



# CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

## 夏威夷中華總商會

Established 1911

May 11, 2015

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- 執行副會長 林文忠

The Honorable Ann Kobayashi, Chair &  
Members of the Budget Committee  
Honolulu City Council  
530 South King Street, Room 202  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kobayashi and Councilmembers:

Re: Bill 13, CD1 (2015)

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you a community-based perspective regarding the importance of restoring the budget reductions to the Office of Economic Development (OED). The reduced budget will certainly impact community organizations supported by OED's community revitalization grants (grants).

The Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (Chamber) and its partner associations organize annual events such as the Splendor of China, Chinese New Year Celebration/Chinatown Open House (Choy Cheng), Night in Chinatown Festival and Parade, and Dragon Boat Races, etc. These community-based events depend on the support of these grants and the proposed reductions will undoubtedly put these events at risk.

In addition, the Chamber has committed to work together with the Hawaii Korean Chamber of Commerce and the Filipino Chamber of Commerce. Given the nature of our tri-chamber agreement, it would be a disappointment to see any cutbacks to their respective community endeavors including the Korean Chamber's outreach and extension programming and the Filipino Chamber's Taste of Kalihi.

We respectfully request that the Council's Budget Committee restore the proposed budget reductions to ensure that efforts to increase Honolulu's appeal locally and globally are not diminished.

Thank you again for this opportunity to share my perspective.

Sincerely,

Robert Yu  
President  
Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii

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