

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of
DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 25, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 308

In consideration of
H.B. 1132, H.D. 1
RELATING TO HOUSING.

The HHFDC supports H.B. 1132, H.D. 1, which appropriates \$40,000,000 in General Obligation Bond funds into the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF) earmarked for phase I construction of a senior affordable housing project on HPHA property at School Street, Honolulu, Oahu in FY2021-2022. We understand the 17-story tower will provide 250 rental housing units for senior households. This measure is consistent with priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget, which contains a similar appropriation request for this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII

HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi

Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, February 25, 2021
12:00 PM - Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
HB 1132, HD1
RELATING TO HOUSING

Honorable Chair Luke and Members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning House Bill (HB) 1132, HD1, relating to housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **strongly supports** HB 1132, HD1, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to be appropriated into and out of the rental housing revolving fund for construction of phase I of the HPHA's School Street Senior Affordable Housing Development.

The State of Hawaii is the owner of approximately 12.481 acres of land situated at Kalaepohaku and Kapalama, at N. School Street, Honolulu, Oahu. After extensive community outreach, consultations, and studies, the HPHA plans to redevelop an approximately 6.6-acre portion of the site to develop new, desperately needed affordable housing containing 800, age-restricted rental units for seniors. The housing units would remain affordable housing rental units in perpetuity. This much needed measure provides the gap financing necessary to begin construction of the initial phase of the project, which will deliver 250 units.

The proposed redevelopment is envisioned to be a cohesive community that combines residential and ancillary retail uses in a location convenient to nearby Downtown Honolulu's Primary Urban Center and existing concentrations of retail, commercial and medical facilities. No public housing will be included within the proposed project as all residential units will be designed and built as affordable senior rental housing, which will be targeted to senior households whose incomes are between 30% and 60% of AMI.

A Final Environmental Impact Statement (“FEIS”) was completed and submitted to the Office of Environmental Quality Control (“OEQC”) and the Governor on April 26, 2018. The FEIS was published in the May 8, 2018 edition of the OEQC’s The Environmental Notice Per HAR 11-200-23 (c) and the Governor accepted the FEIS on July 17, 2018. With environmental planning complete, a Master Development Agreement with RHF was subsequently negotiated and executed in November 2019.

Thanks to the legislative appropriation for the predevelopment, the HPHA and the developer RHF have made tremendous progress resulting in the Honolulu City Council adopting Resolution 20-251, CD-1, FD-1 approving the Project’s 201H zoning and entitlement application on November 5, 2020. The resolution included a condition that construction of the project commence no later than 24 months after the approval date of the resolution or the resolution would automatically be rendered null and void. This condition will be monitored very closely by the HPHA.

The Resolution also granted the Project’s residential units approximately \$9.9 million in fee waivers and other exemptions from statutes, ordinances, charter provisions, and rules relating to planning, zoning, construction standards for subdivision and development pursuant to HRS Sections 46-15.1 and 201H-38, including the following:

- ROH Sections 14-10.1, 14-10.2, and 14-10.3, to allow an exemption of wastewater system facility charges estimated at \$4,234,195.71.
- ROH Section 18-6.1-2, to allow an exemption of building permit, plan review and special assignment inspection fees estimated at \$1,837,440.64.
- Exemption from LUO Section 21-3.70-1(a) and Table 21-3, relating to permitted uses and structures in the R-5 Residential District, to allow the Project to have multifamily dwellings, office buildings, and commercial uses as permitted in the BMX-3 Community Business Mixed-Use District and Section 21-3.70-1(b) and (c) and Table 21-3.2, relating to development standards in the R-5 Residential District, to allow the Project to comply instead with the development standards applicable in the BMX-3 Community Business Mixed Use District.
- Exemption from LUO Section 21-3.70-1(b) and (c) and Table 21-3.2, relating to maximum building height in the R-5 District, to allow a Project maximum building height of 170 feet (instead of a maximum building height of 25 feet) and Section 21-6.20 and Table 21-6.1, relating to off-street parking for multifamily dwellings, to allow the Project to provide a minimum of 820 parking spaces (rather than the required minimum 1,200 parking spaces) including a minimum of 578 residential parking spaces, provided that the City and County of Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) may,

upon request, approve further reductions in the required minimum number of residential parking spaces, but not below a minimum of 309.

