

BILL052(26)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 408

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Oct 7, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 3

Oppose: 1

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Johnnie-Mae Perry	Email: waianaenb569@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 1, 2026 @ 10:06 PM
Testimony: I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, SUPPORT BILL052(26) RELATING TO STREETS, SIDEWALKS, MALLS, AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES.		

Name: John Mark Mageo	Email: jmageo@abcstores.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: ABC Stores	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 2, 2026 @ 08:16 AM

Name: Jonathan Huynh	Email: jhweather123@yahoo.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Oct 4, 2026 @ 03:57 PM
Testimony: Aloha, I've testified three times against Bill 52. I respectfully oppose it again. The bill previously passed 9-0 with the understanding that members had reservations. I'm testifying again because those reservations were warranted. The retailers supporting this bill have a legitimate concern. Unlawful peddling outside their stores is unfair to businesses paying rent, wages, and taxes. I don't dispute that. But this bill won't fix what they're describing. Someone selling lei or plate lunches to feed their family isn't going to stop because the fine went from \$100 to \$500. They'll either keep going and rack up debt they can't pay, or end up in the system for trying to earn money. Meanwhile, organized commercial operators who already treat fines as a business expense will absorb the increase and keep operating. The bill hits the wrong people. It treats a subsistence vendor and an organized kiosk operator the same. It also removes judicial discretion. Right now a judge can set a third-offense fine anywhere between \$500 and \$1,000. Bill 52 locks it at \$1,000 flat. That flexibility mattered. It let judges distinguish between someone running a kiosk hustle and someone just trying to eat. The Council should be giving judges more tools, not fewer. At a previous hearing, Councilmember Tupola asked whether this bill applies to peddlers on state highways in her district. No one could give her a clear answer. If the Council is passing a bill that increases penalties on people and can't clearly say where those penalties apply, that's a problem worth pausing over.		

The deeper issue is that the city has no legal pathway for vending in public spaces. There is no permit program, no designated zones, and no low-barrier way for someone to participate legally in the economy. The businesses asking for a level playing field are asking for fairness in a market the city has closed. Bill 52 makes that worse.

If the Council actually wanted to fix this, it would create a vending permit program with designated zones and modest fees. Most people would use a legal path if one existed. Then enforcement could focus on the ones who don't.

I oppose Bill 52. I ask the Council to reject it and take up a real solution instead.

Mahalo,
Jonathan Huynh

Name: Jacob Wiencek	Email: jacob.m.wiencek@pm.me	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 5, 2026 @ 08:04 PM

Testimony:
Aloha Councilmembers,

I strongly support the intent of Bill 52. Peddlers are a nuisance that disrupt our public and commercial spaces. We need stronger tools available to properly maintain public order and safety. This bill moves us in the right direction and will help police handle the peddling issue. Let's get this bill across the finish line! I strongly urge the Council to support Bill 52!



ABC Stores
766 Pohukaina Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5391
www.abcstores.com

Telephone: (808) 591-2550
Fax: (808) 591-2039
E-mail: mail@abcstores.com

October 2, 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 updated testimony on behalf of ABC Stores in **strong support of Bill 52 (2026)**, relating to streets, sidewalks, malls, and other public places. The measure would increase fines for violations of peddling regulations under ROH Chapter 13, Article 6, providing a stronger deterrent against unlawful peddling and helping protect public access in areas heavily used by residents, visitors, and businesses.

Bill 52 passed first reading on August 12, 2026, and second reading on September 9, 2026. On September 24, 2026, the International and Legal Affairs Committee reported the measure out for passage on third reading through Committee Report 275 (2026). We respectfully support its continued advancement and final passage.

Businesses that follow City and County requirements invest in permits, rent, wages, insurance, and taxes. Illegal kiosks and unlawful peddling can obstruct sidewalks, interfere with pedestrian flow, and create an unfair competitive environment. When existing penalties are treated merely as a cost of doing business, they do not adequately deter repeat violations. The proposed graduated fines: \$500 for a first violation, \$750 for a second violation, and \$1,000 for two or more prior violations, would provide more meaningful accountability.

We thank the Honolulu City Council for taking action to help level the playing field for businesses that are following the rules. We also extend our mahalo to the Honolulu Police Department for its enforcement efforts and to the other businesses that have spoken up and continue to operate responsibly and in compliance with the law.

We respectfully urge the Council to pass Bill 52 (2026) on third reading. Strengthening enforcement through meaningful penalties will help deter unlawful peddling, 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