



LATE TESTIMONY

LAND USE RESEARCH  
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Via Capitol Website

February 11, 2009

**House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and Committee on Housing  
Hearing Date: February 11, 2009, at 9:50 AM in CR 329**

**Testimony in Support of HB 1612. Relating to Affordable Housing  
(Permits the Department of Hawaiian Homelands to receive affordable  
housing tax credit)**

Honorable Chairs Mele Carroll and Rida Cabanilla, Vice-Chairs Maile Shimabukuro and Pono Chong and HAW-HSG Committee Members:

My name is Dave Arakawa, and I am the Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF), a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. One of LURF's missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawai'i's significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

LURF **supports HB 1612**, which permits the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) the ability to receive and subsequently assign, transfer, or exchange county affordable housing tax credits.

**Background.** The lack of affordable housing remains a significant problem affecting Hawaii. Finding ways to provide sufficient affordable housing and market housing for Hawaii's residents has been a major objective for our elected officials, and state and county agencies, and members of the housing industry and business community. Creating incentives to develop more affordable housing units is a way to encourage more investments in affordable housing projects.

**HB 1612.** The purpose of this bill is to allow DHHL, counties and other developers the flexibility and incentive to invest in affordable housing projects.

HB 1612 amends HRS §207.5 which allows affordable housing credits to DHHL and allows them to assign, transfer, or exchange any county affordable housing credits it receives as prescribed under Chapter 91.

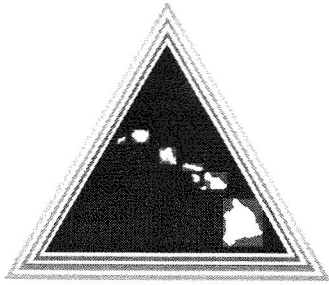
Section 2 of the bill amends HRS §46-15.1(9), which “Provide affordable housing tax credits to the department of Hawaiian home lands;”

**LURF’s Position.** This bill provides an alternative tool for developers who want to invest in affordable housing projects. Extension of the tax credit for DHHL projects will encourage developers to consider DHHL sponsored projects. Access to affordable housing is critical to our communities and any further delay of incentives that encourage affordable housing projects will assist in ending the housing shortage crisis.

Based on the above, we respectfully request your **favorable consideration of HB 1612.**

Thank you for the opportunity to express our **support for HB 1612.**

**Sovereign Councils  
of the**



**Hawaiian Homelands  
Assembly**

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**February 11, 2009**

**LIVE TESTIMONY**

To: **Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair**  
**Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair & Members of the**  
**Committee on Hawaiian Affairs**  
**Rep. Rida Cabanilla, Chair**  
**Rep. Roland Sagum, , Vice Chair & Members of the**  
**Committee on Housing**

From: **Kali Watson**  
**Chairman of Statewide Economic Development Committee**  
**SCHHA**

Re: **Hearing on HB -1612 Relating to DHHL Affordable Housing**  
**Credits**  
February 11, 2009 at 9:50 am  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Dear Chairs Carroll and Cabanilla, Vice-Chairs Shimabukuro and Sagum and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support to B 1612-relating to County Affordable Housing Credits. This bill permits DHHL to receive and subsequently assign, transfer, or exchange county affordable housing credits. If your Committees are serious about helping native Hawaiians obtain housing, then this bill is a significant and timely way to assist in the cost of housing. As an example, and relevant instance where this legislation would have made a difference, Hawaiian Community Development Board, a nonprofit developer, along with Everett Dowling Company recently attempted to do a 75 unit project on Maui in Keokea Waiohuli. Both developers pulled out because of expensive on site infrastructure and housing costs. If DHHL had been able to offer County Tax Credits, the Project may have survived.

The Sovereign Councils of the Hawaiian Homelands Assembly, formerly the State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations was founded more than 20 years ago to unite homestead communities and to advocate for the beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1921. The SCHHA is the oldest statewide advocacy organization representing the interests of more than 30,000 beneficiaries and families residing in the communities of the Hawaiian Home Land Trust. Its mission is to promote the self determination of native Hawaiians and the well being of homestead communities. I urge you to please pass this measure, HB 1612.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kali Watson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kali Watson  
Chairman of Economic Development

**Rep. Maile Shimabukuro**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009 7:30 PM  
**To:** HAWtestimony  
**Cc:** annie@schhahomesteads.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1612 on 2/11/2009 9:50:00 AM

Testimony for HAW-HSG 2/11/2009 9:50:00 AM HB1612

TESTIMONY

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Annie K. Au Hoon, President  
Organization: Kewalo Hawaiian Homesteads Community Association  
Address: 2136 Kapahu St. Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: (808) 529.1627  
E-mail: [annie@schhahomesteads.org](mailto:annie@schhahomesteads.org)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:  
Please support the Passage of HB 1612.

Mahalo