



a program of



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CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

The Honorable City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Council Chamber

Wednesday, June 5, 2013, 10:00AM

Proposed Budget Bill 11 (2013), CD2 for Fiscal Year 2014

Good Morning Chair Martin and Council Members,

Lanakila Pacific strongly supports the inclusion of \$250,000 in the proposed budget to provide critically needed Meals on Wheels services for our most vulnerable elderly neighbors.

As Hawaii's largest and only island-wide meal provider, Lanakila Meals on Wheels serves more than 1,200 Oahu seniors every day. Our average meal recipient is a woman of Asian or Pacific Island descent, 83 years old with an income of less than \$1,000 per month. Our staff and volunteers deliver much more than a nutritious meal, as they may be the only person that our Kupuna will spend time with each day. To experience this first hand, we invite you to deliver meals to the seniors in your district.

Providing Meals on Wheels, which enables seniors to stay in their homes and avoid costly institutionalization, can be the difference between \$170 for a month of home delivered meals vs. \$9,034 for a month of a semi-private room in a nursing facility.

Unfortunately, the need for meals far exceeds current funding due to 11 years of flat funding that hasn't kept pace with inflation let alone the spike in the senior population. While more long-term support is needed to meet the growing needs, this measure is a vital part of the solution as it will provide critically needed and more cost-effective services for our most isolated and vulnerable elderly neighbors.

We urge you to support Hawaii's Kupuna by supporting funding for Meals on Wheels.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian E. Tsuji
President & CEO

Lyn Moku
Director of Lanakila Meals on Wheels



MISC. COM. 1218

Council