



LATE TESTIMONY

March 15, 2017

From: George S. Massengale
To: Senate Committee on Human Services, and
Senate Committee on Housing
Date: Hearing March 17, 2017 at 2:45 P.M.
Subj: HB488, HD2, Relating to Housing

Testimony in Strong Support

Chairs, Senators Green and Espero, Vice Chairs Senators Chang and Harimoto, and members of the joint committees. I am here today to offer Hawaii Habitat for Humanity's strong support of HB488, HD2. This bill if passed would substantially increase the availability of affordable rental housing through the issuance of general obligation bonds.

Although our organization's main focus is the building of affordable ownership homes we clearly understand that much more must be done to house individuals and families that are not in position to pursue the option of homeownership. Once family is in a stable housing situation they can then begin to take steps that will eventually lead to home ownership.

As we all know there is a critical shortage of affordable housing in the State and this measure will provide monies for a comprehensive range of projects to improve existing public housing and create more housing units for Hawaii residents at all income levels.

We are also aware that during this bill's travels through the House of Representatives, funds were zeroed by the finance committee, and now starts its journey anew through the Senate "a more enlighten body". From our analysis of what is need just to begin to make a meaningful impact on our worsening housing crisis we would strongly recommend that the following dollar amount be inserted into this measure:

- \$75 million for the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF) to create affordable rental units
- \$75 million for construction of a juvenile service center/shelter at 902 Alder Street along with a 180-unit affordable family housing project utilizing other funding. ***Because the housing development is just within ½ mile of the Ala Moana HART station the amount of affordable housing could be increase pursuant to Interim Planned Development – Transit rules (ROH 21-9.100-5).**
- \$75 million for public housing development, improvements and renovations
- \$25 million for public housing security improvements, and renovations/repairs for vacant public housing units.

All these appropriations are sorely needed to address Hawaii's Affordable Housing and Homelessness Crisis. Without affordable, stable, and decent housing, low-income individuals and families will continue to face

insurmountable barriers to their financial self-sufficiency.

We would ask that the committee move this bill forward with our recommended project amounts for further consideration by the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

Respectfully,



George S. Massengale
Director, Community Engagement

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 8:42 AM
To: HOU Testimony
Cc: kimoc@ihs-hawaii.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB488 on Mar 17, 2017 14:45PM*

HB488

Submitted on: 3/17/2017

Testimony for HOU/HMS on Mar 17, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimo K. Carvalho	IHS, The Institute for Human Services	Support	No

Comments:

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