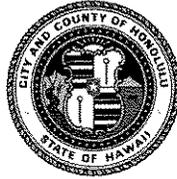


DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



2009 APR 29 A 8:17

CITY COUNCIL
HONOLULU, HAWAII

LESTER K. C. CHANG
DIRECTOR

GAIL Y. HARAGUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 29, 2009

The Honorable Nestor R. Garcia
and Members of the Budget Committee
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Garcia and Councilmembers:

Subject: Proposed Amendments to Bill 15

Thank you for this opportunity to clarify comments we previously made on two proposed amendments to Bill 15 which relate to the Department of Parks and Recreation:

1. Add funds for part-time contract employee for Diamond Head tennis courts: \$15,000

The addition of funds for a part-time contract employee for the Diamond Head tennis courts is not essential, and we oppose such action insofar as this may result in the loss of funds to another area. We strive for equity in allocating resources to our programs. Therefore, the tennis courts at Diamond Head are currently operated similar to all the other tennis courts on Oahu with the exception of the 20 court tennis complex at Patsy T. Mink Central Oahu Regional Park. If a part-time person were added, it may raise questions as to why other city tennis facilities could not receive similar funding.

2. Add funds for Summer Fun lunch program subsidy: \$60,000

The Summer Fun Food Program tailored after the USDA school lunch program has been a very successful Parks and Recreation program for over 25 years. The federal government reimburses agencies to provide hot nutritious meals to low-income children. Since this is not a core City service, the premise has been to provide this "extra" service at no extra cost to the City. In the past, the federal subsidies have

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CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

The Honorable Nestor R. Garcia
and Members of the Budget Committee

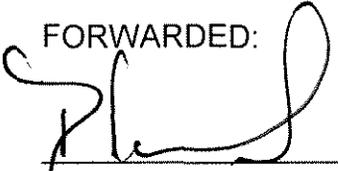
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covered the cost of providing the meals. However, since 2008, the cost has exceeded the subsidy and the department has looked at various alternatives to provide nutritious meals to children in need without negatively impacting the essential services the department provides. This year, the Department of Education has agreed to serve a nutritious breakfast/brunch meal at or below the federal reimbursement rate and we will be able to provide a nutritious meal without impacting the City and County taxpayer. We appreciate the funding consideration; however, since we've worked out a reasonable solution and to avoid the concomitant loss of other priority funds, we oppose this added funding.

Sincerely,


LESTER K.C. CHANG
Director

FORWARDED:


Rix Maurer III, Director
Budget and Fiscal Services

APPROVED:


Kirk W. Caldwell
Managing Director