

**HB-1315**

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Testimony for HSG on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lois Crozer	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I am unclear as to what a "resident of Hawaii" is. Does this mean that anybody who is a US citizen can move to Hawaii and demand housing? Just wondering.. We cannot just keep building on this island.

**Testimony Before the House Committee on Housing  
in Support of HB 1315, Amending the Hawaii Constitution  
to Guarantee Hawaii Residents Access to Housing**

Galen Fox, January 31, 2019

**LATE**

Chair Brower, Committee Members:

In his Second Inaugural Address, President Franklin Roosevelt famously said, “I see one-third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished. . . . The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.”

82 years later, we have conquered the lack of food and clothing. But Hawaii’s affordable housing deficiency has reached crisis levels, with the 70 percent of our housing demand coming from those making 80 percent or less of area median income, including homeless. Our population declines as Hawaii’s children leave for the mainland. Also, a majority of native Hawaiians now reside outside their home state.

Our State Constitution, in Article XI, goes beyond housing, clothing, and food by promising to “conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources,” and “to promote the development and utilization of these resources.”

It therefore seems fitting that Article IX, which covers housing, would now “assure that each resident of the State has access to housing,” placing access to housing alongside protecting “land, water, air” and other resources.

The legislature would retain control over how the Constitution’s housing assurance is carried out, for the amendment’s next line reads, “The legislature shall provide standards and criteria to accomplish the foregoing.” Mahalo.