

LATE TESTIMONY



HB 2598, HD 1 Relating to Affordable Housing
Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs

February 20, 2008
Room 312

10:00 am

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs supports the purpose and intent of HB 2598, HD 1.

The growing affordable housing problem is one of the most critical issues faced by our communities, especially our Native Hawaiian communities. This issue seems to have many of our families struggling to find adequate housing and to make ends meet.

OHA recognizes housing is the highest cost item for our families and more needs to be done to address the affordable housing issue or our families will continue to move down the economic and social ladder.

Until the building of affordable homes are done with building neighborhoods in mind instead of subdivisions, the urban cores where the jobs are need the affordable units.

Policies addressing the need to develop and create partners to do affordable rentals timely in the urban cores need to be adopted. The resources obtained need to be able to devote full time attention to this process.

OHA also advocates a commitment to reestablishing the relationship between the art of building and the making of community, through citizen-based participatory planning and design. Therefore, the resources obtained to devote full time attention to the process of developing partners to do affordable rentals and for sale units timely need to include the related communities.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide this testimony.