

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1314, HD1

TO:

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

FROM: Brandee Menino, Chief Executive Officer
Hope Services Hawaii, Inc.

Hearing: **Thursday, March 19, 2015, 1:25pm, Conf Room 016**

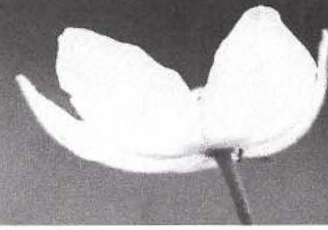
Dear Honorable Senators Chun Oakland, Green, Espero and Baker,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of HB 1314, HD1, appropriating funding for an emergency home relocation special fund to assist persons dispossessed of their homes as a result of a natural disaster. This fund specifically targets and helps those who have experienced a traumatic life event by the loss of their home. A home is the most basic need a family needs to feel safe, nourished and nurtured.

I am Brandee Menino, CEO of Hope Services Hawaii a non-profit organization based on Hawaii Island and lead provider agency addressing homelessness through a continuum of programs including Homeless Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing and Affordable Housing for low income families with over a 600 bed capacity at any given night at 10 facilities. I am also a member of the Mayor's Taskforce to ending homelessness, Community Alliance Partners - Hawaii County's Continuum of Care group.

Hope Services Hawaii strongly supports **this bill** as it offers a safety net for families that directly **prevents more people from falling into homelessness**. Our housing crisis is NOW. Hawaii has the highest rate of homelessness among the US states. In Hawaii County, new clients of State Homeless Outreach and Shelter programs represented the majority (60%) of homeless clients served.

We are a partner agency who responded in the time of immediate crises during Tropical Storm Isselle. We helped families and seniors relocate to new homes due to the destruction of their rental homes.... and we continue to assist other households in the recovery and support our partner agencies like Habitat for Humanity and Catholic Charities Hawaii in the rebuild of other families without the means and resources to rebuild. We do this on top of already a growing



homeless population on our island. Our resources are tapped and our capacity is stretched thin. This is the vehicle for State resources to help now.

The threat of the June 27 lava flow continues to traumatize our families in Puna. Its compounding an already fragile community who was ripped from dramatic changes, new schools, closing of grocery stores and businesses that has led to intermittent employment.... decrease in household income.

Please contact me at (808) 933-6013 or bmenino@hopeserviceshawaii.org if you have any questions. Mahalo for your time and look forward to your support.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 3:32 PM
To: HSH Testimony
Cc: rhkwine@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1314 on Mar 19, 2015 13:25PM*

Categories: Red category

HB1314

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for HSH/PSM on Mar 19, 2015 13:25PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Kadota	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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