



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 17907  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Statement of  
**Chad K. Taniguchi**  
Hawaii Public Housing Authority  
Before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

February 25, 2008, 12:30 p.m.  
Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of  
**H.B. 2797**  
**RELATING TO THE KALOKO HOUSING PROGRAM**

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports H.B. 2797, which would provide the County of Hawaii with funds for the Kaloko Housing Program.

The Legislature has the formidable task of balancing a multitude of needs with limited resources. The HPHA is grateful for this legislation that would support the Hawaii County initiative to create a much needed homeless shelter to replace the only other shelter in the Kona area – Kawaihae Transitional Shelter.

Although the homeless population has experienced steady growth over the last four years, homeless shelter accommodation on the Big Island has remained the same for over eleven years: 24 transitional units at Kawaihae and 11 units of transitional housing plus 79 emergency shelter beds in Hilo. The January 2007 point in time count yielded 1,018 homeless persons on the Big Island on any given day, while our homeless data base puts the number at 1,264 homeless persons on any given day.

The Kawaihae shelter is on leased land with cesspool issues which require abatement. Additionally, the Kawaihae shelter is in a remote location which has serious transportation challenges for residents seeking employment and child care to help them transition to permanent housing. The buildings at Kawaihae Transitional Shelter are portables that have long outlived their original live expectancy, and the shelter is slated to close in June, 2009.

The Kaloko Project represents a community-based response to the need for homeless shelter in Kona. The County of Hawaii has expressed strong commitment with eight acres of land in central Kona in partnership with the community and business. Funding for this sorely needed project will create a respite for the homeless to move from homelessness to economic self sufficiency. The HPHA supports this bill.



Harry Kim  
Mayor

Dixie Kaetsu  
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow  
Deputy Managing Director

# County of Hawai'i

891 Ululani Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3982 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA: 75-5706 Kuakini Highway, Suite 103 • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
(808) 329-5226 • Fax (808) 326-5663

February 22, 2008

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro  
Chair, Committee on Finance  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee Members:

Re: HB 2797

In all of Kona and all of Kohala, we have only one homeless shelter (in Kawaihae), and it must close because of EPA regulations and problems with its lease. Thanks to some wonderful non-profit organizations like Catholic Charities, this issue was brought to my attention, and I became determined to make it my number one priority for this Legislative Session, in this my last year as mayor. I cannot, in good conscience, leave half of Hawai'i County without some shelter for our homeless population.

Our County Office of Housing and Community Development has worked with the service providers, and together they have developed a plan to establish the Kaloko Housing Program on an eight acre parcel of non-ceded land. If we are successful in securing funding, we will build more than a shelter, we will build a program. I will leave it to others to describe the vision, which is not extravagant but which is meant to meet the real needs of part of our homeless population.

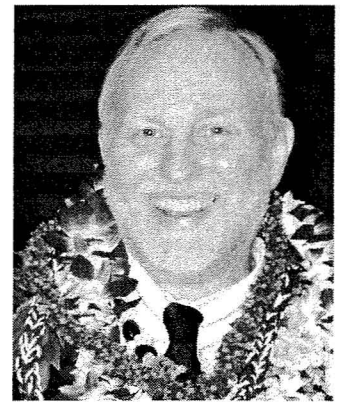
Thank you for your consideration of this bill. It reflects an urgent need, and I urgently ask for your approval.

Aloha,

Harry Kim  
MAYOR

**BOB JACOBSON**  
Councilmember

*Chair, Environmental Management Committee  
Vice-Chair, Finance Committee*



**HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL**

*County of Hawai'i*

333 Kīlauea Avenue, Second Floor  
Ben Franklin Building, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
Mailing Address: 25 Aupuni Street, Suite 200  
Phone: (808) 961-8263  
Fax: (808) 961-8912  
E-Mail: [bjacobson@co.hawaii.hi.us](mailto:bjacobson@co.hawaii.hi.us)

February 22, 2008

Representative Marcus Oshiro  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee  
And Members

Support Testimony regarding House Bill 2797, Hearing on Monday, February 25, 2008, 12:30 p.m.

