

Testimony in Support of SB 2442: Relating To Affordable 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 2442, which appropriates \$100 million to the Rental Housing Trust Fund from the State's general revenues. 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.

Families and individuals who lack safe and decent places to live are found in every community of our State. Living Life Source Foundation 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.

There is no question that we are in a housing crisis. But, as a result, we are also in a health crisis. This measure is an important step towards alleviating the resource shortage faced by the RHTF, which receives more applications than can be funded with present appropriations. Moreover, this 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.



HPCCA

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 2442
Relating to Housing
Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer
January 25, 2014, 10:00 am, Room 229

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports Senate Bill 2442, making an appropriation for a rental housing trust fund.

The HPCCA 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 2442 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

SB2442

Submitted on: 1/24/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kehaulani	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing to express my strong support for SB 2442. 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

LATE

SB2442

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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 to SB2442. The ability to begin to address the near term 50,000 unit housing shortage is really to vast to contemplate but SB2442 makes a first step in the right direction. Scott Wall
VP/Legislative Advocate Community Alliance for Mental Health