

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 9:10 PM
To: HSH Testimony
Cc: okimakj@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1201 on Feb 12, 2015 14:00PM

SB1201

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for HSH on Feb 12, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jennifer Kamiko	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha, I think there should be tax breaks to landlords that rent at an affordable rate. It is unfair to working families that cannot compete with the Military housing allowance. Some landlords only rent to military because they know they can charge a high rent, which in turn hurts everyone and keeps the rents going up. By giving this incentive, hopefully landlords would keep their rent at an affordable rate, or even lower what they are charging now. If people spend less on rent they would have more money to spend in the local economy. Thank you, Jennifer Kamiko

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 9:16 PM
To: HSH Testimony
Cc: annsfreed@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1201 on Feb 12, 2015 14:00PM

SB1201

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for HSH on Feb 12, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Hawaii Women's Coalition	Support	No

Comments: The Hawaii Women's Coalition is in strong support of this measure designed to make rentals more available to our struggling families. Ann S. Freed Co-Chair, Hawaii Women's Coalition

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 11:41 AM
To: HSH Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1201 on Feb 12, 2015 14:00PM*

SB1201

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for HSH on Feb 12, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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12 February 2015

Committee on Human Services and Housing
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Re: Testimony in support of SB1201 – Tax incentives/Affordable Housing

Good afternoon committee members and our elected officials. Many thanks to those of you from Senator Chun Oakland's office who made it possible for this bill to be heard and to those who have supported our efforts to achieve rent relief for Hawai'i residents.

My name is Andrea Ilima DeCosta and I am the creator of this bill. A Kaneohe girl, I was raised with the values instilled in me by two honored individuals – my mother and my father - both of whom spent their career in public service and raised five children on civil servant salaries.

A few decades ago, it was completely possible for two civil servants with a handful of children to send their keiki to private school, and still afford to purchase a family home. These days, by the state's own accounts, an estimated 262,000 persons in Hawai'i is considered "at-risk" for homelessness – a whopping 1 in 4 persons - while another estimated 14,000 languish in our streets, parks and beaches.

Of the estimated 14,000 who are homeless, 25% of Hawai'i's homeless population is identified as veterans and another 30% are kanaka Maoli; two communities which have grown increasingly vulnerable to homelessness and the disproportionate rates of morbidity that accompany homelessness. Lack of housing is a healthcare risk.

The price of paradise has caught up with Hawai'i families and it has reached a crisis level. More than a lack of units, the real problem is that the rents are too high and local wages haven't been keeping pace with the rate of housing inflation.

This problem is further exacerbated by the fact that local residents must compete for scarce housing options with both military members/their families and the many visitors who flock to the islands.

The competition for scarce housing units, depressed wages and limited development options led me to donate a day of my own wages so that I could gather the signatures necessary to demonstrate that the community really does demand relief.

During the course of the legislative opening day, of the approximately 450 persons who attended the capitol, I was able to gather 84 unique signatures from concerned

citizens. This represents a capture rate of nearly 19% - an incredible response for a few hours of outreach!

In addition to the physical signatures, an online petition that I created via the site Change.org netted an additional 914 digital signatures; a copy of the link is included for your review:

<https://www.change.org/p/david-ige-hawaii-state-house-hawaii-state-senate-create-a-rent-control-board-to-develop-a-rent-control-policy>

The process of building affordable housing units is cost-prohibitive and time consuming – Hawai'i residents can't wait for units to be built and we strongly urge our elected officials to immediately pass this tax incentive bill; passage of the bill will result in creating affordable housing out of the existing stock – a win/win for landlords and for struggling Hawai'i families.

Mahalo for your support!

Andrea I. DeCosta
Honolulu, HI 96822