

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

March 10, 2008

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice-Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Twenty-Fifth Legislature Regular Session of 2008

SUBJECT: House Bill 2797

Relating to the Kaloko Housing Program Hearing Date: March 11, 2008 at 2:30 p.m.

Conference Room: 016

The Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) supports House Bill 2797 which would appropriate \$12 million to the development of the Kaloko Housing Program (KHP).

Due to non-compliance with current EPA large capacity cesspool requirements, Ka Hale O Kawaihae Transitional Housing Program (24 transitional units) is **scheduled for closure** in 2009. As a result, the County will lose its **only** housing program that serves homeless families in West Hawai`i.

The OHCD is facilitating the development of the KHP, a 54-unit multi-family, cluster homes program, which will provide short-and long-term rental service-enriched housing. The KHP will include a facility to house **The Food Basket** (formerly known as the Hawai`i Island Food Bank) and **Habitat for Humanity**, which will in turn provide employment opportunities for program participants. As there are currently **no immediate neighbors** in the area, it is critical that the County secure the funding needed to develop this program **as soon as possible**.



The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice-Chair The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair Page 2 March 10, 2008

For more than 20 years, the OHCD has collaborated with its local service providers and community stakeholders to find a suitable and permanent location on which to construct the KHP. The County is hopeful that this comprehensive housing program will be a successful model for future housing programs in the State.

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

Edwin S. Taira

Housing Administrator



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

TO:

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Les Ihara Vice-chair

Committee on Human Services and Public Housing (HSP)

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs (IGM)

FROM:

Sr. Earnest Chung, Social Policy Director

Catholic Charities Hawaii

(808) 527-4461 sreamest@catholiccharitieshawaii.org

Date:

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

2:30 p.m.

Conference Room 016

In support of HB 2797, HD1

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, HD1 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 funds for the design, planning and construction of the Kaloko housing program in West Hawaii and we urge you to pass HB2797, HD1 to your Ways and Means Committee for full funding.

Thank you very much for your consideration.





A JOINT LEGISLATIVE EFFORT

E-Mail to: testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov Regarding: Senate HSP/IGM hearing Hearing: March 11, 2008 @ 2:30 p.m. in room 016

Date:

March 10, 2008

To:

Senate Committee on Human Services & Public Housing

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on InterGovernmental and Military Affairs

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, 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 HD 1 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 HD 1 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 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HAWAII FAMILY FORUM BOARD

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Austin Imamura Vice-President

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Brogan, Mary Lou D'Olier, H. Mitchell Pace, Dr. Nancy Papandrew, Tom Paty, William Pflueger, Nancy Tsujimura, R. Brian Young, Sandra

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Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

From: David Garcia, Chair

Community Alliance Partners, Hawaii County Continuum of Care

hawaiicap@gmail.com 808-325-7009

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 has units for 24 families and a long waiting list. Because of the success of the Kawaihae program, last year 18 out of 24 families transitioned to permanent housing. This program's closing, slated for June 2009, will leave an area 3X the size of Oahu with NO facility for families who are homeless and only 12 units located in East Hawaii to service the families of the entire island.

The Kaloko Housing Program will also address the source of the West Hawaii housing crisis by increasing the inventory of affordable, service-enriched rental units for working families. Landlords in West Hawaii are so greedy with what they charge for rents that none accept Section 8 vouchers. They can ask whatever they want because there are always vacationers who are willing to pay the steep rents instead of the competing hotel room rates.

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 <u>lowest</u> 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 that have been submitted with prior testimonies from faith-based organizations, social service and healthcare agencies, local businesses, and homeless individuals. Please see below 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 because of its location 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 Kealakekua
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 Kealakekua
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
Kealakehe 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
The Club of Kona
UPS @ Kopiko Plaza

Committee on Human Services and Public Housing Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

From: Sonia Scadden

St. Michael's Church Social Ministry Committee, Kailua-Kona

HSP-IGM Public Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 (2:30 p.m. Rm 016)

Support of HB 2797 RELATING TO THE KALOKO HOUSING PROGRAM

My name is Sonia Scadden. I live in Kailua-Kona on the Big Island. I am an active member of the Social Ministry Committee of St. Michael's Catholic Church and represent St. Michael's on CAP, the Community Alliance Partners that works to find solutions to homelessness. As a volunteer involved in feeding the homeless at the Friendly Place in Kailua-Kona, I have the opportunity to talk to many of those in our community who have no place of their own to call home or to raise their children. Their stories have profoundly affected me, and that is why I am testifying today. One story, in particular, has a happy ending.

