

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 4, 2017 9:37 PM  
**To:** HSGtestimony  
**Cc:** MikeGoodman72@Outlook.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB229 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM

**HB229**

Submitted on: 2/4/2017

Testimony for HSG on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 423

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Goodman	Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force	Comments Only	No

Comments: Absent health and safety concerns, it's counter productive for the State to restrict what a willing seller can sell to a willing buyer. It stifles the creation of affordable alternative dwellings.

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HB 229

This is Marcy Montgomery, writing in support for the 2017 HB 229. The climate and lifestyle of Hawaii encourages an indoor/outdoor lifestyle. It is also is one of the best settings in the world to implement green building, energy efficient practices. Many people are wanting to down size the scale of their indoor living spaces, lower their cost for housing, and lower the environmental impact of their housing.

I support removing any barrier to size of dwelling as a smart means to allow people to choose the built footprint that best meets their needs. I ask you to approve this Bill, and to keep in mind that it should apply to future building as well as retroactive to small dwellings that can be grandfathered in as small homes.

Marcy Montgomery  
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8083282452

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 10:09 AM  
**To:** HSGtestimony  
**Cc:** erikdblair@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB229 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM

**HB229**

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for HSG on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 423

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erik Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The affordable housing crisis in Hawaii, as you know, is crippling the local economy and the traditional solutions aren't working. Alternative housing is required to overcome the traditional housing market that tends to increase annually at a rate of 6% on average. Wages DO NOT keep up with housing or the cost of living increases every year. Meanwhile, economists say that interest rates are going up in 2017-18, and they expect inflation to set in very soon. This means the cost of living is going way up! Housing costs to renters will suffer. Therefore, it is critical for Hawaii to embrace and fast track alternative housing on all fronts. We must make it easier, cheaper and faster to get tiny houses, container homes, recreation vehicles, and mobile homes going to offset the debilitating effects of the horrible disparity in income of Hawaii residents and the cost of living--especially housing. These bills are an important step toward a solution for everyone. These bills also have the potential to improve the local economy by injecting more cash into the economy because residents can save money monthly by alternative housing solutions. Please support these bills: HB229, HB968, and HB1373. Thank you! -- Erik Blair

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 10:43 AM  
**To:** HSGtestimony  
**Cc:** erubbish@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB229 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM

**HB229**

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for HSG on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 423

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Grace Laird	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It makes sense to allow tiny houses!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 5, 2017 11:51 AM  
**To:** HSGtestimony  
**Cc:** juliedagenais@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB229 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM

**HB229**

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for HSG on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 423

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
julie dagenais	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of bill HB229, an act preventing the State and counties from adopting or enforcing regulations mandating certain minimum sizes for single-family detached dwellings unless those regulations are necessary to ensure that dwellings meet fire and life safety or environmental purposes or standards. I completely agree with the Legislature that there is a growing need for ecologically sustainable and affordable housing, and that construction of small homes is a way to meet this need. The situation is dire and I am in strong favor of lawmakers passing this bill. Aloha

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February 4, 2017

To: Hawaii House of Representatives

From: Stephen Shrader, Kapa'au, HI.

Re: Writing in support for 2017 HB 229

As a longtime island resident of 6 different villages, on 5 islands in 2 states over 40 of my 67 years, I encourage as many who feel called to a different kind of life to consider downsizing, simplifying as much as possible, and growing food for themselves and our local communities.

To quickly make this personal, right now I can't use 6,000 square feet of greenhouse growing space because I can't have farmworkers living on my 11 acre lot to tend this critical space 24/7: and, there isn't adequate farmworker housing available. **Anywhere.**

Quotes I've collected from around the Big Island that seem pertinent to this include these two:

- "I can't live on my leased lot, and have to work another job to pay the rent, leaving me little time to actually farm."
- "I lease and farm 3 parcels totaling 260 acres. I spend  $\frac{3}{4}$  of my time driving between the three farms; only one of them has a permitted structure, and we operate entirely off-grid. I'm trying to "go straight" with County Planning and Health, but it's really hard. I'm keeping 25 people busy."

Small living spaces are a puzzle piece that warrant expanded access and removing minimum size limits per the assessment standards proposed in HB 229. I support this bill.

