



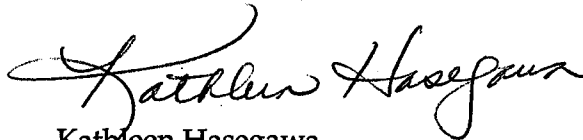
*Building
houses,
building
hope*

**Testimony on SB729: Relating to Rental
Housing
Senate Committee on Education and Housing
Com. On Water, Land, Agriculture and Native Hawaiians
Conference Room 225, 2/13/09, 1:30 p.m.**

Hawaii Habitat for Humanity Association supports this bill that would increase funding for the Rental Housing Trust Fund. With the help of this fund developers are doing what often seems impossible in Hawaii. They are building affordable rentals for the half of Hawaii's population that do not own homes.

In this economy affordable rentals are needed more than ever and the construction of these apartments provides jobs to construction workers, thus strengthening our economy.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Hasegawa".

Kathleen Hasegawa
Executive Director
808-538-7676



Hawaiian Homelands
Assembly

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February 13, 2009

To: **Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**
Sen. Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair & Members of the
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture & Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair & Members of the
Committee on Education and Housing

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

Re: **Hearing on SB -729 Relating to Rental Housing**
February 13, 2009 at 1:30 pm
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Dear Chairs Hee and Sakamoto, Vice Chairs Tokuda and Kidani and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 729-relating to increasing permanently the percentage of the conveyance tax paid into the RHTF, which is administered by the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation. There is a need for this source of gap financing for low-income rental housing projects, especially in the homesteading areas. A lot of people cannot afford to buy a home. Therefore, they are forced to rent or suffer the humiliation of homelessness. While funding is available to Projects on DHHL, I would suggest that twenty percent (20%) be directed towards DHHL's Sec. 213.6 fund. This will allow DHHL to leverage its funding sources (NAHASDA, bonds, tax-credits) to provide more alternative housing to its beneficiaries.

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, SB 729.

Sincerely,

Kali Watson
Chairman of Economic Development