When I first testified before the Housing and Human Services Committee on January 27, I told the story about a working couple who came for lunch at the Friendly Place. They were well-dressed and I had not seen them before. In conversation with them, I learned that they were both working in town and had come on their lunch hour for a hot meal. They told me that they had children, but because their family was homeless, they spent the nights outdoors somewhere in the bushes. This was no way for parents to be forced to raise their children! Even though they were both working, they did not make enough money to afford any available place to rent.

By the time I testified before Senator Kokubun's Commerce, Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing Committee, I was very pleased to announce that the very same couple had been accepted at Kawaihae Transitional Shelter because another family had just found permanent housing and so there was a place for a new family there. Fifteen months from now with the closing of Kawaihae Transitional Shelter, West Hawaii will not have a facility that can provide happy endings to stories like this unless the Kaloko Housing Program is built and it cannot be built without state funding.

Based on the 2007 Homeless Service Utilization Report published by the Center on the Family at the University of Hawaii at Manoa there were 1,228 unsheltered people on the Big Island. It is a sad fact that 424 were children, 210 under the age of 5. Hawaii County has the largest percentage of unsheltered children under the age of 5 in the state. It is hard enough to be a parent these days, but imagine trying to be a parent and have to live unsheltered, being constantly on watch for your children's safety.

Currently, the West Hawaii CAP Outreach Committee is conducting a campaign to educate citizens about the homeless issues and the need for the Kaloko Housing Program and we have collected their signatures on petitions in support of the Kaloko Housing Program. Over 1,400 petitions with signatures have been submitted with previous testimonies. All of us strongly urge you to provide funding for HB 2797.

P.O. Box 2020 15-3039 Pahoa Village Rd. Pahoa, HI 96778



Telephone: 965-5550

Fax: 965-5109

Email:npp2020@hawaii.rr.com

Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

RE: Kaloko Project Bill HB2797

March 10, 2008

In December I wrote to Senator Chun - Oakland and Senator Iharra asking for their support of the Kaloko Housing Program. I am asking for your support again today for this project. As you know, the Kawaihae Transitional Housing Program will be closing and the people living there have no place to go. When Kawaihae closes no transitional housing will be available for homeless people in West Hawaii.

We are keenly aware, as I know you are, of the lack of affordable housing especially in West Hawaii. Most homeless families are working families unable to pay their monthly rent, electric, food and clothing. The stereotypical homeless person — single, alcoholic or mentally ill, pushing a shopping cart or a cardboard box does exist but that is the visible homeless person. Our families with children are hidden in blue tarps on skids without water and without electricity. In December I told you about a family we dropped off at the homeless shelter in Hilo. We did our three month follow up to find that this family of three had moved into transitional housing and was enrolled in employment and training programs. They were stable and very, very happy. Our families in West Hawaii need these services also.

The Kaloko program is an excellent model with great promise. Please help us in supporting this program.

Sincerely,

Mary Hyslop

Executive Director

Fax 800-586-6659

To: Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

From: Thomas Hering

Saint Michaels Church

Kailua Kona

HSP-IGM Public Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 (2:30 p.m. Rm 016)

Support of HB 2797 RELATING TO THE KALOKO HOUSING PROGRAM.

We strongly support HB 2797, Relating to the Kaloko Housing Program, to appropriate \$12,000,000 for the construction of a comprehensive housing program to support homeless and low-income families on the Island of Hawai'i. When the homeless Shelter for families at Kawaihae is forced to close in June of 2009 there will be no Shelter available in West Hawaii. and we will have children sleeping on the beaches.

