

A JOINT LEGISLATIVE EFFORT

E-Mail: HSGtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Regarding: House HSG Committee

Hearing on: February 11, 2009 @ 10:30 a.m. in room #325

Copies Necessary: 5 copies

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Date: February 10, 2009

To: House Committee on Housing
Rep. Rida Cabanilla, Chair
Rep. Pono Chong, Vice Chair

From: Dennis Arakaki
Executive Director
Hawaii Family Forum/Hawaii Catholic Conference

Re: **Support for HB 1221 Relating to Affordable Housing Projects**

Honorable Chair and members of the House Committee on Housing, I am Dennis Arakaki, representing both the Hawaii Family Forum and the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii.

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. The Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii, under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents over 220,000 Catholics in Hawaii.

We strongly support the proposed allocation of \$50,000,000 in general obligation bonds for affordable housing projects. This bill would provide a significant economic stimulus. In addition, the funds may be used to match federal funds that may be appropriated for capitol improvement projects under any federal fiscal stimulus legislation. The United States Congress is moving fast to provide funds to the States to increase jobs and stabilize the economy. Our State must also move fast and be prepared to utilize these federal funds as part of our own economic stimulus package.

We recommend that the funds apportioned to the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation be designated to the Rental Housing Trust Fund. This fund has a successful track record of leveraging funds to create affordable rental projects. The RHTF also mandates that a small percentage of the units constructed (5%) be built for families at 30% of median income. This will ensure that at least some units are constructed for those of our citizens with the most need.

We urge your support for this bill which would create housing for low and moderate income families across the State, as well as provide an economic stimulus and prepare the State to take advantage of federal funds for housing. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



CHAD K. TANIGUCHI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Statement of
Chad K. Taniguchi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

February 11, 2009 1:15 p.m.
Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
H.B. 1221
RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) opposes H.B. 1221, which appropriates \$50,000,000 in general obligation bond funds for affordable housing projects.

The HPHA opposes this measure because it would adversely impact the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2009-2010. The HPHA appreciates the intent of this measure; however, given the current fiscal difficulties, it would not be prudent to pursue enactment at this time.

Linda Lingle
GOVERNOR



KAREN SEDDON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO

Statement of
Karen Seddon
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

February 11, 2009, 10:30 a.m.
Room 325, State Capitol

In consideration of
H.B. 1221
RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS.

The Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) appreciates the intent of H.B. 1221; however, given the current fiscal difficulties, it would not be prudent to pursue enactment at this time.

We would like to point out that the Executive Biennium Budget includes a request for infusion of \$50 million into the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund (\$25 million in each biennium year) and \$50 million into the Rental Housing Trust Fund (\$25 million in each biennium year). The Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund and the Rental Housing Trust Fund may be used to finance the development or substantial rehabilitation of eligible affordable housing projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Legislative Testimony

HB 1221 Relating to Affordable Housing Projects
House Committee on Housing

February 11, 2009
Room 325

10:30 a.m.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs supports HB 1221.

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 near their place of employment in the urban cores in order to make ends meet.

We all recognize housing is the highest cost item for our families and more need to be done to address the affordable housing issue or our families will continue to move down the economic and social ladder.

We recognize that physical solutions by themselves will not solve social and economic problems, but neither can economic vitality, community stability, and environmental health be sustained without a coherent and supportive physical framework. The opportunity to leverage state funds with federal fiscal stimulus legislation is here for our state government to act accordingly with this framework of appropriating funds in general obligation bonds.

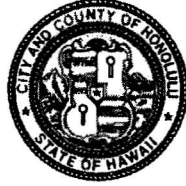
We advocate for commitment to reestablishing the relationship between the art of building and the making of community, through citizen-based participatory planning and design.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

715 SOUTH KING STREET, SUITE 311 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 • AREA CODE 808 • PHONE: 768-7762 • FAX: 768-7792

MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



DEBORAH KIM MORIKAWA
DIRECTOR

ERNEST Y. MARTIN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 9, 2009

The Honorable Rida Cabanilla, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Housing
The House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Cabanilla and Members:

**Subject: House Bill No. 1221
Relating to Affordable Housing Projects**

The Department of Community Services **strongly supports** the authorization of \$50 million in general obligation bonds to allow for the development of affordable housing projects to stimulate the economy and to provide housing for low- and moderate-income families and individuals. We are grateful that the bill includes as eligible uses of the funds, "provision of a grant-in-aid to a county government or private developer for any of the previously listed purposes."

As you are aware, the affordable housing inventory is inadequate to meet the needs of our residents. Conveyance tax receipts earmarked for the Rental Housing Trust Fund have funded only a small number of new units annually and significant funding must be provided through this and other measures to allow development of much needed housing units statewide. We are optimistic that at least some of the housing projects the City and County has submitted for consideration as part of a federal economic stimulus package will be funded. We look forward to working with the State on these important projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,


Deborah Kim Morikawa
Director

DKM:gk
hb 1221