

HB560 HD1

Authorizes the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation and Hawaii Community Development Authority to develop programs that provide incentives for the development of housing projects that incorporate urban gardening programs. (HB560 HD1)

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



KAREN SEDDON
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STATE OF HAWAII

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND HOUSING**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

March 20, 2013 at 2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

In consideration of
H.B. 560, H.D. 1
RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING URBAN GARDENING.

The HHFDC ***supports the intent*** of H.B. 560, H.D. 1, which authorizes HHFDC and HCDA to develop incentives for the development of housing projects that incorporate urban gardening, utilizing the expertise of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



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STATEMENT OF

ANTHONY J. H. CHING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BEFORE THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS & HOUSING

AND

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

2:45 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

in consideration of

**H.B. 560, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING URBAN
GARDENING.**

Purpose: Authorizes the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (“HHFDC”) and the Hawaii Community Development Authority (“HCDA”) to develop programs that provide incentives for the development of housing projects that incorporate urban gardening programs.

Position: I provide testimony in support of this proposal. However, it should be noted that this testimony reflects only my viewpoint as the Authority has not yet had an opportunity to review and act as a group on this measure.

The HCDA will work with the relevant public and private stakeholders, landowners, and developers to develop and implement urban gardening programs and best practices should this measure pass.

Testimony reflects the view and position of the Executive Director and not that of the Authority.

The HCDA notes this measure is in line with our mission to foster a live, work and play mixed-use community for the Kakaako and Kalaeloa community development districts.

The HCDA recognizes that Urban Gardens contribute to the social fabric of a community, as well as providing benefits such as recreation and exercise which reduce stress and increase wellness and belonging, opportunities to improve diet, creation of cultural opportunities, beautification of urban cores areas, and providing education opportunities for the general public.

As such, the administrative rules governing both the Kakaako (§15-217-59 Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) and Kalaeloa (§15-215-48 HAR) Community Development Districts contain a section providing standards for Green Building that includes, among others, techniques such as urban gardening for all development (whether affordable or for market) projects.

To date, an urban rooftop garden exists on top of the Auto Mart USA (formerly Comp USA) building. The Pohulani building also has garden plots available for residents to cultivate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this legislative proposal.