



THE HAWAII STATE SENATE  
The Twenty-Eighth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2016

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Chair  
The Honorable Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

The Honorable Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Thursday, March 17, 2016  
TIME OF HEARING: 1:30 p.m.  
PLACE OF HEARING: State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street  
Conference Room 016

**TESTIMONY ON HB2244, HD1 RELATING TO HOUSING**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,  
State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW),  
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, and AFL-CIO. The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 12,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

The UPW supports HB2244, HD1 which makes various appropriations for housing programs. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.





March 16, 2016

Senator Breene Harimoto, Chair  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

**Comments and Support of HB 2244, HD1, Relating Housing. (Makes various appropriations for various housing programs.)**

**HOU/HMS Hearing: Thursday, March 17, 2016, 1:30 p.m., Conf. Rm. 016**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to provide its **comments and strong support for HB 2244, HD1**, which proposes to appropriate funds to various State housing programs which provide support for affordable housing for low-income and very low-income families.

**HB 2305, HD1.** The purpose of this measure is to appropriate unspecified amounts of funds for the following State housing programs and services:

- (1) The Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF) to be used for rental housing units;
- (2) The State's Housing First Program (Housing First) to be used for the continued implementation of the Program and expansion of the Program outside Oahu;
- (3) The repair and maintenance of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority's (HPHA) existing public housing stock; and

- (4) A rental assistance program, also known as the Shallow Subsidy Program, within the Department of Human Services (DHS) to be used for homeless working individuals and their families who are ready to rent permanent housing, with certain eligibility requirements.

**LURF's Comments and Position.** The State has estimated that Hawaii needs an additional 28,000 housing units to meet demand for housing, including 19,000 units for households that are low-income or very low-income. LURF is in **strong support** of HB 2244, HD1, which will provide support the following State programs:

Rental Housing Revolving Fund. LURF supports the funding for the RHRF, which, pursuant to Section 201H-202, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides loans or grants for the development, pre-development, construction, acquisition, preservation, and substantial rehabilitation of affordable rental housing units.

Housing First. LURF also supports the proposed funding for the Housing First, which is a collaborative effort between the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that provides housing and support services for chronically homeless individuals, including those who have an addiction or mental illness, or both. LURF understands that Housing First is a nationally recognized best practice and has been proven to be an effective approach to helping people experiencing chronic homelessness get off of the streets in several mainland cities. In Hawaii, the Housing First operates only on Oahu, however, this bill proposes to appropriate funds to DHS to, among other things, expand Housing First programs to the Neighbor Islands to assist residents who are chronically homeless and who are often the most vulnerable, most visible, and most difficult to serve.

Hawaii Public Housing Authority. HPHA is the statewide public housing agency and has a portfolio of eighty-five properties comprises 6,195 units that serve over 6,100 families, or more than 20,000 individuals. However, HPHA's aging housing has an extensive capital need that is reportedly underfunded by HUD. LURF supports the proposed appropriation, because it will provide funding to modernize, repair, maintain and improve the quality of HPHA's existing public housing units across the State.

Shallow Subsidy Program. This appropriation would establish a Shallow Subsidy Program to be administered by DHS, to provide assistance for homeless working individuals and their families who are ready to rent permanent housing. HPHA, DHS, and the Governor's Office, have commented that this program may duplicate services already provided by HPHA. Thus, LURF supports the intent and funding of such a program, but respectfully urges the Legislature, HPHA and DHS determine whether there would be a duplication of rental assistance services with existing HPHA programs.

For the reasons set forth above, LURF is in **strong support** of HB 2244, HD1, respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill and encourages the Legislature to insert sufficient appropriation amounts for the above programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this measure.

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**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 12:45:35 PM

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**HB2244**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HOU/HMS on Mar 17, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments:

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