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**From:** Lum Lee, Christopher [c.lum.lee@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2009 8:36 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Council Meeting Testimony (6/10/2009)

To the Honolulu City Council,

I am not speaking today as a member of the Pearl City Neighborhood Board or in any other capacity other than me speaking for myself. I am in strong opposition of Bill 15, but I do support version A of this bill because the Office of Economic Development will not be given the \$100,000. Let me explain why I don't think we need an Office of Economic Development- let alone giving the Mayor money to go and "promote tourism". Why do we need this office if the State already has DBEDT and the Hawaii Tourism Authority? Do not let the administration fool you into thinking that the (City) Office of Economic Development is promoting economic development- it's an atrocious waste of our tax dollars! Second, the reason I opposed giving money to this office is because certain executives in the City Administration has a bad track record of coming up with ideas to "promote tourism"- as an example, didn't the Mayor once want a six-figure check to "promote tourism" by putting Hawaii logos on a race car? I think it is needless to say, the fiscally prudent thing to do would be not to give them that money.

Second, I want to give an additional opinion regarding the Rapid Transit Division's 44 positions. Every department in the City took major budget cuts except this Rapid Transit Division? It's not even a Department- it's a Division, and they want 44 positions which they are overpaying in comparison to the City Civil Service counterparts. Why does the Division need more than one Executive Assistant? They shouldn't! Their EAs (as listed on a Honolulu Advertiser article) are slated to make more than their Civil Service equivalents. And another thing, why do they need a Public Information Specialist AND a Public Information Officer? The State DOT has 5 people who work in Public Information: 2 clerical staff, 2 Information Specialists, and the Manager/Spokesperson. So why is it at all justifiable that the City's Rapid Transit Division has these positions that creates this thickly-built bureaucracy that is edging close to that of the State DOT- which oversees issues regarding transportation on a State-level. Again, more waste!

This is the worst budget I have ever seen, and this is the worst budget that has ever been thrown to you. You may call it pork, but I outright call it the burning of our tax dollars, I don't care how the Administration wants to try to sugarcoat it! We simply cannot afford to be throwing money down a bottomless hole right now where we don't even know where the progress is at the end of this rainbow! To those of you who have said that you want to help make Honolulu a better place for the children, here is the chance to do it. Protect our City from this Administration for one more year.

Thank you,

/s/ Chris Lum Lee

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Christopher Lum Lee

\*Board Secretary/Treasurer; Chair: Legislative and Capital Improvement Programs Committee  
Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21

927-3484 (MAIN)

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6/10/2009

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