

TO: Budget Committee of the Honolulu City Council
FROM: Natalie Iwasa
808-395-3233
MEETING: Tuesday, April 5, 2016 (and continuance April 6, 2016)
SUBJECT: Bill 14 and Proposed CD1, Operating Budget

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK
C & C OF HONOLULU
2016 APR -6 AM 7:41

Aloha Chair Kobayashi and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing this opportunity to testify on the operating budget.

Department of Community Services

The council additions of \$800,000 on page 42 appear to be grants for specific purposes outside of the grants-in-aid process, and \$1,927,482 (page 43) through the grants-in-aid process but funded via the general fund.

We are already spending almost \$6.5 million on grants to nonprofits as well as millions more on social justice programs. I **oppose** these **additions**.

Department of Transportation Services

On page 56 there is a reduction of \$100,000 to consultant services for mass transit. It appears this is for the city rail expert Michael Burns. If so, I ask that these funds be restored to the budget. The amount of errors, inconsistencies and incomplete information provided by HART has raised many questions about the rail project. I appreciate Mr. Burns' reports and believe his time has been spent wisely.

On page 57, approximately \$1.5 million has been added to restore Bus 55 to 30-minute interval service. This is long past due, and I support the addition.

General Provisions

Page 59 includes a provision regarding limited-purpose monies. My understanding is that this is the section that allows the city to accept Safe Routes to School funds from the state without going through the county budgeting process. As I've stated before, those funds should go through the budget just as other funds do to give the public an opportunity to provide input.