

March 31, 2015

1:15 PM

Conference Room 229

LATE TESTIMONY

To: Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

President Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.

RE: SCR 112 -- REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION TO ADDRESS ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OF THE COUNTY SURCHARGE ON STATE TAX TO THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

Comments Only

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on SCR 112, which recommends an audit of the Department of Taxation regarding the collection and payment of the rail surcharge.

A comprehensive examination of the rail transit project is long overdue and would help inform the associated debate about the progress of the project, its costs, actual and projected, and the need for (and desirability of) the surcharge.

With similar municipal projects around the country running into countless delays and cost overruns, we have a responsibility to ensure that this project does not become a burden for Hawaii's taxpayers. Therefore, in addition to considering the costs, progress, and status of this project, it is also incumbent upon us to consider best practices for raising revenue for Rail and promoting efficiency in the management of the project. Such safeguards can include: examining how the surcharge is collected and distributed, discovering opportunities for cost cutting, and identifying better ways to generate revenue for the building and maintenance of the rail (freeing the state from reliance on a GET surcharge). This is an opportunity to ensure that the rail project remains responsible to the legislature and Hawaii's citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Sincerely,

Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.

President, Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 7:42 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR112 on Mar 31, 2015 13:15PM*

SCR112

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for PSM on Mar 31, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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