

**LATE**

## **Testimony in Support of SB 2266: Relating To Housing**

**TO:** Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair; Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Human Services

**FROM:** Bruce Y. Keaulani, Kahu and CEO, Living Life Source Foundation

**HEARING: Saturday, January 25, 2014; 10:00 AM; CR 229**

Aloha Kakahiaka Chair Chun, Vice Chair Green and Members of the Committee on Human Services. Mahalo nui loa for your vision and for this opportunity to present my testimony in strong support of SB 2266, which authorizes the issuance of GO bonds and appropriates funds to the Rental Housing Trust Fund. My name is Bruce Keaulani, and as Kahu and CEO of Living Life Source Foundation, I strongly support this effort to provide the energy needed to address the severe lack of affordable rental housing units in Hawai'i Nei.

As a Native Hawaiian traditional practitioner, I believe that a safe, loving and decent home, or the lack thereof, is intimately and directly connected to one's health and well-being. With a practice centered on the traditional spirit of Aloha, in all of its manifestations, Living Life Source Foundation is a 501(c)(3) which seeks to restore a system of living which creates a life of greater meaning, purpose, and freedom, with reverence for each other and our natural environments. We educate people of Hawai'i, as well as visitors, to become self-reliant and sustainable, through traditional Hawaiian healing practices, such as ho'oponopono, lomilomi, la'au lapa'au, la'au kahea, as well as Western and Eastern peace-based methodologies. We are a modern Hawaiian pu'uhonua (safe place), where keiki to kūpuna come for education, wellness and healing through the practice and perpetuation of Aloha. Each year, we touch over 1,000 people from all sectors of society, many of whom are either homeless or members of a community that is severely at-risk of becoming so. The challenges of offering lasting and meaningful kokua to those in need are extremely heightened by the daily instability caused by access to affordable housing.

With the highest rate of homelessness in the nation, Hawai'i needs to intentionally build 13,000 affordable rental units by 2016. This is not a condition which can be treated with a band aid, delayed or ignored. This wound will worsen and cause greater harm, if we do not move now. Families and individuals who lack safe and decent places to live are found in every community of our State. LLSF is particularly concerned with ensuring that kupuna, keiki and 'ohana are protected, and that through holistic and intentional purpose, their needs, struggles and brilliant possibilities are supported.

This measure is our community's healing practice; the practice of Aloha which our ancestors have passed down to each of us and which we are bound through Ke Akua to sustain. Please support this bill and the healing remedy that it provides. Mahalo nui loa.



**HPCA**

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

**LATE**

**Senate Committee on Human Services**  
The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
The Hon. Josh Green, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of SB 2266**  
**Relating to Housing**  
**Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer**  
**January 25, 2014, 10:00 am, Room 229**

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports Senate Bill 2266, making an appropriation for a rental housing trust fund.

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 2266 speaks to one of these major determinants by appropriating funds to build affordable rental housing projects. For that reason, we strongly support this measure and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**SB2266**

Submitted on: 1/24/2014

Testimony for HMS on Jan 25, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: I am writing to express my strong support for SB 2266. Mahalo nui loa for this important measure which demonstrates that the Aloha Spirit is alive and well in Hawai'i Nei. I commend you for your leadership and vision. Thank you for your serious consideration and passage. Aloha, Kehaulani Lum

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**SB2266**

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for HMS on Jan 25, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Scott Wall	Community Alliance for Mental Health	Support	No

Comments: To: The Senate Committee on Human Services Aloha Sen. Chun-Oakland and members of the Committee, On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health as well as United Self Help we would like to lend our strong support for SB2266. The simple fact is that if we are to address the shortage in low income rental units this is a method of addressing our current shortfall. Scott Wall VP/Legislative Advocate Community Alliance for Mental Health