Conference Room 308  
State Capitol  
115 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chairpersons, and Committee Members,

**I urge you to pass House Bill 2797. House Bill 2797 is to support the development of a homeless shelter for the Kaloko Housing program. This bill will appropriate funding for the design, planning, and construction of this much needed facility in West Hawaii. This facility will provide housing and services to the County of Hawaii's homeless population.**

**I humbly ask for your support of House Bill 2797.**

Mahalo nui loa,

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-chair  
Committee on Finance

From: Lori Tsuhako, LSW, ACSW  
Deputy Director, Department of Housing and Human Concerns  
County of Maui representative to the Maui Homeless Alliance  
Continuum of Care  
Phone: (808) 270-7805  
E-mail: lori.tsuhako@mauicounty.gov

FIN Public Hearing Date: Monday, February 25, 2008  
12:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 308

Friday, February 22, 2008

**Support of HB 2797 RELATING TO THE KALOKO HOUSING PROGRAM.**

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee Members:

We strongly support HB 2797, Relating to the Kaloko Housing Program, which would provide critical shelter services to homeless individuals and families on the Big Island. The County of Maui works closely with Hawaii County and other Counties throughout the State to advocate for funding and services to meet the needs of our growing homeless population. Maui County also participates in the Maui Alliance Continuum of Care (CoC) which is a collective effort between government, private industry, homeless providers and others in the community to strategically plan use of resources and to identify and meet "gaps" in service. The Koloko Housing Program is a service that will be a crucial resource for the most vulnerable citizens in our community.

**We urge the hearing of HB 2797, and the inclusion of the Kaloko Housing Program in the budget.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**A JOINT LEGISLATIVE EFFORT**

E-Mail to: [FINtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:FINtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Regarding: House FIN hearing  
Hearing: February 25, 2008 @ 12:30 p.m. in room 308

**HAWAII FAMILY FORUM BOARD**

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Yoshimitsu, Walter

**Date:** February 22, 2008  
**To:** House Committee Finance  
The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair  
**From:** Kelly M. Rosati, JD / Walter Yoshimitsu  
**Re:** **Support for HB 2797 Relating to Kaloko Housing Program**

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents over 210,000 Catholics in Hawaii.

We support HB 2797 which appropriates funds for the design, planning and construction of the Kaloko Housing Program in West Hawaii. The Kaloko Housing Program is designed to help the rapidly growing population of working poor, unable to find a place to live in their own community, struggling with inadequate transportation to maintain employment, care for their family and access to support services. An extremely limited number of programs and facilities are pressed to stretch their resources beyond capacity to accommodate the need of the homeless population.

The urgency of this shortage of services is heightened by the impending closure of Kawaihae Transitional Housing Program, the only shelter program in West Hawai'i, which currently provides services to homeless families from all over the Big Island. The closure of this facility will result in a dramatic loss in homeless services with an impact island-wide, leaving the island with a total of only twelve remaining units of housing to service its growing population of homeless families. This situation will leave the island of Hawai'i as one of the most severely underserved areas in the State.

We urge the committee to pass HB 2797.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

House of Representatives  
Twenty-fourth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Hearing Agenda #3

Monday, February 25, 2008  
12:30 p. m.

**Testimony in favor of HB2797 RELATING TO THE KALOKO HOUSING PROGRAM**

Testimony by: Ralph C. Boyea, Legislative Advocate, Hawai'i County Council

Chairperson Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Honored Representatives,

On behalf of the Hawai'i County Council, I ask you to pass House Bill 2797. House Bill 2797 appropriates funds for the design, planning and construction of the Kaloko Housing Program in West Hawai'i. This facility that will provide housing and services for families that are transitioning through the homeless continuum on the island of Hawai'i.

