



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Statement of  
**Hakim Ouansafi**  
Hawaii Public Housing Authority  
Before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

March 17, 2014 9:00 A.M.  
Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

**Senate Bill 2533, Senate Draft 1  
Relating to Affordable Housing**

Honorable Chair Hashem and Members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding Senate Bill (S.B.) 2265, Senate Draft 1 (SD1), relating to affordable housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** the enactment of this measure, which would appropriate an unspecified sum out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii for fiscal year 2014-2015 to improve the existing public housing stock and increase the supply of public housing units in the State, provided that its passage does not adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget. The HPHA respectfully requests the House Housing Committee to reinsert the original \$50,000,000 amount that was provided in the original bill, and to amend the source of funding to General Obligation Bonds.

With these much needed funds, the HPHA will be able to address the extensive capital needs of the HPHA's aging housing stock. With approximately half billion (\$0.5 B) of needed capital improvements and an aging inventory, the HPHA needs this funding to repair our low-income housing properties quicker, and move more needy families into low-income public housing.

This measure will bring the HPHA one step closer to bringing its existing housing inventory up to current on its capital needs, and to contribute to the 50,000 new units needed by the year 2016, that has been indicated in the 2011 Hawaii Housing Planning Study.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Housing with the agency's comments regarding S.B. 2533, SD1. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.



**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  
**Craig K. Hirai**  
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

March 17, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 329

In consideration of  
**S.B. 2533, S.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING.**

HHFDC **supports** S.B. 2533, S.D. 1, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely affect priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget. We defer to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority on Part II of this bill, and to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands on Part VI of this bill.

Part III of S.B. 2533 appropriates an unspecified amount of General Obligation Bond funds for deposit into the Rental Housing Trust Fund (RHTF). Part IV appropriates an unspecified amount of General Obligation Bond funds for deposit into the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund (DURF). Part V appropriates an unspecified amount of General Funds for the construction of micro apartment housing units. Part VII appropriates an unspecified amount of General Funds to build affordable housing projects for veterans.

The additional funding proposed in this bill would enable HHFDC to provide financing assistance for the development of new housing units, including units targeted specifically at homeless and vulnerable low income populations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY



TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2533 S.D. 1

March 17, 2014

RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Senate Bill No. 2533, S.D. 1, authorizes, among other things, the issuance of general obligation bonds and the appropriation of funds for deposit into the rental housing trust fund and the dwelling unit revolving fund, for the purposes of financing affordable rental housing development and infrastructure development.

The Department has technical comments on this bill. Federal tax law requires, among other things, that tax-exempt general obligation bond proceeds be used to finance projects/programs that serve public purposes. As private entities will derive the benefit from this legislation, tax-exempt general obligation bonds cannot be used for this purpose. The State would need to issue taxable general obligation bonds at a higher cost in order to fund the rental housing trust fund and dwelling unit revolving fund.

In addition, as funding for these programs is not in the proposed Executive Budget, should this bill proceed or pass the Legislature, an amount for the corresponding annual debt service will need to be included in the Legislature's version of the budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony on this bill.



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Housing  
Monday, March 17, 2014 at 9:00 A.M.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 2533 SD1 RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Woodson, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber **supports** SB 2533 SD1 as the bill would provide for government assistance in developing affordable rentals in Hawaii. The bill proposes to:

- Appropriate funds to improve and increase the existing public housing stock in the State.
- Authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and the appropriation of funds for deposit into the rental housing trust fund and the dwelling unit revolving fund to finance affordable rental housing development and infrastructure development.
- Appropriate funds for the construction of micro apartment housing units.
- Appropriate funds to build housing for beneficiaries on homestead land.
- Appropriate funds to build affordable housing projects for veterans

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the “Voice of Business” in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state’s economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber has consistently advocated for government to create incentives that would bring private developers in to address public needs such as affordable rentals. Affordable rentals, especially for those at the lower income level, require some type of government subsidy. The traditional model has been through direct funding, providing land and/or developing infrastructure for the project. HUD low income tax credit program is another example of how government subsidies have been used successfully to develop affordable rentals.

