RES26-173
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 365

*BUDGET (BUD)

***BUDGET (BUD) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Aug 25, 2026 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 1

Oppose: 7

I wish to comment: 1

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Lee Kunimitsu	kunimitsl001@hawaii.rr.com	96819
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	Aug 24, 2026 @ 03:50 PM

Testimony:

I am opposed to the transferring of funds to purchase more police vehicles! The community policing team has been an integral part of serving our Moanalua Valley community working closely with our Neighborhood Security Watch Team! I serve as the coordinator of our Neighborhood Securty Watch team and have been for the last five years! During these years of serving, we have worked closely with the HPD officer who has provided us with crime updates, ways of deterring crime, information on actions to take for personal safety and many more! During these five years, with the efforts of our HPD officers assigned to the Community Policing Team, the crime rate has been lessened greatly and maintained to keep our community safer! Therefore, removing funds away from the HPD Community Policing Team would be deemed detrimental towards the continuation of our community's safety and anti-crime efforts. Please do not take away funds from a program that is effective and working well for our Moanalua Valley community as well as other areas who benefit from them! Thank you and aloha, Lee Kunimitsu Moanalua valley NSW coordinator.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Gerald Sumida	gksumida@gmail.com	96818-2213
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Ala Hapuu Neighborhood Security Watch (District 5)	Oppose	Aug 24, 2026 @ 05:03 PM

Testimony:

I have served as the Coordinator for the Ala Hapuu Neighborhood Security Watch (NSW) for over 25 years under HPD-District 5).

In fact, former council member, Donna Mercado Kim and her staff, Hiroko Nakamura, were instrumental in the formation of our group which attracted over 80 residents in our neighborhood. At the time, burglaries were rampant and with HPD's NSW liaison officers, we eliminated the crime wave, including shutting down a drug house, with the federal government's support. The NSW programs play a significant role in reducing the crime rate. The NSW budget is to provide supplies, brochures, training material, NSW signs, decals,

flashlights luminescent vests for walking groups, etc. The $280,000 budget should actually be increased threefold. The need is great for fighting crime and utilizing NSW groups to assist HPD officers in reporting crimes. Please do NOT transfer these funds to the All-Terrain Vehicles budget. It would be a great travesty and a disservice to all of us law abiding citizens who want to take a bite out of crime. The District 5 NSW groups have increased which demonstrates the interest and support.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Mike Solomon	MikeSolomon@hawaii.rr.com	96701
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Aiea Neighborhood Security Watch	Oppose	Aug 24, 2026 @ 05:15 PM

Testimony:
As I understand the resource allocation of $280,000, the funds are for GENERAL use by the Community Patrol Teams. While some communities may be better laid out for patrols using ATVs, our Aiea Neighborhood Community is better suited for foot patrol and ordinary vehicle control. Use of ATVs for patrol in our Aiea neighborhood would increase the noise level (from the ATVs) without providing a positive contribution to neighborhood security. Our teams travel in pairs, so the ATVs would make communication more challenging, as well.

I strongly urge the Budget Committee to distribute the funds in a general matter to the Community Patrol Teams, without tying them to purchase of ATVs, which are already a part of the police force equipment in areas where they can be used best.

Thank you for your consideration. Please advise if I can provide any more detail.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kelley Abe	kelley.toor@gmail.com	96819
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	Aug 24, 2026 @ 05:57 PM

Testimony:
(Resending comments)
Aloha Council Chair and City Council Members,

I am submitting testimony in opposition of transferring the $280,000 from Community Policing Teams to the purchase of HPD ATVs. I am a resident of Moanalua Gardens active in the Neighborhood Security Watch (NSW) and Moanalua Gardens Community Association. Although the incidence of crime is relatively low in this area, our CPT is active, and their contributions to this area is invaluable. Our community is aging and full of kupuna who receive important updates about the community regarding crime and how to avoid being a victim. More significant is the involvement of Officer Jonathan Ng, who was instrumental in restarting the NSW in Moanalua Gardens and Valley. His regular updates are instrumental in keeping our community abreast of trends and developments, and his responses to our inquiries are greatly appreciated.

As an educator who has worked in the Farrington Complex for my entire 16 year career, I do not see how ATVs would benefit my students, their families, community, or neighbors. So much of what HPD is required to do in this area is responsive rather than proactive, and I reiterate that as a teacher, prevention and empowerment of youth and communities can never be underfunded. My colleagues and I were surprised one year when we were told that our school would have to be on the waitlist for the DARE program due to the lack of funding. I cannot support this transfer of funds from CPT to ATVs, and respectfully ask for your consideration for these communities- especially where we can educate and better care for our most vulnerable populations.