- Exemption from LUO Section 21-6.100, relating to off-street loading spaces, to allow the Project to provide six (6) 8.5 x 19-foot loading spaces with a 10-foot vertical clearance, and three (3) 12 x 35-foot loading spaces with a 15-foot vertical clearance (rather than a required four (4) 8.5 x 19-foot loading spaces with a 10-foot vertical clearance, and five (5) 12 x 35-foot loading spaces with a 15-foot vertical clearance), exemption from the sign standards in LUO Article 7 to allow the Project to comply with a Project master sign plan ("MSP") approved by the DPP and exemption from LUO Section 21-6.150, relating to bicycle parking spaces, allowing the Project to provide 250 long-term and 65 short-term bicycle parking spaces (rather than the required 400 long-term and 80 short-term bicycle parking spaces).
- ROH Chapter 22, Article 7, to allow an exemption from park dedication requirements, totaling approximately 88,000 square feet of park space, or payment of an equivalent in-lieu fee, estimated at \$3,774,596.45.

City Council approval of the project's 201H application was subject to further terms and conditions, relating to signage, construction management, traffic management and parking management plans and reports, State Historic Preservation Division compliance and a requirement to enter into a development agreement with the Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting for monitoring compliance with the resolution.

Community engagement was a hallmark of the predevelopment effort for the Project. The HPHA built into its master development agreement with RHF required community outreach at various milestones throughout the predevelopment process. This requirement was included to be certain that the community had adequate opportunity to provide input at important Project planning and decision milestones.

Over 18,000 postcards were mailed out to residents and other community stakeholders within a quarter mile of the project to announce these meetings. In addition, several presentations were made to neighborhood Board 14 at their monthly meetings.

Community engagement efforts continued during the 201H approval process with virtual updates provided to the public due to COVID-19 during the weeks of October 23rd and November 4th, 2020 and with members of the Lanakila Multi-purpose Senior Center (LMPSC) on November 24, 2020.

The next steps for the project are to secure financing including Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), Hula-Mae Multi-family Bonds, senior debt and state provided gap financing. The HPHA recently filed a consolidated application for LIHTC and Rental Housing Revolving fund with the HHFDC on February 17, 2021.

This Project is important for the community and the state as it will not only help alleviate the desperate need for affordable housing throughout the state, but is also conservatively estimated to generate at least 250 jobs during construction with the value of labor estimated to be approximately \$45 million including general contractor and subcontractor staffing. In addition, there will be many more jobs generated off-site from vendors and suppliers, trucking, subcontractor main office support, food trucks, etc.

The HPHA very much appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with the HPHA's testimony in strong support of this project. We thank you very much for your dedicated efforts.



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**The State Legislature
House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 25, 2021
12:00 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair

RE: H.B. 1132, HD1 Relating to Housing

Aloha Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over, with nearly 145,000 members in Hawai'i.

AARP Hawai'i supports H.B. 1132, HD1 which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to be deposited into the rental housing revolving fund for the construction of Phase I of the School Street elderly housing project that is on Hawaii's Public Authority Housing property.

Hawaii continues to face major housing shortages including affordable homes for the kūpuna. People at low or fixed income are more vulnerable of becoming dependent on other family members for shelter, or face homelessness. AARP supports projects such as the School Street Phase I which will help increase the housing inventory as well as provide employment opportunities for the workforce. With the current low Interest rates, it is a good time for the issuance of general obligation bonds for the rental housing revolving fund.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to support H.B. 1132, HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keali'i Lopez".

Keali'i Lopez, AARP Hawai'i
State Director



To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice-Chair
Committee on Finance

Hrg: February 25, 2021 at 12:00pm, Room 308

From: Paula Arcena, Vice President, External Affairs
Trish La Chica, Community and Government Relations Manager, External
Affairs

RE: **HB1132 HD1, Relating to Housing - Support**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **HB1132 HD1**, which would authorize general obligation bonds totaling \$40 million to fund the construction of phase 1 of a senior affordable housing project on School Street, Oahu.

Founded in 1994, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving 73,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care, including access to housing and food security, to build a stronger, healthier Hawaii.

AlohaCare believes this measure helps to fund affordable senior housing units to house our vulnerable kupuna. Housing costs make up the majority of an individual's monthly costs and access to affordable, safe, and healthy housing is an important determinant of health that helps to keep a person healthy and well. The proposed project, which will be located next to the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center will also provide an opportunity for senior residents to access educational and recreational services that will have a positive impact on their well-being.

AlohaCare appreciates the Legislature's commitment to increase the availability of affordable housing units, particularly when median single-family home values have [reached a record high](#) of \$880,000. AlohaCare supports efforts that enable Hawaii's seniors to age in place and this measure addresses the high housing costs that pose a problem for our seniors who wish to retire in the islands.

We are grateful to the Committee for hearing HB1132 and the opportunity to testify.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1132 HD1: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: House Committee on Finance
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: Thursday, 2/25/21; 12:00 pm; via videoconference

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members, Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of HB 1132 HD1, authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds for the construction of an affordable senior housing project on School Street, Oahu. I am Rob Van Tassell, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care (PIC). **This bill is a critical start to developing an exciting campus for seniors to live, learn and stay connected in our community.**

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 70 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless, and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Catholic Charities Hawai'i has a long history of working in the areas of affordable housing and homelessness.

