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The Honorable Todd Apo, Chair
and Members of the City Council
City and County of Honolulu
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Regular City Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 10, 2009 regarding
Bill 15 Executive Operating Budget, CD2

Dear Council Chair Todd Apo,

I am Gilbert Vaughan, owner-manager of the Royal Hawaiian Hot Dog Co. Inc in the Royal Hawaiian Center in Waikiki. I am writing in support of retaining the Office of Economic Development (OED) in Bill 15 Executive Operating Budget, CD2.

It is vitally important to retain all funds requested for OED in the Administration's FY 2010 Budget.

We have participated in the City's Sunset on the Beach program since it began and it has helped save our business from the economic downfalls of 9/11 and of our current recession and has enabled us to keep all our workers employed.

In addition, the Sunset on the Beach program is an extremely successful attraction/event that helps differentiate Hawaii from Mexico, the Caribbean and other tropical destinations.

If we take away our cultural celebrations and those things that make us special, we will be no different from anyone else. Especiall now, with the economic challenges facing us, it is essential to ensure the continuation of public/private cooperation to make the most of our resources.

We sincerely hope you will support Bill 15.

Thank you for your consideration,
Gilbert Vaughan

MISC. COM. 1203

COUNCIL