West Hawai'i will soon be losing its only homeless shelter. Mayor Harry Kim has made the replacement of that shelter a top priority for his Administration and his top priority for this legislative session. The Hawai'i County Council fully supports Mayor Kim in his efforts to provide housing and human services to our homeless population.

We humbly ask for your support of these efforts by passing **HB 2797**.

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-chair  
Committee on Finance

From: Patrick Hurney  
Catholic Charities Hawaii  
Kawaihae Transitional Housing Program  
P.O. Box 1976  
Kamuela, HI 96743

FIN Public Hearing Date: Monday, February 25, 2008  
12:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 308

Friday, February 22, 2008

**Support of HB 2797 RELATING TO THE KALOKO HOUSING PROGRAM.**

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee Members:

As the program director of the Kawaihae Transitional Housing Program , I strongly support HB 2797, Relating to the **Kaloko Housing Program**, which would **provide homeless families an opportunity to build skills and increase income to stabilize family and transition to permanent housing.**

In the past year, **I have witnessed 27, previously homeless, families' transition into permanent housing in West Hawaii.** If Kawaihae Transitional Housing Program must close due to EPA regulations, then West Hawaii would be without a homeless shelter for families and children. The Kaloko Housing Program could service as a model for the state to end homelessness and evolve into affordable housing units for local families. The location of Kaloko Housing Program is ideal for families to find additional public transportation, more jobs and auxiliary health and educational services to assist families' needs.

**I urge the hearing of HB 2797 and the inclusion of the Kaloko Housing Program in the budget.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Patrick Hurney  
Program Director  
Catholic Charities Hawaii  
Kawaihae Transitional Housing Program





## FINtestimony

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**From:** carolrign@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2008 2:34 PM  
**To:** FINtestimony  
**Subject:** HB2797 Agenda Item #3 (2/25/2008)

Honorable Finance Chair Marcus Oshiro:

I humbly ask your support and passage of HB2797 Agenda #3 regarding the funding of the Kaloko Transitional Housing Project in Kona. Housing for homeless and low-income families are at a crisis situation. Mayor Kim and the County Council is in full support of this project. Now it is critical that the Legislature help us with funding for the construction of the project.

Thank you in advance for your support and passage of this Bill. Mahalo.

z-z Carol R. Ignacio  
Executive Director  
Office for Social Ministry, Diocese of Honolulu  
140 B Holomua Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
Phone: 808-935-3050

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More new features than ever. Check out the new [AOL Mail!](#)

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-chair  
Committee on Finance

From: Gretchen Lawson, President/CEO  
The Arc of Kona  
Gretchen@arcofkona.org

FIN Public Hearing Date: Monday, February 25, 2008  
12:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 308

Friday, February 22, 2008

**Support of HB 2797 RELATING TO THE KALOKO HOUSING PROGRAM.**

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee Members:

We strongly support HB 2797, Relating to the Kaloko Housing Program, which would ...

The Arc of Kona is a not-for profit organization that supports people with disability. To insure the community has resources to support all vulnerable organizations, I am an advocate for people who do not normally participate and assert for themselves. Many people that are homeless are trying hard to re-integrate into society but in Kona and all the rest of the big Island there are few supports. Housing is a critical need. The only transitional housing project outside of Hilo will close in 2009; we desperately need this resource. Please vote favorably to support this bill.

