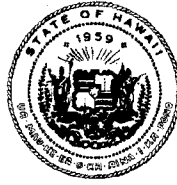




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COLIN KIPPEN

- Chair of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness •
  - State Coordinator on Homelessness •
- Telephone 808 586-0974

January 30, 2015

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Colin Kippen, Chair of the Hawaii Interagency Council on  
Homelessness, State Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **S.B. 156 – RELATING TO HOUSING**

Hearing: Saturday, January 31, 2015; 115 p.m.  
Conference Room 329; State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** S.B. 156 authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the rental housing trust fund and new public housing redevelopment.

**POSITION:** I **strongly support** the intention of this bill, so long as it does not negatively impact the Governor's budget request to the legislature, with the following comments.

There is a substantial shortage of affordable housing for those at or below 80% of the area median income and this bill utilizes the floating of general obligation bonds

as a means to generate needed capital for both the rental housing trust fund in the amount of \$60 million and for the public housing authority in the amount of \$40 million.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before your committee.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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

FROM: Scott Morishige, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: Senate Committee on Human Services  
**Saturday, January 31, 2015 at 1:15 p.m. in Conference Room 229**

**Testimony in Support of SB156, Relating to Housing**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of SB156, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation (GO) bonds for the Rental Housing Trust Fund and new public housing redevelopment. PHOCUSED is a nonprofit membership and advocacy organization that works together with community stakeholders to impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our community, such as the homeless. PHOCUSED strongly supports the \$60 million in GO bonds for the Rental Housing Trust Fund.

Since March 2014, PHOCUSED has surveyed 2,200+ homeless individuals and families across Oahu to assess their level of need and determine appropriate interventions. Based on our survey data, **over a quarter (26%, or 570 homeless households) indicate a need simply for affordable housing** – meaning that they do not require case management or intensive social services, but would be able to successfully transition to stable housing if affordable rental options were available. The Rental Housing Trust Fund (RHTF) is one strategy to create truly affordable housing for these individuals.

The RHTF is critical because it is the only financing mechanism for households at 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI) or below. The RHTF also has a proven track record of creating affordable rental housing. This is critical because rental units are the greatest demand for low-income households, but the market does not normally build for this population. An additional \$60 million to the RHTF would support the development of approximately 360 new affordable rental units for Hawaii.

Once again, PHOCUSED strongly urges your support of this bill and an increased level of funding for the RHTF. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact PHOCUSED at 521-7462 or by e-mail at [admin@phocused-hawaii.org](mailto:admin@phocused-hawaii.org).