

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EUGENE H. TAKAHASHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 2, 2018

The Honorable John M. Mizuno
and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services
The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Housing
Hawaii House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Mizuno and Brower and Committee Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 2038
Relating to Housing

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **opposes** House Bill No. 2038, which would exempt temporary homeless shelters being built by various nonprofit organizations from county zoning, as well as rules pertaining to health or sanitation.

We are aware of the tremendous need to house our homeless and we are not opposed to temporary shelters. We are not opposed to nonprofit organizations, religious and educational institutions, and other entities providing such shelter or encampments. In fact, we just approved such a facility sponsored by a church in Kahaluu that will benefit 10 families. Our zoning code already allows them in residential areas.

However, we are deeply concerned that this Bill will not allow us to assure that minimum health and safety standards will be met. This creates a potentially hazardous situation, not only for the shelter occupants, but their neighbors as well. Under the zoning code, we are able to review each proposal to ensure that safety concerns are adequately being addressed. It also allows neighbors to provide comment. While this may be viewed as a disincentive to providing shelters, this process can bring up legitimate concerns and opportunities that can improve the project.

Accordingly, we ask that you hold House Bill No. 2038. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy K. Sokugawa".

Kathy K. Sokugawa
Acting Director



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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

FRIDAY, February 2, 2018, 10:30 AM, Room 329
HB 2038, RELATING TO HOUSING

TESTIMONY

Nina Eejima, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Mizuno, Committee on Health & Human Services; Chair Brower, Committee on Housing; Chair Yamane, Committee on Water & Land; and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB 2038 that authorizes nonprofit organizations to provide shelter to homeless persons, including by hosting temporary encampments on property owned by the organization and further imposes limits on the types of ordinances a county may enact or other actions a county may take in regulating the ability of these organizations to provide shelter to homeless persons.

We note the important role that nonprofit organizations play in our communities: oftentimes they fill in the gaps that public agencies are unable to meet, including sheltering homeless individuals.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-2038

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:13:38 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/2/2018 11:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Foster		Support	No

Comments:

Submitted by Scott Foster, Chair, for The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii/

Mahalo.

LATE

HB-2038

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 9:26:51 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/2/2018 11:35:00 AM

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

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AND COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Friday, February 2, 2018
11:35 a.m.**

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2038, RELATING TO HOUSING

To the Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair; the Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Health & Human Services; and

To the Honorable Tom Brower, Chair; the Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Housing:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 2038, relating to nonprofit organizations providing homeless shelters on private

property. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 2038 and support its passage.

House Bill No. 2038, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it authorizes religious, charitable, educational, and other nonprofit organizations to provide shelter to homeless persons, including hosting temporary encampments on property owned by the organization and imposes limits on the types of ordinances a county may enact or other actions a county may take in regulating the ability of these organizations to provide shelter to homeless persons.

The DPH Platform states, "We support dedicated social services and housing opportunities for Hawaii's homeless population to get them off the streets and reintegrated into society with specific devoted services for disenfranchised groups including but not limited to the Hawaiian community, aged-out foster kids, youth, returning veterans, the aged, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender homeless." (Platform of the DPH, Lines 355-358 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. 2038 encourages religious, charitable, educational, and other nonprofit organizations providing homeless shelters on their private property by limiting regulatory county ordinances relevant to housing and shelters, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ **Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889

**TESTIMONY OF NAHELANI WEBSTER ON BEHALF OF
ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) REGARDING**



Date: Friday, February 2, 2018
Time: 11:35 a.m.
Room: 329

To: Chair John M. Mizuno and Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services and Chair Tom Brower and Members of the House Committee on Housing

My name is Nahelani Webster and I am presenting this testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Justice (HAJ) regarding H.B. 2038, Relating to Housing as currently drafted.

We agree with the intent of the bill but ask that as this bill moves forward and the conversation progresses we add the phrase “acting in good faith and with reasonable care” to be inserted at page 4, line 3 after “No county agency or county employee.” Thank you for considering our testimony.