**We urge the hearing of HB 2797, and the inclusion of the Kaloko Housing Program in the budget.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-chair  
Committee on Finance

From: Emelda Sanchez  
C & H Properties  
66-1676 Wai'aka Place  
Kamuela, HI 96743

FIN Public Hearing Date: Monday, February 25, 2008  
12:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 308

Friday, February 22, 2008

**Support of HB 2797 RELATING TO THE KALOKO HOUSING PROGRAM.**

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee Members:

As a licensed realtor and property manager for the past five years in West Hawaii, I strongly support HB 2797, Relating to the **Kaloko Housing Program**, which would **provide homeless families an opportunity to build skills and increase income to stabilize family and transition to permanent housing.**

I have witnessed rental fees increasing in West Hawaii dramatically, **currently an average three bedroom home rents from \$1800.00 per month and up.** The location of Kaloko Housing Program is ideal for families to find easier transportation, more jobs and services to assist families make the jump to private market rentals and possible homeownership.

**I urge the hearing of HB 2797, and the inclusion of the Kaloko Housing Program in the budget.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Emelda Sanchez (RS)

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-chair  
Committee on Finance

From: David Garcia, Chair  
Community Alliance Partners, Hawaii County Continuum of Care  
hawaiicap@gmail.com 808-325-7009

FIN Public Hearing Date: Monday, February 25, 2008  
12:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 308

**Strongly Support HB 2797 RELATING TO THE KALOKO HOUSING PROGRAM.**

The Community Alliance Partners (CAP) is a partnership of homeless, social service, and healthcare providers, business owners, housing developers, faith-based organizations, county housing, and interested individuals who address issues which impact the island's homeless population and other housing needs to find solutions and funding opportunities.

The goal of the Kaloko Housing Program is to provide an urgently needed replacement for West Hawaii's only family shelter program, Kawaihae Transitional Housing, which currently provides 66% of the Big Island services for this target population. This program's closing, slated for June 2009, will leave only 12 units to service the families of the entire island. It will also address the source of the West Hawaii housing crisis by increasing the inventory of affordable, service-enriched rental units for working families.

According to the 2007 Homeless Point-in-Time study, over 65% of the state's homeless population in the rural counties is on the Big Island. The growing number of homeless families is up 27% over the 2005 count. Closing the Kawaihae facility leaves the Big Island with the lowest number of transitional housing units for families in the entire state.

Because of this critical community issue, the CAP has launched a comprehensive grassroots effort with Big Island stakeholders to educate and solicit input regarding perceived need. From these efforts, we have collected over 1,400 supporting signatures from faith-based organizations, social service and healthcare agencies, local businesses, and homeless individuals. Please see the 2<sup>nd</sup> page for a list of participating organizations.

The outpouring of written testimony supporting HB 2797 from local constituents and the entire CAP demonstrates the urgency for the committee to act righteously on behalf of the people of the Big Island. We believe the Kaloko Housing program will improve outcomes for participating families by offering on-site services with greater access to healthcare, employment, education, and community life.

David Garcia, Chair CAP

**Faith-Based Communities**

Annunciation Catholic Church Waimea  
Christ Church Episcopal Kealahou  
Kona Beth Shalom  
Kona Coast Chaplaincy  
Lanakila Congregational Church Kainaliu  
Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity Kona  
Mokuaikaua Congregational Church Kona  
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church Honokaa  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church Hawi  
Society of Friends(Quakers) Kona & Volcano  
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Kealahou  
St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church Kona  
United Methodist Church Kona

**Social Services, Healthcare, Education**

Care Hawaii, Inc.  
Family Support Services of West Hawaii  
Habitat for Humanity  
Hui Laulima Council  
Kawaihae Transitional Shelter  
Kealahou Elementary School  
Neighborhood Place of Kona  
North Kona Catholic Community Religious Education  
The Friendly Place

**Businesses**

ATR Property Management  
Club Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy  
Copy Post Plus, Inc.  
Current Events  
Gemfire  
Holualoa Companies  
Innovations Hair Salon  
ITR Property Management  
The Club of Kona  
UPS @ Kopiko Plaza

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-chair  
Committee on Finance

From: Sonia Scadden  
St. Michael's Social Ministry and CAP member  
808-329-7133

FIN Public Hearing Date: Monday, February 25, 2008  
12:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 308

**Strongly Support HB 2797 RELATING TO THE KALOKO HOUSING PROGRAM.**

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee Members,

The only program that provides shelter for homeless families in West Hawaii, the Kawaihae Transitional Shelter, is scheduled to be terminated in 16 months. The effectiveness of this program is demonstrated by the fact that, last year, 18 of the 24 families housed there successfully transitioned to permanent housing. We now have the opportunity to build an even better program for homeless families, called the Kaloko Housing Program.

Imagine you are sitting at a table with an assortment of puzzle pieces, and you know that when you put them altogether you will have something unique and wonderful.

It is always challenging to put the odd shapes together. These shapes have names printed on them instead of pictures.

There are the straight edged pieces that you start with to be the border. You find it easier to start with them because most are in place already: County, Land, Affordable Housing Developer, and Federal Funds for Design, Environmental Impact Study, Habitat for Humanity, Catholic Charities Hawaii, Community Alliance Partners, Infrastructure, and Public Support.

Now that you have the frame around the outside of the puzzle completed, you fill in the irregular shapes inside with names of providers like: Job Training and Placement, Transportation Services, Adult Education, Counseling, Personal Budgeting, GED, ESL, Institute for Family Enrichment, Keiki Play Program for Toddlers, Youth Enrichment Activities, Office of Social Ministry, Care a Van, Renters Education, Homeless Referrals, Credit Counseling Hawaii, Work Force Development, Alta Staffing, Kona Community School for Adults, Hale Kipa, Head Start, Healthy Start, Neighborhood Place of Kona, Private Agencies, Community Agencies, and Family Guidance Center (DOH).

These essential partnerships are currently part of the transitional housing program operated by Catholic Charities Hawaii at Kawaihae and are the reasons for its success. There needs to be a place for this successful program to continue when the Kawaihae program is closed in June 2009. Establishing the Kaloko Housing Program closer to the urban area of Kona will also result in increased availability to service providers. That is why we are asking for state funds to build the Kaloko Housing Program.

You, the Finance Committee, are desperately needed to complete the picture. Without you, it will remain just a pile of puzzle pieces on the table gathering dust, and the families with the children currently being served will be back out on the street.

Fax 1-800 535 3859

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-chair  
Committee on Finance

From: Name Thomas Hering  
Organization Saint Michaels Church, Kona  
Contact info 325 2593

FIN Public Hearing Date: Monday, February 25, 2008  
12:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 308

Friday, February 22, 2008

**Support of HB 2797 RELATING TO THE KALOKO HOUSING PROGRAM.**

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee Members:

We strongly support HB 2797, Relating to the Kaloko Housing Program, which would ... replace the only emergency family housing program in West Hawaii. When the present Kawaihae shelter is forced to close we will have children sleeping on the beach unless the Kaloko Program is available to help.

**We urge the hearing of HB 2797, and the inclusion of the Kaloko Housing Program in the budget.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-chair  
Committee on Finance

From: Jack & Madeleine Ferguson  
Catholic Charities Hawaii  
73-4328 Keokeo St., Kailua Kona HI, 96740

FIN Public Hearing Date: Monday, February 25, 2008  
12:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 308

Friday, February 22, 2008

**Support of HB 2797 RELATING TO THE KALOKO HOUSING PROGRAM.**

*3/25/08 AGENDA #3*

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee Members:

We strongly support HB 2797, Relating to the Kaloko Housing Program, which would fulfill a need for interim housing in West Hawaii which would otherwise end with the termination of the Kawaihae Interim Housing Project scheduled for June of this year. The existing program has been very successful and has allowed many low income citizens to retain their dignity and eventually acquire their own housing after completion of the training offered. Please do not let this valuable program go unfunded.

**We urge the hearing of HB 2797, and the inclusion of the Kaloko Housing Program in the budget.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

*Jack & Madeleine Ferguson*  
Jack & Madeleine Ferguson

PH: (808) 325-5446