

LATE



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 8, 2017

TO: The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair
House Committee on Housing

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **HB 1763 – RELATING TO HOUSING**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 8, 2018, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 423, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this bill, as it includes specific focus on the development of rental housing for extremely low-income households, and offers the following comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish a temporary task force on rental housing for extremely low-income households within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT). The bill also makes an appropriation to support the administration and operation of the task force.

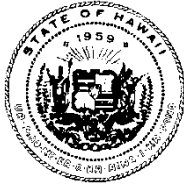
Homelessness remains one of the most pressing challenges facing Hawaii, and the State has adopted a comprehensive framework to address homelessness that focuses on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. In particular, the State has worked together with the Legislature and other stakeholders to increase resources for permanent housing programs, such as Housing First or Rapid Rehousing. Between 2015 and 2017, the number of permanent housing beds for homeless individuals statewide increased by 1,986 – an increase of 146%, more than doubling the supply of permanent beds. In addition, the State has partner with the counties and private sector to support innovative housing projects, such as the Kahauiki Village that opened in January 2018. The coordinated efforts to implement the State's framework to address homelessness have

made progress in reducing the number of homeless individuals statewide. In 2017, the statewide Point in Time (PIT) count found that the number of homeless people in Hawaii had *decreased* for the first time in eight years – a decrease of 701 people between 2016 and 2017. Despite this progress, there remains a need to further expand affordable housing inventory, particularly for extremely low-income households that are at or below 30% of the area median income.

The Coordinator notes that the purpose of this measure is similar to the purpose of HB2746, which would clarify the duties of the special action team on affordable rental housing to include a focus on extremely low-income households and add additional members to the special action team. In addition, the proposed task force membership and duties appear to overlap with that of the special action team on affordable rental housing, as well as the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH). If this measure moves forward, the Coordinator suggests incorporating the task force as a committee of either the special action team on affordable rental housing or the HICH to increase efficiency and avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

February 8, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 423

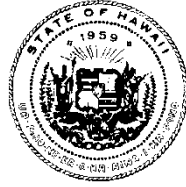
In consideration of
H.B. 1763
RELATING TO HOUSING.

HHFDC ***appreciates the intent*** of H.B. 1763, provided its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Supplemental Budget.

However, HHFDC prefers H.B. 2746, previously heard by this Committee, as a more efficient means to add focus on rental housing for extremely low-income families. H.B. 2746 tasks the Act 127 Special Action Team on Affordable Rental Housing with addressing this important issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

HOUE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Thursday, February 8, 2018
Room 423, Hawaii State Capitol
9:30 AM
In consideration of
HB 1763
RELATING TO HOUSING

Honorable Chair Brower and Members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding House Bill 1763, relating to housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports HB 1763**, which establishes a temporary task force on rental housing for extremely low-income households.

The HPHA welcomes the opportunity to join this team, as we are committed to promoting adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity and a sustainable living environment for low income families and individuals, free from discrimination to Hawaii's most vulnerable population. As the majority of those we serve fall within the definition of "extremely-low income," we are innately familiar with the affordable housing crisis that plagues many of Hawaii's low-wage citizens. The HPHA makes every effort to better the lives of the over 30,000 individuals that we serve and is committed to addressing Hawaii's rental housing crisis.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Housing with the HPHA's comments regarding HB 1763. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.



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 HB 1763: Relating to Housing

TO: Housing Committee
FROM: Partners in Care (PIC)
HEARING: Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 423

Dear Chair Brower, and Members of the Committee on Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1763 which establishes a task force on rental housing for extremely low-income households. Partners in Care (PIC)—a coalition of more than 35 non-profit, homelessness providers—strongly supports the intent of HB 1763.

