrieval, and reasonable approaches to the costs of recovering and returning carts that have been removed from retail property without authorization.

Our objective should be a workable system that discourages unauthorized removal and possession; keeps carts from becoming obstructions or hazards in public areas; helps return

property to its rightful owner; supports appropriate enforcement and community outreach; and avoids unnecessarily penalizing businesses that have already experienced the loss of their property.

Education and signage can also be part of the solution. RMH would be willing to work with the City, law enforcement, and our members to develop clear and consistent signage informing customers that shopping carts are private property and may not be removed from retail premises without authorization.

This approach complements Bill 53's requirement that an identified shopping cart carry conspicuous owner identification and be distinguishable from carts belonging to other owners. We also appreciate the bill's provision allowing owners 180 days following its effective date to bring their carts into compliance before citations or arrests may be issued.

Suggested clarification. RMH respectfully suggests that the Council consider clarifying the applicable language to include premises in which the owner has "a legal interest in or legal right to use." This would help ensure that the ordinance appropriately covers retailers operating under leases, licenses, shared-use arrangements, or other lawful rights to use property.

Ultimately, the interests of retailers, the city, and the public are closely aligned. Retailers want their carts back. They do not want carts removed from their premises without authorization and subsequently possessed, used, or left on sidewalks, streets, at bus stops, in parks, in waterways, or in other public areas.

Bill 53 provides an opportunity to address a legitimate public-safety and community concern while recognizing that shopping carts are valuable private property belonging to businesses that have often already suffered a loss when those carts are removed without authorization.

Retail Merchants of Hawai‘i respectfully supports Bill 53 (2026), with the clarification noted above, and looks forward to working with the Council, the City and County of Honolulu, law enforcement, appropriate agencies, and community partners on practical implementation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Erdman
Interim President & CEO
Retail Merchants of Hawai‘i

Waikīkī
Business Improvement District

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 53 (2026), which regulates the unauthorized possession, use, and abandonment of shopping carts.

Abandoned and unlawfully removed shopping carts are more than an inconvenience or visual concern. They can create serious public safety, accessibility, environmental, and quality-of-life problems. In a dense, pedestrian-oriented district like Waikiki, a shopping cart left across a sidewalk, bus stop, park pathway, or other public space can prevent people from safely using that area. These obstructions are especially hazardous for kupuna, people with disabilities, wheelchair users, families with strollers, and pedestrians who may be forced into the roadway to get around them.

Shopping carts left in public spaces can also become collection points for additional trash and debris. When carts are discarded in streams, drainage canals, or other waterways, they can obstruct water flow, contribute to flooding risks, and create unnecessary environmental and cleanup costs.

Shopping carts are also valuable private property belonging to local businesses. Retailers purchase and maintain these carts for their customers. When carts are removed without authorization, businesses must absorb the cost of recovering or replacing them. Those costs can ultimately affect consumers, while the City and taxpayers are left with the expense of collecting carts abandoned in public spaces.

Bill 53 will provide the City with an important tool to address a longstanding problem, protect pedestrian access, support local businesses, reduce environmental hazards, and preserve the safety and usability of our public spaces.

We respectfully urge the Council to pass Bill 53.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Trevor Abarzua
President and Chief Executive Officer
Waikiki Improvement Association

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Waikiki Neighborhood Board

Wyndham Waikiki Beach Walk
Plantation Tower
227 Lewers Street
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Second Floor
Box 202
Fax: (808) 924-9737

Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
email: mail@waikikibid.org

TO: Members of the Honolulu City Council

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
808-395-3233

DATE: Wednesday, August 12, 2026

SUBJECT: Bill 53, Shopping Carts – **OPPOSED**

Aloha Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

Thank you for allowing testimony on Bill 53, which would make it illegal to have stolen shopping carts in the city and provides for penalties for violations.

We already have a law regarding stolen property. (See HRS Sec. 708-830.)

The proposed law would be superfluous, redundant, unnecessary and not needed. Please vote "no."

HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 |
Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808-533-1292 | e:
info@hawaiifood.com

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Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Advisor*
Kit Okimoto, Okimoto Corp., *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Honolulu City Council

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: August 12, 2026

TIME: 10am

RE: Relating to Bill 53 2026

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Shopping cart theft and abandonment is a real and ongoing issue for grocery stores and other retailers in Hawai‘i. When carts are removed from store property, retailers bear the cost of replacing them, locating and recovering abandoned carts, and dedicating staff and resources to managing the problem.

Those costs ultimately become part of the overall cost of doing business in Hawai‘i. At a time when retailers and consumers are already dealing with high operating and food costs, unnecessary losses like shopping cart theft hurt everyone.

We support efforts that encourage people to return carts and that appropriately address individuals who repeatedly remove or abandon carts rather than placing the entire burden of the problem on retailers.