

**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 HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING**

February 14, 2008, 9:25 a.m.  
Room 329, 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.

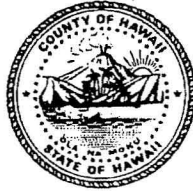
The Legislature has the formidable task of balancing a multitude of needs with limited resources. The HPHA is grateful for this legislation that would support the Hawaii County initiative to create a much needed homeless shelter to replace the only other shelter in the Kona area – Kawaihae Transitional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

25 Aupuni Street, Room 215 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252 • (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 11, 2008

The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro  
Chair, Committee on Human Services  
and Housing  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Shimabukuro 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 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.

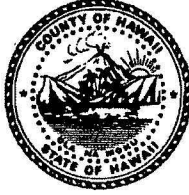
Our County Office of Housing and Community Development has worked with the service providers, and together they have developed a plan to establish the Kaloko Housing Program on an eight acre parcel of non-ceded land. If we are successful in securing funding, we will build more than a shelter, we will 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 of HB 2797.

Aloha,

  
Harry Kim  
MAYOR

Harry Kim  
Mayor



Edwin S. Taira  
Housing Administrator

*County of Hawaii*  
**OFFICE OF HOUSING AND  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
50 Wailuku Drive • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-2456  
V/TT (808) 961-8379 • FAX (808) 961-8685

February 13, 2008

The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair  
And Committee Members  
*Committee on Human Services and Housing*

Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008

**SUBJECT: House Bill 2797  
Relating to Kaloko Housing Program  
Hearing Date: February 14, 2008  
Time: 9:25 a.m.  
Conference Room: 329**

The Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) supports House Bill 2797 to appropriate \$12 million for the development of the Kaloko Housing Program on the island of Hawai'i.

The OHCD is facilitating the development of the Kaloko Housing Program (KHP), a fifty-four unit multi-family, cluster homes program, which will provide short- and long-term rental service-enriched housing.

The reason it is a top priority for our County is that the KHP is needed to replace the Ka Hale O Kawaihae Transitional Housing Program (24 units), a temporary transitional housing program scheduled for closure in 2009. The facility, which current violates EPA large capacity cesspool standards, is the only shelter that currently serves homeless families in West Hawai'i.

The OHCD has worked with local service providers for over 15 years to find a suitable and permanent location on which to construct a comprehensive housing program, which will include a warehouse to (1) house The Food Basket (formerly known as the Hawai'i Island Food Bank) and Habitat for Humanity; and (2) provide employment opportunities for the participants.

As this program provides housing, employment and educational opportunities for this vulnerable population, the OHCD respectfully requests your amendment of HB 2797. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Edwin S. Taira  
Housing Administrator



House of Representatives  
Twenty-fourth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING

Hearing  
Thursday, February 14, 2008  
9:25 a.m.

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

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

Chairperson Shimabukuro 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 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.

**A JOINT LEGISLATIVE EFFORT**

E-Mail to: [HShtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:HShtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Regarding: House HSH hearing  
Hearing: February 14, 2008 @ 9:25 a.m. in room 329

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**Date:** February 11, 2008

**To:** House Committee Human Services & Housing  
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

**From:** Kelly M. Rosati, JD  
Executive Director, Hawaii Family Forum  
Lobbyist, Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii

**Re:** **Support for HB 2797 Relating to Kaloko Housing Program**

Honorable Chair and members of the House Committee on Human Services & Housing, I am Kelly Rosati, representing both the Hawaii Family Forum and the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii. 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.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Representative Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice-chair  
Human Services and Housing Committee (HSH)

FROM: Sr. Earnest Chung, Social Policy Director  
Catholic Charities Hawaii  
(808) 527-4461 [srearnest@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:srearnest@catholiccharitieshawaii.org)

Date: Thursday, February 14, 2008  
9:25 a.m.  
Conference Room 329

In support of HB 2797  
RELATING TO THE KALOKO HOUSING PROGRAM

On behalf of Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify, and to request your full support of HB 2797 which appropriate funds for the design, planning, and construction of the Kaloko housing program in West Hawaii to help families affected by homelessness.

CCH has been providing homeless and housing services throughout the State for the past several decades. Most notable are CCH's two transitional housing programs: Maililand on Oahu's Waianae Coast, and Kawaihae, in West Hawaii on the Big Island of Hawaii. Our mission is to serve those in the greatest of need, and that includes the homeless and those needing affordable housing.

As such CCH is in strong support of this legislation for the **Kaloko Housing Program** which would provide housing and supportive services to stabilize families affected by homelessness.

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.

Furthermore, the urgency of this shortage of services is heightened by the impending closure of the Kawaihae Transitional Housing Program, the only shelter program in West Hawai`i, which currently provides services to homeless families from all over the Island of Hawai`i. The closure of this facility, due to health and safety concerns, 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.

Again, CCH strongly supports HB 2797 which appropriate the sum of \$12,000,000 for the design, planning and construction of the Kaloko housing program in West Hawaii and we urge you to pass HB2797 to your Finance Committee for strong consideration.

Thank you.

Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair  
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Human Services and Housing

Community Alliance Partners – Hawai`i Island Continuum of Care to End Homelessness  
(808) 329-7133 [hawaiicap@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiicap@gmail.com)

CPH Public Hearing Date: 2/14/08 in Conference Room 329

Support of 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 1,200 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

David Garcia, CAP Chair

Sonia Scadden, CAP Legislative Advocate



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**From:** Carolrign@aol.com [mailto:Carolrign@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 11:47 AM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 2797

Honorable Chair Josh Green and Committee Members:

The leadership and community of the island of Hawaii continues to work hard and long to minimize the numbers of families and children who are faced each day without a roof over their heads. For the past 22 years I have had the privilege to work with these families and their plight and struggle to meet life's basic need of food, health care and housing. It continues to be an uphill battle but we are making a difference in this struggle - due to a real commitment of you our legislators, our Mayor Kim, providers and community folks who realize that "it takes a community to solve homelessness."

Please support **HB 2797**. We have an opportunity after nearly 15 years of concerted efforts to have a transitional housing program become a reality in West Hawaii. We cannot let this opportunity slip away.

Again, I humbly ask for your support of **HB 2797**.

Thank you very much.

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