We urge the committee to pass HB 2797. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thomas Hering

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To: Committee on Human Services and Public Housing Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

From: Roslyn Cohen, RN, MSN

EcoHealth and Wellness Services

cohenr002@hawaii.rr.com

808-345-6252

HSP-IGM Public Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 (2:30 p.m. Rm. 016)

In Support of HB 2797 RELATING TO THE KALOKO HOUSING PROGRAM. to appropriate \$12,000,000 for the construction of a comprehensive housing program

As a behavioral health nurse, educator and advocate, I strongly support HB 2797. For over 12 years as a West Hawaii healthcare provider in both hospital and community settings, I have experienced the increasing difficulties of securing essential housing and service linkage for the burgeoning numbers of our homeless and low-income families.

The contributing geopolitical, socioeconomic, and neurobiologic factors to our housing and healthcare gaps are well documented in reports from the Hawaii County Survey of Social Indicators by the Mental Health of America Association, the Hawai'i Department of Health's Adult Mental Health, Child/Adolescent Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and Public Health divisions, Hawaii County office of housing, as well as University of Hawai'i MHRSET epidemiologic studies.

The scheduled 2009 closing of the Kawaihae Transitional Facility, the only West Hawai'i housing for families-in-transition, will leave the Big Island with the lowest number of statewide transitional housing units for families. This is especially daunting considering the 2007 Hawai'i Homeless Point-in-Time Count findings which purport that over 65% of the state's rural homeless population is on the Big Island, with a 27% increase of homeless families since the 2005 count.

Besides mitigating the disability, dysfunction and distress to our homeless children and adults, stable housing relieves some of the community effects of homelessness, including increases in hospital, jail, and prison use, public school disruptions, and public safety issues which adversely impact community residents and businesses

I urge you to vote in support of SB 2797 and appropriate funds for the Kaloko Housing program as it offers to promote individual, family, and community health on the Big Island, and specifically in West Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony,

Roslyn Cohen, RN, MSN

From: RWSurber [rwsurber@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 9:51 AM

To: testimony

Cc: julie.nagasako@catholiccharitieshawaii.org

Subject: Support HB 2797

I am writing to encourage your to support HB 2797 which will provided needed housing resources for homeless people in West Hawaii. I am an independent health and human services consultant with national and international experience in developing mental health and substance abuse treatment programs. I also am involved in implementing the Hawaii Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant.

The problems associated with mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders often lead to homelessness. Hawaii is currently implementing state-of-the-art programs to treat these disorders. Yet, without a safe place to live, treatment efforts cannot be effective. It is necessary to provide the housing and support services as proposed in the Kaloko housing project to help people to be able to use the treatment services that are available to recovery from these disorders.

I urge your support of HB 2797

Mahalo

Robert W. Surber

Robert Surber & Associates

Enhancing Performance & Improving Outcomes For Health & Human Services PO Box 422 Honomu, HI 96728

Tel: 808.963.5181

E-mail: <u>RWSurber@aol.com</u> Web: <u>www.RobertSurber.com</u>

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From: Name

Organization Contact info

HSP-IGM Public Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 (2:30 p.m. Rm 016)

Support of HB 2797 RELATING TO THE KALOKO HOUSING PROGRAM.

We strongly support HB 2797, Relating to the Kaloko Housing Program, to appropriate \$12,000,000 for the construction of a comprehensive housing program to support homeless and low-income families on the Island of Hawai'i.

description of your organization, and position, state or list the reasons for taking your position, starting with the most important or compelling reasons. Include any facts, figures, statements, and experiences to support your position.

urge to support the \$12 million

We urge the committee to pass HB 2797. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Testimony HB2797 - Relating to Kaloko Housing Project Senate HSP/IGM Committee, Wednesday, March 11, 2008 2:30 pm Conf Room 016

Michael D. Ullman, Homeless Service Consultant 808-391-7963/mdarrenu@yahoo.com

POSITION: Support with Amendment for All Housing to be Permanent Housing

Dear Chair:

While housing for low-income and homeless families is greatly needed on the Big Island, I would strongly urge an Amendment to this Bill to require that ALL housing built be permanent housing or permanent supportive housing (housing plus services). The key differences are that families moving into this housing can stay as long as they desire and they are no longer considered homeless.

There is no need for homeless transitional housing. Research has shown that homeless families only need subsidized housing, and supportive services are unnecessary. The only families that need supportive services are those where adult heads of households are mentally ill or active substance abusers – and typically transitional housing kicks these families out of the system upon initial rules violation.

