

LATE TESTIMONY



February 1, 2017

From: George S. Massengale
To: Senate Committee on Housing
Date: Hearing February 2, 2017 at 2:55 P.M.
Subj: SB1142, Relating to Housing

Testimony in Support

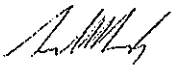
Chair, Senator Espero, Vice Chair, Senator Harimoto and members of the Committee on Housing. I am here today to offer Hawaii Habitat for Humanity's support of SB1142. This bill if passed would increase the availability of affordable rental housing at 902 Alder Street in the Ala Moana area near the City's proposed rail transit station.

Although our organization's main focus is the building of affordable ownership homes we clearly understand that more must be done to house individuals and families that are not in position to pursue the option of homeownership. Once family is in a stable housing situation they can then begin to take steps that will eventually lead to home ownership.

We also note that the Alder Street project is unique and innovative in respect that a governmental entity has opt to share its property for the development of affordable housing. Hopefully this beginning of new trend between government and the private sector.

We would ask that the committee move this bill forward for further consideration.

Respectfully,



George S. Massengale
Director, Community Engagement



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

LATE TESTIMONY

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Housing
Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 2:55 P.M.
Conference Room 225, State Capitol**

RE: SENATE BILL 1142 RELATING TO HOUSING

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 1142, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation funds for rental housing, mixed-use affordable rental housing, a multi-use juvenile services and shelter center, and public housing; appropriates funds for public housing security improvements, renovation, and repairs.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,600+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The bill proposes to appropriate \$50,000,000.00 to the rental housing revolving fund to assist in the construction of rental housing targeted for the 80% and below AMI income group. HHFDC has indicated that government funding required for each of these units is roughly \$125,000.00 per unit. The \$50 million appropriation should result in approximately 400 new units.

In addition, the bill also appropriates \$15 million for the much needed juvenile service and shelter center near on Alder Street. We understand that the center will be part of a mixed use project that will include residential rental units. We also understand the state's current fiscal situation and that there are limited resources.

The Chamber is in support of the projects proposed for funding in SB 1142. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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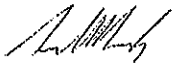
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