

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

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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 2nd 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

"West Hawaii Needs Kaloko Housing" Participating Organizations

Faith-Based Communities

Annunciation Catholic Church Waimea
 Christ Church Episcopal Kealahou
 Kona Beth Shalom
 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

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