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HAWAI'I PACIFIC HEALTH
Kapi'olani • Pali Momi • Straub • Wilcox

www.hawaiipacifichealth.org

June 1, 2016 at 10:30am

Honolulu City Council

To: Ernest Martin, Chair
Council Members

From: Art Gladstone
Chief Executive Officer, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Pali Momi Medical Center and
Chief Nurse Executive, Hawaii Pacific Health

Re: **Bill 15, CD2, Proposed FD1**
Testimony in Support of Funding to Maintain Thomas Square

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CITY CLERK
C. & C. OF HONOLULU
2016 MAY 31 PM 5:28

My name is Art Gladstone and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Pali Momi Medical Center and Straub Clinic and Hospital and Chief Nurse Executive at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-governmental employer. Hawai'i Pacific Health is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

HPH is writing in **support of providing funding for the purpose of maintaining the grounds of Thomas Square**. Thomas Square is located directly across the street on Ward Avenue from Straub Clinic and Hospital and serves as a potentially important recreational area for the residents living in the surrounding neighborhood.

Over the years, we have witnessed Thomas Square transform into a haven for the homeless and individuals suffering from substance abuse who truly need access to behavioral health services and permanent housing. The proximity of this at-risk population to our patient population as well as our employees who traverse Thomas Square to arrive every day at work is not ideal.

We therefore ask that the City maintain the necessary funding to ensure upkeep of Thomas Square so that the community can consider using the park's grounds for active civic use. For example, at Straub, it has been our desire to utilize the park for employee functions as a site for our employee wellness boot camp. However necessary upkeep would be essential for us to consider moving forward on those plans.

We ask that you remain committed to keeping the maintenance of Thomas Square as a funding priority in the City budget so that others in the community may use the park to its full potential as it was intended.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



_____ **HAWAI'I PACIFIC HEALTH** _____