



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF HB 2302 HD2: RELATING TO CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

TO: Senator David Ige, Chair, Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawaii

**Hearing: Thursday, 3/29/12, 9:00 am; CR 211**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2302 HD2, SD1. I am Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison at Catholic Charities Hawai'i. Catholic Charities Hawai'i strongly supports \$5 Million in GO bond funding to renovate public housing stock.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i continues to support funding to renovate vacant units in public housing. Public housing is a valuable resource to stabilize families and to move the homeless who are ready to rent into affordable housing. The waiting list is long so every unit is valuable. With over 300 vacant units, this funding is critical to get these units back into service. Once these vacant units are occupied, the federal subsidies that come along with the occupied units, as well as the tenants' rent, help support the ongoing maintenance of these projects. To build new units would cost millions of dollars versus the relatively low cost to rehab a unit and put it back into occupancy.

The inventory of the State's public housing needs infusion of funding to not only make sure that vacant units are filled, but also to ensure that minor maintenance problems are addressed in a timely manner. If not, these can later require major repairs at a much higher cost. With more occupied units, there is more revenue for regular maintenance. The bottom line is that the State must provide decent and safe housing to the tenants. We owe it to the many tenants who have patiently waited for repairs, to now put monies into these projects.

Thank you for considering the needs of the residents for decent housing and the needs of applicants for affordable housing. We urge you to pass this bill.





## PARTNERS IN CARE

### Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

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#### **COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF HB 2302 HD2: RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

**TO:** Senator David Ige, Chair; Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair; and Members, Committee on Ways and Means

**FROM:** Gladys Peraro, Advocacy Chair, Partners In Care (PIC)

**HEARING: Thursday, 3/29/12, 9:00 am; CR 211**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2302 HD2. I am Gladys Peraro, Advocacy Chair for Partners In Care (PIC); our coalition focuses on the needs of homeless persons and strategies to end homelessness. PIC supports the intent of temporary exemptions as well as funding in order to expedite improvements and rehabilitation to public housing inventory to avoid further deterioration as well as place families into rehabilitated units in a timely manner. PIC further supports and recommends that allowing non-profit agencies and volunteers to assist, be promoted as a way to expedite the process.

Partners In Care supports renovations to vacant and deteriorating housing inventory within the public housing program. Public housing is a critical and valuable resource in stabilizing families; especially important for those families ready to transition into affordable rental housing opportunities. Federal subsidies, in addition to rent received from tenants occupying the units will provide continued support for ongoing maintenance once occupied, which will be a crucial component of maintaining projects in good repair. PIC understands that maintaining housing inventory through rehabilitation is much more advantageous and economically feasible, and preferred over the alternative of building new housing at a cost of millions of dollars to taxpayers, and that this bill will allow the rehabilitation to occur in an expedited manner. We cannot “build our way out of this situation” when there are thousands on the waiting list for public housing, therefore it is critical to rehabilitate the inventory we have on hand for families in need, in as efficient and timely a manner as possible.

The opportunity to expedite rehabilitation through HB 2302, HD2 will ensure timely restorations, which in turn will ensure that vacant units remain in good repair and available for occupancy; it will also ensure that minor maintenance problems are addressed before they require major repairs, an economical and strategically sound repair process. Therefore, PIC urges you to be part of the solution of providing safe and decent housing to Hawaii's families in need.

Thank you on behalf of Partners In Care for your consideration of passage of HB 2302, HD2.

Partners In Care, c/o Aloha United Way, 200 N. Vineyard Blvd. Suite 700  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

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*Partners in Care is a membership organization of homeless service providers, other service professionals, units of local and state government, homeless consumers, and other community representatives located in Hawai'i on O'ahu. It is a planning, coordinating, and advocacy body that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill gaps in the Continuum of Care on O'ahu.*



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March 28, 2012

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**Hearing Date: Thursday, March 29, 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 211**

Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair, Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**Subject: HB2302 HD2 SD1, Relating to Capital Improvements**

Dear Chair Ige and Vice Chair Kidani:

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii (ACECH), representing 65 member firms with approximately 1,500 employees throughout Hawaii, understands that the intent of this bill is to address economic revitalization by encouraging maintenance and repairs of public housing projects. In the previous Senate Committee hearing, we expressed concerns about the unintended consequences of the bill and, therefore, oppose it as written. At issue was the broad procurement exemption for all State and City CIP projects.

While ACECH remains strongly committed to following well-established procurement rules that provide public confidence in an open and transparent system, we also believe that short-term exemptions may be necessary in emergency situations. After meeting with the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, we better understand their needs and immediate procurement difficulties, and are willing to support the HD2 version of this bill, provided that Item (2) of the HD2 is revised to only apply to the HPHA, and also provided that the bill retain its sunset date of 2015. The HD2 language could be revised to:

- (17) From July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2015, persons hired or contracted to perform:
- (A) Repair or maintenance work on vacant housing units under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority;
  - (B) Planning, design, engineering, or permit processing work for capital improvement projects of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

We also support the SD1 intent of providing more funding to HPHA.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding our comments.

Respectfully submitted,

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF HAWAII

Janice C. Marsters, Ph.D.  
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