One area that the State might want to explore is expanding the 201H HRS process to allow for commercial or revenue generating opportunities in conjunction with an affordable rental project on the same site. Depending on the location, HHFDC could establish a minimum number of units or minimum percentage of the overall parcel that would be dedicated to affordable rentals. To offset some of the development costs, the developer would be allowed to develop or sell development rights for the commercial or revenue generating portion of the parcel. This may attract more developers into the market to develop affordable rentals and provides HHFDC with another “tool” to use in creating incentives for developing affordable rentals in Hawaii. Moreover, the overall mixed-use development may be more attractive for the renters, especially for locations near the proposed transit stations.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.



**House Committee on Housing**

Senator Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Senator Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2533, SD 1**

**Relating to Affordable Housing**

**Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer**

**March 17, 2014, 9:00 am, Room 329**

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports Senate Bill 2533, SD1, addressing the growing housing crisis in Hawaii.

The HPCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, housing, and employment, can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes.

Senate Bill 2533, SD1, speaks to one of these major determinants by appropriating funds to improve and increase public housing, issuing general obligation bonds to develop affordable rental housing, aiding in the construction of micro apartment housing units, and building affordable housing units for veterans. Last year alone, community health centers provided health services to over ninety-one hundred homeless individuals, and the number continues to rise.

For these reasons, we **strongly support** this measure and thank you for the opportunity to testify.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

**Board of Directors**

*Howard Garval, Chair*  
*Nanci Kreidman, Vice Chair*  
*Joanne Lundstrom, Vice Chair*  
*Jerry Rauckhorst, Treasurer*  
*Liz Chun, Secretary*  
*Susan Chandler*  
*Jan Dill*  
*Victor Geminiani*  
*Auli'i George*  
*Marya Grambs*  
*John McComas*  
*Robert Naniole*  
*Ruthann Quitiquit*  
*Darcie Scharfenstein*  
*Alan Shinn*  
*Laura Smith*

TO: Representative Mark Hashem, Chair  
Representative Justin Woodson, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Housing

FROM: Scott Morishige, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: House Committee on Housing  
**Monday, March 17, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in Conf. Rm. 329**

**Testimony in Support of SB2533 SD1, Relating to Affordable Housing.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in regards to **SB2533**, which appropriates funds to support the development of affordable housing in Hawaii. PHOCUSED is a coalition of health, housing human services agencies and individual advocates committed to strengthening policies and programs to support the marginalized and underserved in Hawaii. In particular, we **strongly support** Parts III and V of this bill respectively.

As a community, it is critical that we support the development of housing, which is both safe and affordable for Hawaii's residents. Currently, many Hawaii families struggle to afford basic housing costs. According to the Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED), over 56% of Hawaii's renters are housing-cost burdened – paying more than 1/3 of their income to housing costs – which is one of the highest percentages of cost-burdened renters in the nation. In addition, Hawaii has one of the highest rates of homelessness in the U.S., which is partly attributed to our high housing costs and lack of safe and affordable housing stock. The development of new affordable rental housing is critical to our community's ability to reduce homelessness for Hawaii's people, including our seniors and families with young children in the home.

Part III of this bill would appropriate \$100 million to the Rental Housing Trust Fund (RHTF). The RHTF has a proven record of creating new affordable rental units in Hawaii. As of June 30, 2013, **4,567 rental units** had been created with the assistance of the RHTF and other leveraged funding. An appropriation of \$100 million to the RHTF would create an estimated **600 new affordable units** for Hawaii renters.

Part V of this bill would appropriate **\$15.8 million for the construction of micro apartment units**. Micro units may range from 220 to about 300 square feet, and are a creative and cost-efficient new option for housing development. The estimated construction cost for a micro unit is roughly half that of the construction cost for a traditional rental unit – an estimated \$150,000 per unit vs. \$300,000 per unit. Based on this estimate, the appropriation in this bill would be enough to develop roughly 90 micro units for low-income Hawaii residents.

Once again, PHOCUSED strongly urges your support of SB2533 and the appropriations detailed in Parts III and V of this bill. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.

**Board of Directors**

Sherry Broder, Esq.  
David Derauf, M.D.  
Naomi C. Fujimoto, Esq.  
Patrick Gardner, Esq.  
John H. Johnson  
Nathan Nelson, Esq.  
David J. Reber, Esq.

**Executive Director**

Victor Geminiani, Esq.

