

SCR174

Proposed SD1

To: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senate Committee Education and Housing  
From: Ryan Lancaster, University of Hawaii student, MSW program  
Subject: SCR174 Supporting The Building of Modular and Factory Manufactured Homes in Hawaii.

Aloha Chair Sen. Norman Sakamoto and members of the Senate Committee on Education and Housing. My name is Ryan Lancaster and I am a Masters student at the University of Hawaii Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. I am here today to **strongly support** the building of modular and factory manufactured homes in Hawaii.

The major reason for my support on this bill is the desperate need of affordable housing to help with the growing population of homelessness. One of the major reasons for homelessness in Hawaii is the lack of affordable housing. The general cost of living here in Hawaii is roughly 35-40% higher than most U.S. cities, and the average cost of a single family home is about \$400,000 to about \$600,000 depending on the location. It also doesn't help that the price of food, beverages and gasoline are among the highest in the nation. Plus the utility company rates gas, water, electric, cable television and telephone are also slightly higher. Another issue that makes living in Hawaii very hard is that the state's average wage ranks 19th nationally at \$36,300 and is just slightly below the U.S. average of \$37,020. It's awkward that the average wage in Hawaii is slightly lower than nationally, but the average cost of living is higher than most U.S. cities. Therefore with the high cost of living tough economic times, high cost of everyday living it is very appropriate to develop affordable housing in Hawaii.

Building Modular and Manufactured homes in Hawaii will not only make affordable housing accessible, it will help lower utility bills, and it will also help decrease homelessness in Hawaii. Putting water catchments and solar power systems into the modular homes will also decrease the cost of utility bills because it will make use of natural resources. The modular homes are also cheaper to build, with the same dependability as other homes. We need this bill because the development of modular and factory manufactured homes will give access to affordable and dependable housing. Which in this state is in very high demand.

Mahalo's for the opportunity to present this issue and I will now accept any questions that you might have. Again thank you very much for this new and very exiting opportunity.