

SB-635

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:26:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Gilbreath	Testifying for Hawaiian Community Assets	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 2/6/2019 8:43:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 2/4/2019 3:04:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark White	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I absolutely oppose this measure. Housing is not a 'right' and governments have no business conferring 'rights' onto citizens. That's what happens in totalitarian regimes like Nazism, communism and dictatorships.

If housing were to become a 'right' given to people then any person in Hawaii could make a claim for housing without regard for impact to others, financial burden on the public or detrimental affect on our already overburdened economy.

This is a terrible idea that will only bankrupt our state. It is a poorly envisioned idea based on some politically correct platitudes and has no basis in economic reality. I strongly urge this measure be defeated and deferred indefinitely.

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Submitted on: 2/5/2019 6:02:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jane Sugimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Passing this law will support building affordable housing for Hawaii residents.

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Submitted on: 2/6/2019 9:24:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I think this bill would help government alleviate the housing crisis.

**Testimony Before the Senate Judiciary Committee
Supporting SB 635, Amending the Hawaii Constitution
to Guarantee Hawaii Residents Access to Housing**

Galen Fox, February 7, 2019

LATE

Chair Rhoads, Committee Members:

At his Second Inaugural, 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 lack of food and clothing. But Hawaii’s affordable housing deficiency has reached crisis levels, with 70% of our housing demand coming from those making 80% or less of area median income, including homeless. Hawaii’s population declines as housing affordability sends our children to the mainland. A minority of native Hawaiians still live here.

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.”

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, minerals and energy sources.”

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.