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Supporting SB 2533 Relating to Housing  
House Committee on Housing  
Scheduled for Hearing Monday, March 17, 2014, 9:00 AM, Room 329

---

*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) law firm created to advocate on behalf of low income individuals and families in Hawai'i on civil legal issues of statewide importance. Our core mission is to help our clients gain access to the resources, services, and fair treatment that they need to realize their opportunities for self-achievement and economic security.*

---

Thank you for an opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Senate Bill 2533, which would fund the Rental Housing Trust Fund and Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund, as well as micro-apartments, housing for beneficiaries of homestead lands, and veterans housing. While all of the sections in this bill are important ways to address our affordable housing crisis, Hawai'i Appleseed would like to emphasize its strong support **\$100 million** in funding for the **Rental Housing Trust Fund** and **\$15.8 million** in funding for **micro-apartments**, which can serve a variety of populations in critical need. Because modern micro-apartments are an innovative model, subsidies for their development are particularly important to demonstrate outcomes, especially potential cost reduction.

Hawai'i's severe affordable housing shortage places an immense strain on lower-income households. Our cost of shelter is the highest in the nation, and about 75 percent of extremely low-income households spend more than half their income on housing. The consequences of this shortage are clear: Hawai'i has the highest rate of homelessness among the states, and without adequate affordable housing, this crisis will only continue to worsen.

We strongly support increased funding for the Rental Housing Trust Fund, which is a major tool for the development of affordable housing and has created 4,567 rental units that would otherwise not be financially viable. It is the only fund that mandates units at rents affordable to those earning 30 percent or less of median income—the population at greatest risk of homelessness—and creates public-private partnerships that function as economic drivers. However, the Trust Fund is not able to fund many qualified projects due to lack of funds.

Micro-apartments are one way to potentially help its dollars stretch farther. These units are smaller than traditional apartments but have all the necessities a tenant would need inside the unit. They can be built in smaller buildings with greater density, easily replicable floor plans, and simpler construction methods. They also meet the needs of groups who are underserved by current affordable housing efforts. Out of the state's general population, almost one out of four households are composed of one occupant, and 81 percent of people experiencing homelessness are single. Micro-apartments work for a wide variety of populations: elders, students, youth transitioning out of foster care, young professionals starting their careers, and people experiencing homelessness, 81 percent of whom are single individuals. Micro-apartments are also popular for Housing First programs, which is an evidence-based best practice that provides permanent housing and supportive services to people who have been chronically homeless.

Hawai'i's lack of affordable housing and resulting rates of homelessness form a social crisis that the state must address. Meanwhile, the shortfall is only worsening. An allocation of \$100 million toward the Rental Housing Trust Fund will create approximately 600 new affordable rental units, and micro-apartments have the potential to bring the cost per unit down. Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2533.



## PARTNERS IN CARE Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

---

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2533 SD1 RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

TO: Rep. Mark Hashem, Chair; Rep. Justin Woodson, Vice Chair; and members of the House Committee on Housing

FROM: Peter K. Mattoon, Advocacy Committee Co-Chair, Partners In Care

Hearing: **Monday, March 17, 2014, 9:00 AM, Room 329**

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Woodson, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of SB 2533 to help create more affordable housing. My name is Peter K. Mattoon, and I am an Advocacy Committee Co-Chair for Partners in Care, a coalition focusing on the needs of homeless persons and strategies to end homelessness. We strongly support the allocation of **\$100 million toward the Rental Housing Trust Fund (RHTF)** to create more affordable housing, which is needed to prevent homelessness and help people experiencing homelessness find a permanent place to live. We also support the allocation of **\$15.8 million** to help fund **micro-apartment development** so that we can create more affordable units by bringing down costs.

Hawai'i's severe affordable housing shortage places an immense strain on lower-income households, and the market is not building affordable rentals. Housing costs are twice the national average—the highest in the nation, and we will need 13,000 more rental units by 2016 to meet the need for affordable rentals. Hawai'i also has the highest rate of homelessness among the states. The 2010 Homeless Services Utilization Report found that 56 percent of homeless families were homeless because of their inability to pay the rent. If these households were able to live in affordable units, their stories may have turned out very differently.

The RHTF is a major tool for the creation of affordable housing and **4,567 rental units** have been created with the assistance of the RHTF and other leveraged funding as of June 2013. The RHTF also functions as an economic driver, because the public-private partnerships it produces help build broad strategies to address the need for affordable housing throughout our state. RHTF-subsidized developments must provide at least 5% of units at rents affordable to those earning less than 30% of the area median income. However, the RHTF can't fund many qualified projects due to lack of funds. It received \$37 million in project requests in 2012, but 5 out of 9 projects totaling 317 affordable rental units were left unfunded. In 2013, the Trust Fund received \$70.4 million in requests. Many projects are ready to be developed and only waiting on funding.