Sincerely,

Kelley Abe

Name:	Email:	Zip:
kathleen Higa	kathyhiga@yahoo.com	96819
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Moanalua Valley Community Assoc Inc	Oppose	Aug 24, 2026 @ 07:16 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
karen scharfenstein	pink_2_k@yahoo.com	96819-1407
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 24, 2026 @ 07:48 PM

Testimony:

Our Community Policing team is an active successful group constantly expanding people and areas and helping with solving crime. Monthly meetings are held and new people are asked to get involved. We have the complete support of Officer Ng of the Kalihi Police Dept who is always available to help out.

We have tracked criminals and potential criminals here in Moanalua Valley and have been helpful in apprehending them. We have wandering seniors who have memory problems and have found them and got them home safely. Catching speeders are also on our agenda. Tracking wrong doers via our cameras is part of our community policing agenda as we share our pictures neighbor to neighbor. Our team captain works hard and is always sharing news on a very timely basis.

This money was set aside for community policing work which helps keep crime down and us safer. Why should we transfer funds to help another agency. It should stay where where it was intended to be and not shifted around to fund something else.

It is like cutting off your left arm so you help your right arm be stronger. No rhyme or reason for doing that.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Gertrude Tomokiyo	onoume@hotmail.com	96818
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	Aug 24, 2026 @ 11:46 PM

Testimony:

I have been a resident of Salt Lake for 57 years and have always felt safe in this community due to:

1. The support of the police that patrol our district;

2. Having the police initiate community meetings to provide the residents with updates on crime and other issues that come up in

our diverse and large community; and

3. Being privileged to have an officer assigned to our district to monitor our concerns regarding homelessness or crime related

items that become everyone's problem.

The mere presence of the police brings down tension and shows how law enforcement is watching and protecting everyone concerned. Please do not transfer these funds to buy equipment that can only be used in mountainous terrain. The safety of our community is at stake and continuing this program is essential because of its core value.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Carolyn Morita	cmorita84@gmail.com	96818
Representing:	**Position:**	**Submitted:**
Ala Hapuu Neighborhood Security Watch (District 5)	Oppose	Aug 25, 2026 @ 05:47 AM

Testimony:

Good morning. My name is Carolyn Morita and I am a resident of Council District 7 / Salt Lāke. I recently joined out Neighborhood Security Watch Team , and I am providing testimony today to express my serious concerns regarding the proposed transfer of $280,000 away from HPD’s Community Policing Teams.

When this funding was approved during the FY27 Budget process, its explicit purpose was to expand the vital operations and programs of our local CPTs. This includes essential grassroots support for neighborhood outreach, security watches, citizen patrol groups, and promotional materials. Every Council District faces unique public safety challenges, and this funding was intended to give each CPT the flexibility required to work directly with their respective communities to address hyper-local needs.

While I acknowledge there may be a legitimate operational need for All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), redirecting the entire $280,000 allocation fundamentally alters the purpose of these funds—shifting them away from direct, proactive community engagement and into equipment procurement.

Neighborhood safety relies on strong, well-resourced relationships between residents and our officers. I respectfully urge the Council to reject this full transfer and preserve the FY27 budget intent, ensuring our Community Policing Teams retain the resources needed to partner directly with our neighborhoods.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Cazimere Ferguson	zac808@duck.com	96701
Representing:	**Position:**	**Submitted:**
Self	Oppose	Aug 25, 2026 @ 06:37 AM

Testimony:

While there may be a legitimate need for ATVs, redirecting the entire $280,000 from Community Policing Teams changes the purpose of the funding from direct community-policing activities to the purchase of equipment.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO RESOLUTION 26-173
Transfer of Funds from Community Policing Teams to All-Terrain Vehicles

Honolulu City Council
Budget Committee
August 25, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Budget Committee:

I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to Resolution 26-173, which proposes transferring $280,000 appropriated to the Honolulu Police Department's Community Policing Teams (CPT) for the purchase of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs).

I understand that the Honolulu Police Department may have a legitimate need for ATVs and recognize the importance of providing our police officers with the appropriate equipment to effectively perform their duties. However, I have concerns about using funding that was specifically appropriated for Community Policing Teams for this purpose.

The funding approved in the FY27 Budget was intended to expand and support the work of Community Policing Teams, including neighborhood outreach, security watches, citizen patrol groups, promotional materials, and other activities that allow HPD to work directly with our communities.

Community policing is about building relationships and trust between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve. Each Council District has different needs and concerns. Providing CPTs with dedicated funding gives them the flexibility to work directly with their respective communities and develop programs and activities that address those specific needs.

Transferring the **entire $280,000** away from Community Policing Teams would significantly reduce the resources available for these community-based efforts and would change the original purpose of the funding.

If ATVs are determined to be a necessary HPD expenditure, I respectfully ask the City Council and HPD to identify another appropriate funding source rather than taking the entire allocation intended for Community Policing Teams.

I respectfully request that the Budget Committee **not approve Resolution 26-173 as currently proposed** and preserve the $280,000 appropriation for its original purpose of supporting Community Policing Teams and the communities they serve.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to the residents of Honolulu.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Higa

MVCAI - President
Honolulu, Hawai‘i