

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 9:01 AM
Subject: Budget Speaker Registration/Testimony
Attachments: 20150407090034_Testimony re budget bill.pdf

~~Speaker Registration~~/Testimony

All fields marked "*" are required and must be completed in order for this form to be valid.
Note: Registrations are not accepted prior to the agendas being posted.

Name(*)	Mary Martin
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Email (*)	mmartin40@hawaii.rr.com
Meeting Date (*)	2015-04-08
Council/PH Committee (*)	Budget
Agenda Item (*)	Bill 13
Your position on the matter (*)	Comment
Representing (*)	Self
Organization	
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? (*)	No
Written Testimony	
Testimony Attachment	20150407090034_Testimony re budget bill.pdf
Accept Terms and Conditions (*)	1

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2015 APR -7 AM 9:05

TESTIMONY REGARDING BILL No 13 (Operating Budget)

Aloha --

As not only a homeowner, but also as president of my condo association (Wailuna), I must demand that the City Council include in its budget the funding for the repair, maintenance and replacement of front-loader trucks used by the City's Environmental Service Dept. to remove rubbish.

I understand that the Department of Environmental Services has not requested funding to purchase new front end loader trucks, and that this funding was removed from the operating budget in 2014 as well as 2013. Further, it is my understanding that no funding has even been requested or included in the 2015-2016 operating budget for maintenance or repair of the trucks currently in use --- although the Circuit Court has mandated the continued collections by the City. We understand that the City intends to take an appeal of the Court's ruling, but knowing that appeals can often take years, the City will be remiss and negligent if it is unable to continue the service because the vehicles have not been properly maintained.

Regardless of the fact that the current Court ruling is based on the UPW lawsuit, the City must look very carefully at its underlying intention to discontinue rubbish pickup from a large number of condominium associations -- on the purported reason that it would be otherwise unfair to those condominium associations that have paid for private services for some time. Shame on those associations which have paid privately and not raised a fuss as taxpayers --- but to try to "level" the field by making all condominiums pay privately --- and to continue to collect real property taxes at the full rate --- is discriminatory, unfair, inequitable, and basically double-taxing the condominium owners. Funding for rubbish collection comes from real property taxes, and we all pay them. For your consideration is the fact that because we had received notice of the originally pending date to discontinue collections, we obtained bids for private services. In order to pay for private services, our association would have incurred a base expense of \$5400.00 per month for our 328 unit association. That translates to about \$16.50 per unit per month --- requiring us to raise the maintenance fees by about \$200.00 per year per unit. If the City prevails against the UPW, and chooses to pursue the course of discontinuing rubbish service, we will expect a rebate or reduction of our real property taxes in order to "level" the field with those single family homes which will continue to receive rubbish pickup by the City.

Thank you for your attention.

Mary Martin

March 30, 2015