

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 12:33 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(*) Lawrence J Holbrook
Phone (*) 808-735-8426
Email (*) lawrencejholbrook@gmail.com
Meeting Date (*) 2016-04-27
Council/PH Committee (*) Budget
Agenda Item (*) Bill_13_CD2 and Bill_14_CD1
Your position on the matter (*) Oppose
Representing (*) Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? (*) No

2016 APR 28 AM 8:38
RECEIVED
CITY CLERK
& C OF HONOLULU

Written Testimony

HNL City Budget Bill - New Hope Grant In Aid Bill_13 (2016) Bill_14_CD1(2016)
Grant in Aid: CC-123 MANAHAN – Proposed CD2 amendment Dear Honolulu City and County Representatives: I strongly oppose the Grant in Aid amendment to New Hope Church for \$250,000. This is a clear and unconstitutional taxpayer expenditure in support of a specific religious purposes. 1) The math does not add up. According to the project description, the Center of Hope plans an expansion of real property and structures on a portion of Sand Island. This includes a 4-story parking structure, an expo center, a 400 seat auditorium, a dining cafe, a resource center and new restrooms. \$250,000 will not pay for all of these assets. This is clearly a donation towards buildings and structures the church is already planning to build. I oppose spending taxpayer money in donation to specific churches. 2) Not for the general public. According to the project description, the Center of Hope explicitly states that the new center "will benefit its thousands of islandwide church members." This clearly indicates that the proposed amendment will benefit only the church members of Center of Hope, New Hope Oahu. I

oppose spending taxpayer money to support specific religious congregations. 3) No City Benefits. According to an article appearing on KITV.com web site-- "City Councilmen Propose \$250K for New Hope Church, Updated: Apr 26, 2016 6:16 PM HST, By Mike Cherry"(http://www.kitv.com/story/31824633/city-councilmen-propose-250k-for-new-hope-church) --representative Manahan adds unsupported comments that he says benefits the City. These include public use of parking stalls at no charge, new business activity and management of our homeless crisis. None of these benefits are explicitly stated in the amendment. New Hope has no obligation to perform any of these supposed benefits. Once taxpayer money is given to New Hope, there is no mechanism for accountability in this handout. 4) New Hope is not a community service organization. In the same article, Council Chair Martin is quoted saying there is precedent for State funding of church projects. Mr. Martin then confuses Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army, St. Francis Healthcare and the YMCA with church organizations. These organizations provide direct resources and services to the general population of Honolulu without regard to religious preference. They are community service organizations; not churches. New Hope Church is a religious church with no track record of providing community services free of religious bias or preference. It would be reckless for the Honolulu City Council to budget a taxpayer donation to any religious organization. It would be insane to offer a quarter-million-dollar, no-strings-attached gift to an avowed evangelical and pentecostal Christian church such as the New Hope Christian Fellowship. I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS TAXPAYER FUNDED DONATION TO RELIGION.

**Testimony
Attachment**

**Accept Terms
and Conditions** 1
(*)