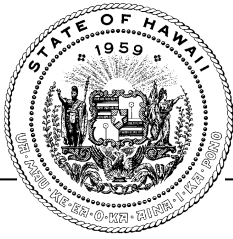


# HB 2746 HD2

Measure Title:	RELATING TO RENTAL HOUSING.
Report Title:	Special Action Team; Rental Housing; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Amends Act 127, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016, to clarify the duties of the Special Action Team on Affordable Rental Housing and add additional members to the Special Action Team for the purpose of addressing issues related to extremely low-income household needs. Makes an appropriation. (HB2746 HD2)
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HOU, WAM
Introducer(s):	BROWER, AQUINO, BELATTI, CULLEN, FUKUMOTO, GATES, ICHIYAMA, JOHANSON, KEOHOKALOLE, KOBAYASHI, LEARMONT, C. LEE, LOPRESTI, LOWEN, MIZUNO, MORIKAWA, NAKAMURA, NAKASHIMA, NISHIMOTO, OHNO, ONISHI, SAIKI, SAN BUENAVENTURA, TAKUMI, TODD, WOODSON, YAMANE, YAMASHITA



# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846  
Fax: (808) 587-2824  
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

LEO R. ASUNCION  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of  
**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**  
Tuesday, March 20, 2018  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of  
**HB 2746, HD 2**  
**RELATING TO RENTAL HOUSING.**

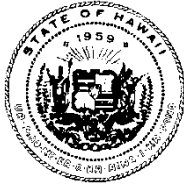
Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports HB 2746, HD 2, and provides the following comments. HB 2746, HB 2 amends Act 127, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016, to clarify the duties of the Special Action Team on Affordable Rental Housing, adds additional members to the Special Action Team, and appropriates an unspecified amount of funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the administration and operation of the Special Action Team.

The OP agrees that the need for affordable housing is at critical levels and the task of developing housing for extremely low-income households poses a significant challenge which requires the concentrated attention of the Special Action Team and State government at the highest level. Therefore, we support and appreciate the overall intent of this bill as it includes initiatives supportive of our goals, objectives, and current efforts. However, we are concerned that the \$10,000 appropriation for fiscal year 2018-2019 in HB 2746 and HB 2746, HD1, has been removed from HB 2746, HD2 and replaced with language referring to an unspecified amount of funds. The appropriation of \$10,000 is necessary for the administration of the Special Action Team members, from all islands, to attend a monthly meeting and a possible workshop or site visit to continue their work on providing affordable housing for the State's extremely low-income households.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

March 20, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 225

In consideration of  
**H.B. 2746, H.D. 2**  
**RELATING TO RENTAL HOUSING.**

HHFDC supports H.B. 2746, H.D. 2, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Supplemental Budget.

H.B. 2746, H.D. 2 adds new members to the Act 127 Special Action Team on Affordable Rental Housing, makes the HHFDC Executive Director a co-chair, and adds an additional focus on rental housing for extremely low-income families.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2746, HD2: Relating to Rental Housing

TO: Senator Will Espero, Chair, Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair, and Members,  
Committee on Housing  
FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer  
Hearing: **Tuesday, 3/20/18; 3:00 p.m.; CR 225**

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members, Committee on Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony **in strong support** of **HB 2746, HD2**, which would clarify the duties of the Special Action Team and add members to focus on housing for our population with incomes below 30% AMI. I am Terry Walsh, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care. We feel this is a very important bill.

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. Our top priority is to end homelessness. To achieve this goal, we must put a special focus on how to house those who have extremely low incomes.

Rents in Hawai'i skyrocketed over 23% in 3 years (from 2012 to 2015), leaving many at the very low end of our economy with incomes below 30% AMI struggling to stay housed. Any crisis can put these families at great risk for long-term problems like loss of housing. The situation is dire and demands a great investment to create rental units that struggling families, our kupuna, our young graduates, etc. who make under 30% AMI can afford.

However, too often those at most risk are merged in with higher income groups in the discussion of affordable housing. To really address homelessness, we **MUST** find housing solutions not only for those who are currently homeless but also long-term solutions to turn off the tap of thousands of families flowing into homelessness. Our state needs clear and creative strategies to address housing for our ohana who live on extremely low incomes.

The Special Action Team can play a critical role in developing strategies and recommendations to address this hard to house population. **We suggest one more additional member: a member from Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Hawaii.** A new faculty position focusing on affordable housing is being hired and will soon be on board. This new member could bring a national perspective and hopefully national research on how to address this hard to house population, those with incomes below 30% AMI. We feel this new member could add significantly to the planning effort. Together, we can find solutions.

We need to act now. We thank the Legislature for focusing on this great need. This bill would be a strong step in the right direction to develop a state plan or strategies for this high risk group.

Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at 373-0356 or [bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org), if you have any questions.



**HB-2746-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 2:40:51 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/20/2018 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: