

Hawai'i Construction Alliance

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February 27, 2018

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
and members
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813



RE: Strong Support for SB2757 SD1, Relating to Housing

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members:

The Hawai'i Construction Alliance is comprised of the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters; the Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 368; the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Union, Local 630; International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Local 1; and the Operating Engineers, Local Union No. 3. Together, the member unions of the Hawai'i Construction Alliance represent 15,000 working men and women in the basic crafts of Hawai'i's construction industry.

As you know, the Hawai'i Construction Alliance has been extremely concerned about the chronic deficiency of rental apartment housing across the state. Along with our partners in the banking, development, landowning, contracting, architecture, and engineering communities, we formed the "Hawai'i Rental Housing Coalition," with the aim of identifying and carrying out concrete private-sector steps to make a meaningful impact on the economics of building and operating rental housing for families in the 80-140% AMI range.

We are very grateful for the hard work of your committee last session, wherein you passed HB1179, which became law as Act 54 (2017). SB2757 SD1 builds upon these efforts by expanding and extending to June 30, 2026, the certification for exemption from general excise tax and use tax costs for certain rental housing projects pursuant to section 201H-36(a)(5), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to include affordable rents, and by conditioning certification upon the project owners not refusing to lease units in the projects to qualified applicants because they hold a voucher or certificate of eligibility under the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

The Hawai'i Construction Alliance remains committed to its leadership role in encouraging the production of rental housing across our state. We ask your committee to continue its diligent work in addressing our state's affordable rental housing crisis by favorably passing out SB2757 SD1.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Mahalo,

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam
Executive Director
Hawai'i Construction Alliance