Micro-apartments are a promising way to help these dollars stretch farther. Very low rents are needed by seniors on Social Security, young working people, single homeless, small families, and other populations. New creative ideas are needed to solve their housing needs. The concept of micro units is a new pathway to house people in a small but well-designed, safe, and dignified unit of about 220–300 sq. ft. that include at minimum a small bathroom and kitchenette. Because of their smaller size and greater density, these units are likely to cost much less to develop than traditional larger affordable housing units.

We can only prevent and end homelessness with more affordable housing. This allocation was reduced during the economic downturn to a low of 25% between 2009 and 2012; the current allocation stands at 30%. Meanwhile, our affordable housing crisis is only worsening. An allocation of **\$100 million toward the RHTF** and **\$15.8 million for micro-apartments** would support the creation of desperately-needed affordable rental units for individuals and families throughout Hawai'i.

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

---

*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 Oahu. It is a planning, coordinating, and advocacy body that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill gaps in the Continuum of Care on Oahu.*





# Community Alliance for Mental Health

March, 17, 2014

## Board of Directors

Anne Chipchase  
President

Robert Scott Wall  
Vice President

Brenda Kosky  
Secretary

William Lennox  
Treasurer

Susan King

Linda Takai

Randolph Hack

Gina Hungerford

To: House Committee on Housing  
Re: SB 2533, SD1,

Aloha Chair Hashem and the members of the committee,

On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help we **strongly support** the passage of SB 2533, SD 1.

We believe that the single greatest problem facing not only the disabled community but all the people of these islands is a lack of housing. SB 2533, SD 1, is a good method to begin addressing our lack of housing.

Scott Wall  
VP/Legislative Advocate  
Community Alliance for Mental Health

[ ]



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2533, SD1: RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

TO: Rep. Mark Hashem, Chair; Rep. Justin Woodson, Vice Chair; and Members, House Committee on Housing

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

Hearing: **Monday, March 17, 2014, 9:00 AM, Room 329**

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Woodson, and Members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to **strongly support** SB 2533, which appropriates funds to increase the existing public housing stock in the State. I am Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison for Catholic Charities Hawaii. **Catholic Charities Hawaii strongly supports:**

\$100 million to the Rental Housing Trust Fund (RHTF): The Trust Fund is a critical tool in the State's efforts to promote the creation of new affordable rental housing inventory. As of June 30, 2013, **4,567 affordable rental units statewide** have been created with the assistance of the RHTF and other leveraged funding. This is an effective system to create housing with the capacity to utilize \$100 million. In fact, in 2013, \$70.4 million in project requests were received by the RHTF. Through its competitive process it can assist affordable rental projects on all islands. Housing is also an economic driver; the \$20.7 million awarded to 4 projects in FY 12, will leverage \$70,352,124 in overall development costs, creating 213 direct construction jobs and 500 indirect jobs. \$100 million to the Trust Fund will create about **600 affordable units.**

\$15.8 million for the construction of micro apartment units. Our housing crisis is NOW. Hawaii has the highest rate of homelessness in the USA. Almost 75% of extremely low income households pay more than half their income for rent. The market is not building affordable rentals. We must focus on new ways to create lower cost rental housing. Very low rents are needed by seniors on SSI with incomes under \$800, young working people, single homeless, small families, etc. New creative ideas are needed to solve their housing needs. This funding would challenge developers to design new prototypes that could be used for very low income singles, seniors and small families.

The concept of micro units is a new pathway to house people in safety, dignity and in a small, well-designed unit. Units may range from 220 to about 320 square feet. They minimally include a small bathroom, kitchen sink, refrigeration and cooking appliance, and some storage space. The estimated cost of a micro unit is half of what it costs to construct a regular "affordable" rental unit.