In addition, transitional shelters only serve to increase homelessness by creating incentives for families to enter the homeless service system, by fostering new household formation among already low-income households, and by continuing to label families homeless, when they are safe, secure and independent in housing.

Transitional housing costs more than permanent housing and creates more of a problem in the long-run. Permanent housing does everything you want – reduces homelessness – and costs less – and will serve approximately the same amount of people in the long-run, since permanent housing will have turnover similar to transitional housing.

The Big Island of Hawaii has been too long neglected – since its homelessness prevalence is an estimated 2 times that of Oahu. The Kaloko housing project should create ONLY sober, permanent affordable-housing for homeless/very-low income families.

Thank you

Michael Ullman Homeless Services Consultant

Ullman HB2797

The Senate Twenty-fourth Legislature Regular Session of 2008

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Hearing

Tuesday, March 11, 2008 2:30 p. m.

Testimony in favor of HB2797, HD1 RELATING TO THE KALOKO HOUSING PROGRAM

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

Chairperson Chunn Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara Chairperson Inouye, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Honored Senators,

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 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.

There is an urgent need to start the planning and construction of this facility. We ask that you change the effective date of this Bill from 7/1/2020 to 7/1/2008.

We humbly ask for your support of the County's efforts by passing **HB** 2797.

From: Zola Ingram [zolaingram@hawaii.rr.com]

Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 5:45 AM

To: testimony **Subject**: HB 2797

Dear Senator Lorraine R. Inouye,

We are members of the North Kona Catholic Community and see the great need for a homeless shelter and affordable housing in West Hawaii. We strongly support HB2797. Please support this bill and appropriate the \$12,000,000 for construction of the Kaloko Housing Program. Mahalo.

Sincerely, John and Zola Ingram

From: Shirley [shirleydavid@hawaii.rr.com]

Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 11:38 AM

To: testimony

Subject: Support of HB 2787, Kaloko Housing Program

To: Committee on Human Services and Public Housing Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

RE: HSP-IGM Public Hearing Date: Tuesday, 03-11-08 2:30 p.m. Room 016. Support of HB 27, Kaloko Housing Program

I strongly support SB 2187: Making an Appropriation for West Hawai'i Housing, which would be used to build the Kaloko Transitional housing for homeless families.

After June 2009 West Hawaii will have no transitional housing for homeless families unless the Kaloko Housing project is built.

Please support the full \$12 million request for funding the Koloko Housing Program when it comes up for your vote. West Hawaii is in dire need for low income housing of all kinds. The Koloko Housing program will provide transitional housing that will be lost when the Kawaihae Transitional Housing program closes. It will also provide low-income housing which is often talked about here in West Hawaii but never seems to come to fruition. It seems that it must be an effort of all levels of government, non profit and religious organizations, the private sector to make it happen.

I work with the poor and homeless in many capacities in my volunteer and work life. At St. Michael's Church every Friday morning, we distribute food to the houseless and poor from as far away as Ocean View. They are all God's children who are just trying to keep themselves positive and their families together with the little they have and relying on the charity of others.

Affordable housing makes it possible for families to be more self-sufficient. Transitional housing programs such as Kawaihae's program has proven that low income housing with training prove many with the skills to succeed with money management, jobs and child rearing that make them productive members of society and good tenants.

Please show your compassion for the neediest of our community by supporting low-income housing programs especially HB 2787.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Shirley David

Shirley David 77-207 Ho'Owaiwai Place Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 shirleydavid@hawaii.rr.com 808 756-1633

From:

HeringTom@aol.com

Sent:

Friday, March 07, 2008 7:50 PM

To:

testimony

Subject: Support of HB 2797

To:

Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

From: Thomas Hering

Saint Michaels Church

Kailua Kona

HSP-IGM Public Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 (2:30 p.m. Rm 016)

RELATING TO THE KALOKO HOUSING PROGRAM. Support of HB 2797

We strongly support HB 2797, Relating to the Kaloko Housing Program, to appropriate \$12,000,000 for the construction of a comprehensive housing program to support homeless and low-income families on the Island of Hawai'i. When the homeless Shelter for families at Kawaihae is forced to close in June of 2009 there will be no Shelter available in West Hawaii. and we will have children sleeping on the beaches.

We urge the committee to pass HB 2797. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thomas Hering

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