Hawaii has the most expensive housing in the USA, twice the national average. “Out of Reach” 2016 reports that a full time Hawaii worker would need to make \$34.22 per hour to afford a two-bedroom unit at fair market rent. An astounding three-quarters of Hawai`i residents living at or near the poverty line spend more than 50% of their incomes on rent. To solve homelessness in Hawaii, we must address the needs of our struggling families, seniors, etc. who live on incomes below 30% of the Area Median Income. The shortage of rental options for this population is dire:

- 85% of the households on the long waitlists for units at the Hawaii Public Housing Authority have incomes under 30% AMI.
- 15,511 units are need in Hawaii for those with incomes under 30% AMI.
- 54% percent of Hawaii’s households are cost-burdened, meaning that they pay more than 30% of their income for housing costs.

This Task Force is critical for the State to focus on how to crack the tough nut of creating housing for those at the low end of our economy. Too often those at 30% AMI and below are merged into a consideration of “Low-Income” housing solutions which are too expensive for them. This Task Force would have the hard job of developing recommendations for how to create Sustainable Housing Solutions for the extremely low-income populations in our state. They must consider special populations such as the chronically homeless who need permanent supportive housing, and seniors/disabled living on SSI, and working families one step away from homelessness, etc. **To achieve a broad understanding of this diverse population with incomes under 30% of the AMI, Partners in Care suggests the following be added as Members of the Task Force:**

- Two members of the public to represent special need populations and the working poor with experience in services to people with incomes at/below 30% AMI, one to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one to be appointed by the president of the senate.

Partners In Care strongly supports HB 1763. Thank you for your consideration of this very important bill.

Contact for (PIC) Advocacy Committee: Chair: Gavin Thornton, 808-369-2510, picadvocacychair@gmail.com

PARTNERS IN CARE, c/o Aloha United Way
200 North Vineyard • Suite 700 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 • www.PartnersinCareOahu.org



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1763: Relating to Housing

TO: Representative Tom Brower, Chair; Representative Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair; and Members, Committee on Housing
FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer
Hearing: **Thursday, 2/8/18; at 9:30 am; CR 423**

Chair Brower, Vice Chair Nakamura, and Members, Committee on Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of HB 2750** which establishes a temporary task force on rental housing for extremely low-income households. I am Terry Walsh, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 60 years. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Ending homelessness is a top priority for 2018.

Hawaii has the most expensive housing in the USA, twice the national average. "Out of Reach" 2016 reports that a full time Hawaii worker would need to make \$34.22 per hour to afford a two-bedroom unit at fair market rent. An astounding three-quarters of Hawai'i residents living at or near the poverty line spend more than 50% of their incomes on rent. To solve homelessness in Hawaii, we must address the needs of our struggling families, seniors, etc. who live on incomes below 30% of the Area Median Income. The shortage of rental options for this population is dire:

- 85% of the households on the long waitlists for units at the Hawaii Public Housing Authority have incomes under 30% AMI.
- 15,511 units are need in Hawaii for those with incomes under 30% AMI. (2016 HI Housing Planning Study).
- 54% percent of Hawaii's households are cost-burdened, meaning that they pay more than 30% of their income for housing costs. (Source: AUW)

This Task Force is critical for the State to focus on how to crack the tough nut of creating housing for those at the low end of our economy. Too often those at 30% AMI and below are merged into a consideration of "Low-Income" housing solutions which are too expensive for them. This Task Force would have the hard job of developing recommendations for how to create Sustainable Housing Solutions for the extremely low-income populations in our state. They must consider special populations such as the chronically homeless who need permanent supportive housing, and seniors/disabled living on SSI, and working families one step away from homelessness, etc. To achieve a broad understanding of this diverse population with incomes under 30% of the AMI, Partners in Care suggests the following be added as Members of the Task Force:

- One member of the public to represent homeless and special need populations.
- One member of the public to represent the working poor and extremely low-income persons, with experience in services to people with incomes at/below 30% AMI.



- One to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one to be appointed by the president of the senate.

We urge your support for this strong step forward to create housing for all in our state. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org, if you have any questions.

HB-1763

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 8:51:52 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/8/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1763

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 5:08:28 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/8/2018 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-1763

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 12:59:13 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/8/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Maupin		Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1763

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 2:20:01 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/8/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pat gegen		Support	No

Comments:

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