We urge your support of this bill to provide a legacy of housing for generations to come, and to fund this economic driver to help keep the State's economy improving.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone (808)373-0356 • Email: [bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org)



March 17, 2014

**The Honorable Mark Hashem, Chair**  
House Committee on Housing  
State Capitol, Room 329  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: S.B. 2533, S.D.1, Relating to Affordable Housing**

**HEARING: Monday, March 17, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Woodson, and Members of the Committee:

I am Myoung Oh, Government Affairs Director, here to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 8,300 members. HAR **supports** S.B. 2533, S.D.1, which appropriates funds to improve and increase the existing public housing stock in the State, authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and the appropriation of funds for deposit into the rental housing trust fund and the dwelling unit revolving fund to finance affordable rental housing development and infrastructure development, appropriates funds for the construction of micro apartment housing units, appropriates funds to build housing for beneficiaries on homestead land, and appropriates funds to build affordable housing projects for veterans.

HAR has historically supported mechanisms to help increase the supply of low and moderate income affordable housing such as the Rental Housing Trust Fund Program which can help integrate the use of mixed-income and mixed-use projects, special purpose revenue bonds, low-interest loans, block grants, low-income housing tax credit programs and deferred loan programs to provide rental housing opportunities.

HAR believe this program can help expand the much needed housing opportunities for Hawaii's families struggling to make ends meet. HAR believes these efforts should continue to address the States unique challenges related to affordable housing and rentals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



## HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

6301 Pali Highway  
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224

Submitted: Online  
Hearing on: Monday, March 17, 2014 @ 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room: 329

**DATE:** March 14, 2017  
**TO:** Committee on Housing  
Rep. Mark Hashem, Chair  
Rep. Justin Woodson, Vice Chair  
**From:** Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director  
**Re:** Support for SB 2533 SD1 Relating to Affordable Housing  
Support for SB 2266 SD1 Relating to Housing  
Support for SB 2442 SD1 Relating to Affordable Housing

Honorable Chair and members of House Committee on Housing, I am Walter Yoshimitsu, **representing the Hawaii Catholic Conference**. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents Roman Catholics in Hawaii.

We support SB 2533, SB 2266 and SB 2442 because homelessness continues to be one of the State's most significant and challenging social problems. The Diocese of Honolulu supports any strategic plan that makes homelessness and affordable housing one of its primary areas of focus. For many households in Hawaii at risk of becoming homeless, high housing costs mean skimping on food and medical care, moving frequently to find lower rents—which can interrupt a child's education—creating periods of homelessness. As people of faith, we simply cannot sit back and watch while families fall apart.

### **SUPPORT FOR THE RENTAL HOUSING TRUST FUND**

We support this bill because it appropriates much needed funding for deposit into the rental housing trust fund to finance affordable rental housing development. We strongly believe that the funding used by the RHTF has consistently produced much-needed housing. Recent statistics show that over four-thousand homes have been created utilizing this fund. That is a great accomplishment in this dire economy but it is simply not enough. We know we have much more work to do!

### **SUPPORT FOR MICRO-HOUSING**

Another key component for the conference in supporting this bill is that we appreciate the appropriation of funding for the construction of micro apartment housing units. This creative approach could have many positive effects on the economy including;

- **creating jobs** in the construction industry, growth and improvement in other industries like retail, professional services, health, and education, as these sectors grow to accommodate the increased number of residents,
- **increasing consumer spending** as decreased housing and utilities costs, renters and homeowners will have more disposable income to spend, which gives a positive boost to the economy,
- **assisting families and individuals at risk of homelessness** and allowing them to become self-sufficient.

All of these things, in turn, will ultimately help Hawaii save money on programs aimed at helping the homeless, and will reduce the burden on charities and religious organizations. We do understand that many services are vying for funding at this critical time and we appreciate your ongoing support for the Rental Housing Trust Fund.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

6301 Pali Highway • Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224 • Ph: 808-203-6735 • Fax: 808-261-7022  
E-mail: [w Yoshimitsu@rcchawaii.org](mailto:w Yoshimitsu@rcchawaii.org) | [hcc@rcchawaii.org](mailto:hcc@rcchawaii.org) | [www.catholichawaii.org](http://www.catholichawaii.org)

**woodson1-Brina**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2014 3:00 AM  
**To:** HSGtestimony  
**Cc:** Awai76@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2533 on Mar 17, 2014 09:00AM

**SB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for HSG on Mar 17, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ellen Awai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I stand in support of SB2533 SD1. With such a high population that are homeless, Hawaii definitely needs affordable housing. The Hawaii public housing authority's stock should be maintained and increased. Many of the homeless are our own native population and the veterans who went to war for us. The Hawaiian home lands beneficiaries should be able to build affordable housing and the veterans should have affordable housing projects. Please support SB2533 SD1! Thank you!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)