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IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of
Craig K. Hirai
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 25, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

In consideration of
S.B. 1050, S.D. 1
RELATING TO HOUSING.

The HHFDC *offers the following comments* on S.B. 1050, S.D. 1. HHFDC is willing to administer the proposed task force but we question the need for it as State employees can access existing low down payment mortgage loan programs such as Fannie Mae Home Ready and FHA Basic 203(B), the Hawaii State Federal Credit Union's Combo 100 loan program for eligible members, which include active and retired employees of the State of Hawaii. Given the increase in conventional interest rates, HHFDC is also positioning to offer Hula Mae Single Family mortgage loans through participating lenders with a 3 percent down payment feature.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on this bill.

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O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities

COMMITTEE WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, February 25, 2019

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 221
State Capitol

RE: SB 1050, SD 1, Relating to Housing

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Melodie Aduja, Chair of the O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i ("DPH"). Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on SB 1050, SD 1. The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities ("OCCLP") hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 1050, SD 1, Relating to Housing.**

SB 1050, SD 1, establishes a task force within the Hawaii housing finance and development corporation to examine and report on the feasibility of the State establishing and operating a housing loan program for state employees like the United States Department of Veterans Affairs VA home loan program, including recommendations for implementation if the program is deemed feasible. The task force shall take into consideration the following when examining the eligibility of participants in a housing loan program for state employees similar to that of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs VA home loan: (1) length of employment with the State; (2) whether the program should be open to all state employees or limited to certain categories of state employees; (3) maximum income level of the applicants; and (4) whether to include non-state employees who have a connection to the State, such as beneficiaries of the department of Hawaiian home lands.

DPH supports expanding programs that prevent displacement of existing residents, especially in Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities; creating affordable and workforce housing; and preserving neighborhood-serving nonprofit organizations and small businesses. DPH will reinvigorate housing production programs, repair public housing and seek

increased funding for rental assistance programs. DPH will fight for robust funding to end homelessness in our cities and counties once and for all, through targeted investment to provide the necessary outreach, social services, and housing options for all populations experiencing homelessness. DPH will engage in a stronger, more coordinated, and better funded partnership among Federal, State, and local governments to end chronic homelessness. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 6, ln. 26-33*

For the foregoing reasons, to wit, that DPH favors reinvigorating housing production programs, repairing public housing and seeking increased funding for rental assistance programs and fighting for robust funding to end homelessness in our cities and counties once and for all, through targeted investment to provide the necessary outreach, social services, and housing options for all populations experiencing homelessness, OCCLP supports SB 1050, SD1, and urges its passage out of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mahalo nui loa
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

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