



SB 155

Measure Title:	RELATING TO HOUSING.
Report Title:	Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation; Appropriation; Micro Apartment Housing Units (\$)
Description:	Making an appropriation for the construction of micro apartment housing units.
Companion:	
Package:	Housing and Homeless Legislative Package
Current Referral:	HSH, WAM
Introducer(s):	CHUN OAKLAND, ESPERO, HARIMOTO, IHARA, NISHIHARA, Dela Cruz, Gabbard, Galuteria, Green, Keith-Agaran, Riviere

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of
Craig K. Hirai
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

January 31, 2015 at 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 229

In consideration of
S.B. 155
RELATING TO HOUSING.

HHFDC supports S.B. 155, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium budget. S.B. 155 appropriates \$15 million in General Funds to HHFDC in both FY 2015-2016 and Fiscal Year 2016-2017 for the construction of micro apartment housing units. These funds could be used to finance the development of a micro apartment project located in Kakaako at 630 Cooke Street.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 155: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair, Members, Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Trisha Kajimura, Social Policy Director, Catholic Charities Hawaii

Hearing: **Saturday, 1/31/15, 1:15 pm; Conference Room 229**

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong** support of SB 155, making an appropriation for the construction of micro units.

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii for over 60 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, developmentally disabled, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy to the most vulnerable of the people in Hawaii. Catholic Charities Hawaii has a long history of working on housing issues and solutions to homelessness. We strive to help people live in dignified circumstances and reach their full potential.

Catholic Charities Hawaii strongly supports **\$15 million for the construction of micro units**. We see the need for these smaller, lower cost units every day. Many of the elders who seek help from our Housing Assistance Program for cannot afford even the “affordable” housing rent of \$700. The same holds true for singles and small families who come to our Housing and Referral Programs. About 25% of Hawaii’s households are singles. They are particularly vulnerable and at-risk for homelessness because there is less assistance available to them than there is for families with children. New, creative ideas are needed to solve their housing needs. The concept of micro units is a new pathway to house people in safety and dignity in a small, well-designed unit, but at possibly half the cost of a regular “affordable” rental unit. This funding would challenge developers to design new prototypes that could be used for homeless singles, very low income singles, entry level workers, seniors, or small families.

Our housing crisis is NOW. Hawaii’s housing needs are well documented: 13,000 housing units are needed by 2016. Hawaii has the highest rate of homelessness in the USA. 78% of extremely low income households living in poverty pay more than half their income for rent. The **\$15 million for construction of micro units** would result in new models being developed. These could then be replicated in other areas for small households.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact me at (808) 527-4810 or trisha.kajimura@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HSH Testimony](#)
Cc: mgolojuch@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB155 on Jan 31, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2015 8:56:47 PM

SB155

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for HSH on Jan 31, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	GLBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

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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January 31, 2015

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: S.B. 155, Relating to Housing

HEARING: Saturday, January 31, 2015, at 1:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committee:

I am Myoung Oh, Government Affairs Director, submitting testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® (“HAR”), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 8,400 members. HAR **supports the intent** of S.B. 155, which makes an appropriation for the construction of micro apartment housing units.

According to the Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism, Hawaii would need about 5,200 new housing units to be build each year until 2020 to adequately accommodate the state's projected population growth. Furthermore, without a supply of rental or for sale units being built, these households are being squeezed into existing restricted supply of housing; increasing being confronted with high rental rates and sales prices; or sometimes forced to move out of State.

HAR has historically supported mechanisms to help increase the supply of low and moderate income affordable housing. HAR believes this is a creative solution to increase the availability of affordable rental housing, which is much needed in the State.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

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

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 155
Relating to Housing
Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer
January 31, 2015, 1:15pm, Room 229

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports Senate Bill 155, which makes an appropriation for the construction of micro housing units.

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 155 speaks to one of these major determinants by seeking to alleviate the growing affordable housing crisis in Hawaii. For that reason, we strongly support this measure and thank you for the opportunity to testify.



January 28, 2015

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING

Sen. Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair

Sen. Josh Green, Vice Chair

Sen. Breene Harimoto

Sen. Gil Riviere

Sen. Sam Slom

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Saturday, January 31, 2015

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB155
RELATING TO HOUSING**

Making an appropriation for the construction of micro apartment housing units.

Dear Committee on Human Services & Housing:

The Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery (PASS) strongly supports SB155. More must be done to address the incredible need for true affordable housing and viable alternatives for those with low to middle incomes. Microunits are a step in the right direction which may prevent people living paycheck to paycheck from falling into houselessness.

Mahalo for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Xian

Executive Director

Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery



PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu Continuum of Care

Partners in Care is a coalition of Oahu's homeless service providers, government representatives and community stakeholders working together in partnership to end homelessness.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 155: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair;
and members of the Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Advocacy Committee, Partners in Care

Hearing: **Saturday, January 31, 2015; 1:15 PM; Conference Room 229**

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of SB 155, making an appropriation for the construction of micro apartment housing units. I am Betty Lou Larson from the Advocacy Committee of Partners in Care.

PIC strongly supports **\$15 million for micro units**. About 25% of Hawaii's households are singles. New creative ideas are needed to solve their housing needs. The concept of micro units is a new pathway to house people in safety and dignity in a small, well-designed unit, but at possibly half the cost of a regular "affordable" rental unit. This funding would challenge developers to design new prototypes that could be used for homeless singles, very low income singles, entry level workers, seniors or small families.

The housing needs are well documented: 13,000 housing units are needed by 2016. 78% of people living in poverty pay over fifty percent of their income for rent. We need to focus on new ideas such as micro units to create more models targeting those in need.

Last year PIC sent out a petition asking people to support funding for affordable rental housing. 340 people responded from across all the Hawaiian Islands. Many people wrote comments, which show the depth of feeling and support for affordable housing:

*"Please help give Hawaii residents a chance to live with dignity and wellness." And, "Let's create a solution." And, "I dream of the day when there will be no more homelessness for individuals and families, no children without a safe and loving home to go to, no more ignoring the mentally ill who are homeless, no more the term "throw aways". This effort for housing everyone has also to deal with deeper issues that keep people on the streets – lack of suitable services, jobs and essential human needs. Working together, we can do it, Hawaii!" And finally, "**Malama our Island Ohana! Support the cause, and put a roof over homelessness.**"*

The People of Hawaii are speaking to you today. Thank you for hearing their testimony. Please contact me at (808) 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.

SB155

Submitted on: 1/28/2015

Testimony for HSH on Jan 31, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HSH Testimony](#)
Cc: davidsher@juno.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB155 on Jan 31, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Friday, January 30, 2015 8:43:54 AM

SB155

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for HSH on Jan 31, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Committee on Human Services and Housing I strongly support SB155 for making appropriations for the construction of micro apartment housing units. This is a viable option to help address the need for true affordable housing in our state. A recent report found Hawaii is once again #1 when it comes to homelessness in this country. Micro apartment projects in cities on the mainland that were designed to address the problem of homelessness, such as in Austin and Olympia, are already seeing wonderful successes in their efforts. This can only be a win:win and the money well spent. Please pass this bill and help to end this housing crisis in our state. Mahalo for your consideration, Sherry Pollack, Ahuimanu

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SB155

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for HSH on Jan 31, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Pope-Young	Individual	Support	No

I strongly support SB155 for an appropriation to constructing micro apartment housing units.

We need to provide accommodations for houseless families currently living in tents, tarps, et al on the streets and parks of O’ahu. The micro housing initiative has proven very successful and economical in other US cities.

SB155

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for HSH on Jan 31, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No