## HB1373 testimony

From:

Aaron James Everhart

Maui County

[ponybob@gmail.com](mailto:ponybob@gmail.com)

To:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION OF 2017

Rep. Tom Brower, Chair

Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura

Rep. Mark J. Hashem

Rep. Bob McDermott

Rep. Sean Quinlan

Re:

HB1373 RELATING TO ALTERNATIVE HOUSING

and

HB229 RELATING TO SINGLE-FAMILY DETACHED DWELLINGS

Bear with me for a minute to frame my argument:

I'm not a fan of titles of the Bills, which I'll explain in a bit, but it is a solid move in the right direction, to get housing relevant to people's needs and our natural environment situation.

When I was a teen, I worked for the California Law Revision Commission. My job was verifying law documents, and making photocopies of them for the commission to evaluate. It was an eye-opening job. I learned a lot about the critical importance of continuously revising the law to be relevant to society. Jokes are made about persistently kept, out-of-date laws, like "no tying up of your horse in front of the city hall". But there's no joke when lives are impacted. Today's laws / and code on housing, may have been relevant decades ago, whilst the world has certainly changed, for example:

- Society has evolved
- Materials have evolved
- Acceptable energy use norms have evolved

In light of that, consider the typical non-alternative, normal housing. What is constituted 'normal' 20-30 years ago, maybe should not be normal any more.

So back to the Bills, which I support.

For the HB1373 title, just in your mind, I invite you to replace the word "ALTERNATIVE", with the word "RELEVANT".

With the former, ALTERNATIVE HOUSING, the question is, alternative to what? It implies something else is, or should be, the norm. But, if we examine closely, in light of what we know today, a 'normal', non-alternative, 1200+ sf house for 2-4 people is what

*should require* the special permit. Maybe the “typical single family home” should now be labeled “alternative”, due to its non-efficient use of interior space, energy, raw materials, and land; all of which impact total cost of ownership. The reality about “alternative”, in this case, is that people will do what they must: illegal units, tent cities will pop up. Families are still going to need to cram into unfit, unsafe spaces. They cannot afford not to.

Now, imagine the bill had the latter word, RELEVANT HOUSING, as its title. Now you can understand, this bill is very much the correct, small-step direction, It's all about right-sized, solar-powered, water conserving, *relevant* spaces for living and working, even the emerging co-living, and co-working lifestyles...

These formats should begin being normalized today, in fact they are not even alternative, much less “new”. Here’s why, and here I close my testimony.

Consider this thought: contextualize our situation against 1000’s of years of human dwelling history. Look into our islands' own ancient past, where humans lived in groups, in small efficient, sleeping units, surrounding larger common-use facilities and gardens.

How lovely, how efficient, how nurturing. How could there be much crime in such a setting? How could people not feel loved, or important? This bill helps bring back the notion of tiny houses, surrounding (nurturing, watchful, self-monitoring) common-use facilities. There are many examples of this being successful, not only in ancient past, but right now. Co-living is booming in the world’s major cities, and it has been a growing fixture in parts of Europe, and Asia for decades.

Maybe true *progress* will be to *regress*. This bill gives some room for communities and mindful developers to re-examine how we live, work, and relate...for the better of everybody’s future. Only by removing barriers to these experiments can we evolve and truly progress.

The evolution of the definition of normal housing is being embraced internationally. In a recent meeting of the International Code Council (ICC), the organization that creates the International Residential Code (IRC) model building code used throughout the United States, an appendix addressing "tiny houses" passed with majority vote. This means that, pending confirmation by a validation committee and the ICC board (a formality, mostly), the appendix’s specifications will officially be incorporated into the 2018 edition of the IRC.

Comfort and status-quo is the same as stagnation, only by embracing a little complexity (i.e. alternative housing), will we not stagnate, but rather move forward, positively. Only by passing this Bill can we protect ourselves from potential chaos which comes when law doesn’t evolve along with the needs of people and the environment.

Thanks for your time!

Aaron

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A.J. Zuckert".



**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 1:31 PM  
**To:** HSGtestimony  
**Cc:** paikoman@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB229 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM

**HB229**

Submitted on: 2/6/2017  
Testimony for HSG on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 423

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Hallett	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I think this is important for ag communities and urban alike. This will take a bite out of homelessness. And take the pressure off of government. We need answers like these for a pleasant future for Hawaii's fast growing communities. Thank you!!!!

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