

June 2, 2015

Dear Mr. Ernie Martin, the Honorable Chairman of the City Council,

Thank you for all the good work you and your fellow council members have done to benefit our wonderful city. It has come to my attention that there is a proposed budget cut of \$616,000.00 from the Administration's Operating Budget (Bill 13, CD2) that would severely hinder the City's progress on homelessness, affordable housing, and economic growth. I am concerned that the monies cut would have funded seven OSD positions needed to address the City's affordable housing and homelessness initiatives. I believe the City has made progress on all these difficult issues. The Chinatown community has seen positive results from all the efforts of the OSD. Cutting these positions would seriously hurt and undermine all the progress that has been made in Chinatown and other impacted communities.

The OED is another office in peril of losing funding that directly impacts the Chinatown community. The proposed cut of \$ 32,000.00 would eliminate the operating budget for OED. Through the OED, the City has made a direct impact on Chinatown's community revitalization and economic development efforts. The City has always recognized Chinatown as major historical, cultural, economic attraction to its residents and visitors. An example of this is the City's past support for Night in Chinatown and the Chinatown Parade. Chinatown is one of the City's jewels that must be maintained so residents and visitors can come to enjoy shop, dine and learn about its history and culture.

With the Chinatown community, the City can continue to do its part by:

- Restore funds for OSD
 - These funds are needed for affordable housing and homelessness projects
- Restore funds for OED
 - These funds are vital for Chinatown community revitalization projects
- Do not override Mayor's veto of Bill 6
 - Bill 6 is unconstitutional and the courts may overturn this law which would cause the homeless to return to Chinatown

As Honorary Mayor of Chinatown, I strongly support the restoration of these funds. With your funding, we can continue to make forward progress with these important issues. Thank you very much for your continued support of one of Honolulu's greatest communities.

Mahalo,

Dr. Joseph W.C. Young
Honorary Mayor of Chinatown

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