

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 FINANCE

February 23, 2018 at 3:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 308

In consideration of
H.B. 2748, H.D. 1
RELATING TO HOUSING.

The HHFDC supports H.B. 2748, H.D. 1, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Supplemental Budget request. H.B. 2748, H.D. 1, requires HHFDC to conduct a study on the current and future demand for and supply of affordable housing suitable for persons with special needs and appropriates \$50,000 in General Funds for that purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • TTY (808) 586-8162

February 23, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

House Bill 2748, HD1 - Relating to Housing

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) submits comments on House Bill 2748, HD1 - Relating to Housing. The purpose of this act is to require the Housing Finance Development Corporation to study current and future demand and supply of affordable housing for individuals with special needs.

The definition of "special needs" encompasses people with physical or mental disabilities, frail elderly, people transitioning from incarceration, emancipated foster youth, persons with alcohol or drug addiction, persons with HIV/AIDS, and victims of domestic violence, who need housing. This population may also include people with limited English proficiency, people who are homeless, and those with transportation needs. Therefore, the group may be larger than those identified in the bill.

Our office has worked with the State and County emergency management agencies on similar issues of identifying the "special needs" population. A mainland study on people with access and functional needs and emergency management quantified this group as approximately 50% of the population. If a study is conducted, how will it proceed to accurately determine who from that portion of the population needs housing?

Secondly, the term "special needs" should be changed to reflect the population identified, as it has already been done in emergency management. We suggest using the phrase "people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs" which identifies this group of individuals.

We suggest instead of conducting a study, perhaps this would be an opportunity for the State to use the appropriation in this measure for direct housing support (i.e., decreasing the waitlist for Section 8 statewide). The funds could be used to identify people or families that fall into the group specified above and assist them in locating suitable housing and remove them from the Section 8 waitlist.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Jackson

for FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

HB-2748-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 3:25:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII'

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, February 23, 2018

3:30 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2748 HD1 RELATING TO HOUSING

To the Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair; the Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Good afternoon. 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 2748 HD1 regarding appropriation; Special Needs Housing Study; and the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 2748 HD1 and support its passage.

House Bill No.2748 HD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to conduct a study on the current and future demand and supply of affordable housing suitable for individuals with special needs and makes an appropriation.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that we "believe in the concept of "Housing First" to develop affordable, stable housing and support services to break the cycle of homelessness for people with the fewest housing options.

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, P. 7, Lines 352-358 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No, 2748 HD1 requires the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to conduct a study on the current and future demand and supply of affordable housing suitable for individuals with special needs and makes an appropriation, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities 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



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 Richards Street Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

LATE

February 23, 2018

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Luke and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB 2748 HD1 – Relating to Housing

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities recommends amendments to **2748 HD1**. The bill requires the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation to conduct a study on the current and future demand and supply of affordable housing suitable for individuals with special needs.

The first amendment we respectfully request is to change the term, “special needs” to “access and functional needs.” According to the dictionary, Merriam-Webster, the definition of Special Needs is most commonly associated with a student or a child.

The second amendment we respectfully request is on page 2, change line 4 to read, “corporation shall conduct a study of the housing waitlists in the State, and in each County, to:” The waitlist applicants have already identified themselves as an individual with access and functional needs as defined on page 2 lines 6-11 of HB 2748 HD1.

We feel strongly a study of the housing waitlists, such as Section 8, will identify the current and future demand and supply of affordable housing suitable for individuals with access and functional needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit proposed amendments for HB 2748 HD1.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator