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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Monday, April 04, 2016 7:37 PM

**Subject:** Budget Speaker Registration/Testimony

## ~~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(*)	Claire Tamamoto
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Meeting Date (*)	2016-04-05
Council/PH Committee (*)	Budget
Agenda Item (*)	Agenda Item #5
Your position on the matter (*)	Support
Representing (*)	Organization
Organization	Aiea Community Association
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? (*)	Yes
Written Testimony	
Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Conditions (*)	1

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2016 APR -5 AM 8:33

April 5, 2016

Budget Committee Chair Ann H. Kobayashi and Committee Members

Re: Bill 14(2016) Chair Martin's proposed \$3,840,000.00 Amendment for the Reimbursement of the purchase of Aiea Sugar Mill allowing expanded public purposes and uses of the upper parcel, TMK 99-0780060000

My name is Claire Tamamoto and I am the President of the 'Aiea Community Association. The 'Aiea Community Association(ACA) would like to strongly express its support this amendment to Bill 14. The 'Aiea Sugar Mill Plantation was established in 1898 and grew sugar cane on 4,000 acres of lands from the costal plains of Pearl Harbor to the rolling hills known as 'Aiea Heights. The cultivation of sugar cane gave way to processing sugar as a refinery from 1947 to 1994. The C & H Sugar Company, under Alexander and Baldwin operated the only white sugar refinery on this island as the thriving community of 'Aiea replaced the sugarcane fields. This Mill property has been a subject of community meeting dating back to March of 1997. In 1998, our community witnessed the demolition of the 'Aiea Sugar Mill, an icon of our rich history and livelihood leaving 17 acres of prime and central land to be repurposed. In addition 1998, marked the beginning of numerous community meetings that would give birth to a vision of how we wanted to see our community grow in the future. We identified 'Aiea's resources in an effort to rebuild Aiea's "sense of place" for our kupunas and our keikis.

We learned a lot about our community's needs and learned the value of protecting our 'āina. It is through this community collaboration "buy in and ownership at the grassroots level", we developed the concept of the 'Aiea Town Center as the new icon of our community. This 'Aiea Town Center plan is a focal point of our community's future, a gathering place for all our 'ohana, a reflection of our personality. We learned the true meaning of the phrase, "if you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together!"

The 'Aiea Community Association (ACA) supports the community's vision of an affordable assisted living or rehabilitation center for the upper parcel 6 and a planned multi-purposed center/green space for the parcels 7 – 14. The Community would support Parcels 6 – 14 to be planned, designed and developed together so that coherent and consistent uses can serve all comers to the area: library goers, our seniors, our students.

The ACA represents the voices heard at numerous community meetings beginning in March of 1997: "let the land be developed so that it can once again be part of the very fabric of Aiea, serving our residents needs." I am stuck by a particular resident's comment, who just moved into the community last year as he viewed the various vision models: "You mean, we have a say in what will happen in our community . . . they aren't just going to build what will get the most money? We believe, we have sincerely collaborated on a community level and will continue to make this a "living vision" that reflects our community.

The proposed funding allows the community to plan and design for maximum use of both City owned parcels of land. The funding would lift the limitations on the upper parcel, allowing for uses that will go hand in hand with the new Aiea Library and possible senior housing/adult care or rehabilitation facility, "one stop shop" services for the elderly, a safe and green gathering place for multi-generational uses, such uses as ballroom dancing, adult and youth education and low impact recreational activities.

'Aiea has almost no large parcels of land left that can be developed. These particular parcels are our last and best chance to create a real hub and center of community life. We cannot afford to get it wrong. It is 'Aiea's vision and hope, that we as a community can continue to collaborate, to work towards timeless multigenerational uses for this property and return the land to its rich history of serving the people of 'Aiea with dignity.

It is interesting to note, that I probably gave similar testimony before this body nearly 15 years ago. We, collaboratively, government, private and public sector have an unique opportunity to be a model to repurpose land and facilities for other maturing communities.

Community is not just where you live. Community is also about who we are. The 'Aiea Community Association began on this journey in 1998 to "build a sense of place" for our community. We believe in the process, we knew it would require hard work, spirit and commitment. That is okay because Community is where the heart is, 'Aiea is where our hearts are!

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Claire J. Tamamoto  
President

**"Building A Sense of Community"**