

# Hawai'i Construction Alliance

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March 26, 2013

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance  
Hawai'i State House of Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**RE: Testimony in support of SB 305, relating to development of public housing.**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, and members of the committee:

The Hawaii Construction Alliance supports the intent of SB305, which would authorize the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to develop public housing projects, which may also include commercial and industrial uses.

The Hawai'i Construction Alliance is comprised of the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters; the Hawai'i Masons Union, Local 1 and Local 630; the Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 368; and the Operating Engineers, Local 3. Together, the four member unions of the Hawai'i Construction Alliance represent 15,000 working men and women in the four basic crafts of Hawai'i's construction industry.

Empowering the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to develop public housing projects – including commercial or industrial spaces – will help the State to better serve low-income residents and to enhance the communities that these projects are part of. The inclusion of commercial or industrial options will enhance residents' and neighbors' lifestyles, allowing them the option to live, work, play, shop, and receive vital services within a walkable, compact radius from their homes.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Aloha,



Tyler Dos Santos-Tam  
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**SB305 SD1 HD1 Relating to Development of Public Housing:** Authorizes HPHA to develop commercial and industrial properties for public housing.

- ✚ COMMITTEE ON FINANCE: Representative Luke Chair; Representative Nishimoto, Vice Chair; Representative Johanson, Vice Chair
- ✚ Thursday, Mar. 28, 2013; 2:00 p.m. Conference Room 308

## **Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB305.**

*Good morning Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, and Distinguished Committee Members. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide hui of more than twenty non-profit treatment and prevention agencies.*

There are new and developing creative ideas to improve our social problems that also avoid extensive costs. Many of these new approaches have been tested, demonstrating excellent outcomes.

For instance, we now know that vulnerable people with chronic conditions, such as substance use disorders, mental illness, and homeless that have co-occurring severe medical conditions are part of the 20% that cost 80% of healthcare. A reasonable investment in treatment, housing and services for this chronic population can significantly avoid huge costs.



New development options can help avoid significant healthcare costs.

Some of these new investment ideas involve the use of property for housing. Giving HPHA the authority to use more development options to serve our low income can help us avoid significant healthcare costs and also benefit our communities by reducing the homeless in our streets and parks.

We very much appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.