

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM  
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

February 7, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 423

In consideration of  
**H.B. 1337**  
**RELATING TO HOUSING.**

The HHFDC *supports the intent* of H.B.1337, which would provide down payment assistance for the faculty of the University of Hawaii.

HHFDC administers a down payment loan program pursuant to Section 201H-161, HRS. H.B. 1046, an Administration bill, proposes to update and expand the program. We believe this down payment assistance program could assist eligible faculty members and other first-time homebuyers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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February 6, 2017

HB1337 Relating to Housing  
House Committee on Housing  
Room 423, State Capitol

**RE: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

Aloha e Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of Hawaiian Community Assets, the State's largest nonprofit 501c3 HUD-certified housing counseling agency, to testify in **support with amendments** of House Bill 1337 which establishes within the Hula Mae Single Family Program a housing down payment loan program for faculty members of the University of Hawaii.

According to the Corporation for Enterprise Development's 2016 Assets and Opportunities Scorecard, Hawaii ranks last in the nation among all states in housing cost burden for renters and homeowners. 57.5% of all Hawaii renters pay more than 30% of their income toward housing, while 40.6% of all Hawaii homeowners pay more than 30% of their income toward housing. The down payment assistance program proposed in HB 1337 would provide an opportunity for faculty members of the University of Hawaii to address our State's extremely high housing costs burdens while at the same time increasing economic growth through municipal property taxes, spending on construction and home maintenance, and a higher homeownership rate for our State.

As one of only a handful of organizations that provides HUD-certified homebuyer education and pre-purchase counseling in Hawaii, we encourage the State Legislature to expand this opportunity to not only University of Hawaii faculty, but also to law enforcement officers, pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade teachers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians. It is the self-less work of these professionals, alongside University faculty, that contributes to community revitalization. By amending HB 1337 to include these critical constituencies, the State Legislature would honor the heroic work of these professions by opening the doors of homeownership made possible with the proposed down payment assistance program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide my testimony in support of HB 1337 with suggested amendments and encourage you to take action to expand homeownership opportunities for

University of Hawaii faculty, law enforcement officers, pre-Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Gilbreath". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Gilbreath  
Executive Director