



PARTNERS IN CARE

LATE

Testimony for: Committee on Human Services and Housing and Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Hearing Date and Time: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 @ 2:30 p.m.

Place: Conference room 016

H.B. 2797, HD1- Related to Housing

Dear Chairpersons: Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, and Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair: Senator Les Ihara, Jr., and Senator Shan S. Tsutsi, and Members of the Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am Darryl Vincent the Chairperson of the Advocacy Committee for Partners In Care and Director of US VETS-Hawaii. I am testifying in strong support of HB 2797, HD1, which provides funding to create solutions for transitional and permanent housing for the homeless families on the island of Hawaii.

Partners in Care is a membership organization of providers of homeless services, concerned professionals, units of local and state government, consumers, and other community representatives located in the City and County of Honolulu. We are a coordinating body that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill gaps in the Continuum of Care on O'ahu and provides direction in response to HUD's Continuum of Care annual announcement for homeless assistance funds. In addition, Partners in Care collaborates with neighborhood islands Continuum of Care to work on solutions for homelessness for the entire state of Hawaii.

Partners in Care strongly support the \$12 million proposed for the Kaloko Housing Program in Kona. The Kaloko Housing Program (KHP) is a 54-unit multi-family program that will include transitional and affordable, permanent rental housing. Phase I will include 24 units to replicate and enhance transitional housing and services currently offered at Hale O Kawaihae Transitional Housing Program, which faces closure due to its non-compliance with EPA gang cesspool requirements. Phase I will also incorporate communal uses such as classrooms and recreational facilities, office space for supportive services, and a facility for establishing an employment component. Phase II will offer 30 service-enriched affordable, permanent rental housing units to provide longer-term housing opportunities for participants successfully transitioning from emergency housing programs or working families in need of affordable rental housing.

While permanent affordable housing is the ultimate solution there is still a need for transitional housing as well. The Kaloko Housing program accomplishes both of the goals of having

PARTNERS IN CARE c/o Aloha United Way • 200 North Vineyard • Suite
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transitional and permanent housing. The Transitional Housing segment of this project is a must needed first step for many homeless families that need time to establish an income, clear up credit matters, and start practicing the much needed daily life skills that are required to sustain independent living. The transitional housing program will provide such an opportunity to many homeless families that need that type of support before moving on to permanent housing.

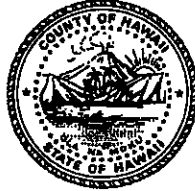
This transition period helps gives the families the best chance for sustained success once they move into permanent housing.

With the state's commitment to reducing homelessness, we are excited about the possibilities to come. The passage of HB 2797 HD1 would help provide the resources to create a transitional housing program, low income rentals, and provide the supportive services that are needed to help individuals and families who are homeless on the Island of Hawaii. Please pass HB 2797, HD1 out of this Committee.

Mahalo,
Darryl J. Vincent, Partners in Care
Submitted, March 11, 2008

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Harry Kim
Mayor



LATE

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March 10, 2008

The Honorable Suzanne Chun-Oakland
Chair, Committee on Human Services
and Public Housing
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye
Chair, Committee on Intergovernmental
and Military Affairs
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Chun-Oakland, Chair Inouye, and Committee Members:

Re: HB 2797, HD 1

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. The cost of the project is \$12,000,000.

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, HD 1.

Aloha,

Handwritten signature of Harry Kim in cursive script.
Harry Kim
MAYOR

HB 2797 HD1
RELATING TO THE KALOKO HOUSING PROGRAM

Senate Committee on Human Services and
Public Housing
Committee on Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs

March 11, 2008

2:30 pm

Room 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs supports the purpose and intent of HB 2797, 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.

The continued increased pressure on government to provide financing assistance for the development, planning, and construction of transition and affordable housing has not ceased. Your support for the Kaloko Housing Program is much needed for Hawaii County.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to provide testimony.

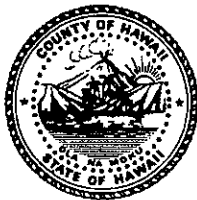
BOB JACOBSON

Councilmember

Chair, Environmental Management Committee

Vice-Chair, Finance Committee

Vice-President Hawai'i State Association of Counties



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i

LATE

March 8, 2008

Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

And Members

Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair

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

Conference Room 016

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

RE: HB 2797 Relating to the Kaloko Housing Program

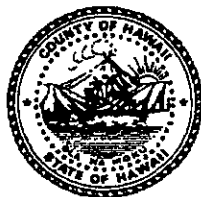
Aloha Chairpersons, and Committee Members,

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. The current facility will be closing thereby leaving homeless individuals and families in a critical situation.

I humbly ask for your support of House Bill 2797 and approve the appropriation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Harry Kim
Mayor



LATE

Lincoln S. T. Ashida
Corporation Counsel

Gerald Takase
Assistant Corporation
Counsel

COUNTY OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL
101 Aupuni Street, Suite 325 ~ Hilo, Hawaii 'i 96720-4262 ~ (808)961-8251 ~ FAX: (808)961-8622

March 10, 2008

TO : Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland
Chairman, Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye
Chairman, Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

FROM: Gerald Takase
Assistant Corporation Counsel

RE : HB 2797, HD 1
Relating to Kaloko Housing Program
Hearing: Tuesday, March 11, 2008, 2:30 p.m., Conf Rm. 016

COPIES/ITEMS	DATE	DESCRIPTION
Original	03/10/08	Testimony in support of HB 2797, HD 1.

TRANSMITTED FOR:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Information and Files | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Processing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signature | <input type="checkbox"/> Review and Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signature and Forwarding As Noted Below | <input type="checkbox"/> See Remarks Below |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pursuant to Your Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Filing and Return (Envelope Enclosed) |

REMARKS:

/de
Enc.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Lincoln S.T. Ashida
Corporation Counsel

Gerald Takase
Assistant Corporation Counsel

COUNTY OF HAWAII
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March 10, 2008

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland
Chairman, Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
and

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye
Chairman, Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senators Oakland and Inouye and Committee Members:

Re: HB 2797, HD 1

The County of Hawai'i supports HB 2797, HD 1, which would provide the County of Hawai'i with funds for the Kaloko Housing Program. The administration of the County of Hawai'i has made this its number one priority and has pledged the use of an 8-acre site in support of this project.

The County of Hawai'i is in need of a homeless shelter to replace the one shelter (in Kawaihae) that must close because of EPA regulations and problems with its lease. The buildings are portables that have long outlived their original life expectancy, and the shelter is slated to close in June 2009.

The County of Hawai'i Office of Housing and Community Development has worked with the service providers and together have developed a plan to establish the Kaloko Housing Program on an eight-acre parcel of land in central Kona. This program is designed to help the rapidly growing population of working poor, struggling with inadequate transportation to maintain employment, care for their family, and access to support services.

In addition, the Kaloko site is far superior to the Kawaihae site as it is located adjacent to the Kaloko industrial area and close to jobs and service in the Kona area.

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye
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March 10, 2008

Homelessness is a problem that will not go away on its own, but to provide these people with opportunities can hopefully allow these individuals and families the chance to get back on their feet.

Funding for this sorely needed project will give the homeless the much needed support to achieve economic self sufficiency.

Sincerely,


GERALD TAKASE
Assistant Corporation Counsel

GT/de