CCH strongly supports \$40 million in GO bonds for Phase 1 of this important senior housing project. The project would create 250 affordable rental units in an ideal location. It is on the property of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority's administrative offices, so no one will be displaced from current housing. It is also next to Catholic Charities Hawai'i's Lanakila Multi-purpose Senior Center which offers an exceptional opportunity to integrate housing with educational, recreational and service resources. Many studies have shown that being active and involved helps keep seniors healthy. This is the start of a redevelopment that will build 800 kupuna units by the end of Phase 3. Our state needs 1,967 units of senior housing by 2025.

Creating housing for our kupuna is even more critical now in the pandemic. Previous to this crisis, **studies had already projected an almost 300% increase in elderly homelessness over the next 10 years.** Now older workers are being hit hard by the pandemic and the loss of jobs. We cannot afford to stop investing in senior housing. The Age Wave is hitting Hawai'i. We need to house our growing number of elders. Hawai'i's kupuna (aged 65+) **grew 33% from 2010 to 2018 (3.6% annually),** which is **over six times higher** than the rate of the general population. Safe and decent affordable housing becomes ever more critical as each year passes.

Hundreds of seniors come to Catholic Charities Hawai'i each year seeking housing. One 76 year old widow was facing homelessness after her husband died suddenly and she lost his income. Our Housing Assistance Program for elders helped her to obtain a rental in an affordable housing project with caring management. We need more buildings to house our vulnerable kupuna.

This project is shovel ready and would create an estimated 250 jobs during construction plus many others off-site, as well as hundreds of permanent jobs after completion. This job creation gives a big economic boost to our economy. We urge your support for \$40 million for construction of this project. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone (808)373-0356 • bettylou.larson@CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org



PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Continuum of Care

Our mission is to eliminate homelessness through open and inclusive participation and the coordination of integrated responses.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1132 HD1: Relating to Housing

TO: Committee on Finance
FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)
Hearing: **Thursday, 2/25/21; 12:00 pm; via videoconference**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members, Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of HB 1132, HD1 authorizing GO bonds for the construction of Phase 1 of a senior affordable housing project on Hawaii Public Housing Authority property on School Street, Oahu. Partners In Care (PIC), a coalition of more than 60 non-profit homelessness providers and concerned organizations, urges your continued prioritization for GO bond funding for affordable rental production and particularly for this much needed senior housing project.

Partners in Care is very concerned about increasing homelessness for elders. Vulnerable elders on walkers sometimes come into emergency shelters. Besides being the most vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic, elders face significant health trauma from homelessness. Studies predict an almost 300% increase in elderly homelessness over the next 10 years. Moreover, **the overall elderly population is growing extremely fast. From 2010 to 2018, Hawai'i's seniors grew by 33%, over six times higher than the rate of the general population.** Housing is healthcare—and can prevent much more expensive institutionalization of our elderly population.

We cannot afford to stop investing in affordable housing development, and by investing in this project now, the legislature will be strengthening our economy. This project is shovel ready and could break ground by the end of 2021 if funded. It will create at least 250 jobs during construction and hundreds of permanent jobs after completion including vendors. The next 2-3 years are critical to the economic recovery of Hawai'i. Funding this shovel ready project will give a boost to the economy sooner vs later.

This affordable senior housing project is in an ideal location for elders, close to transit, shopping, and medical facilities. Since there are no residential units on this site currently, there would be no displacement of residents. The elderly tenants who move in would be able to take advantage of the many classes, special events, and opportunities to build friendships at the senior center, right next door. This would help to build a supportive community at this site, not only housing units.

Partners In Care urges you to pass HB 1132 HD1 with strong support. It will bring economic, social, and health benefits to the State of Hawai'i and its citizens. Top State priorities to create affordable housing and to end homelessness would be addressed by this funding.

Connie Mitchell, Advocacy Chair, PARTNERS IN CARE, OAHU'S CONTINUUM OF CARE
200 North Vineyard Boulevard • Suite 210 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 • (808) 380-9444 •
PICadvocate@gmail.com

Dolores Foley, PhD
Pacific Academic Consultants
1389 Akalani Loop
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

TO: The Honorable Nadine Nakamura, Chair

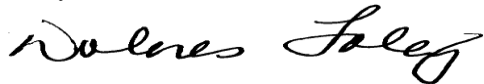
RE: H.B. 1132 Relating to Housing

Aloha Chair Nakamura and Members of the Committee:

My testimony is in support of H.B. 1132 which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to be deposited into the rental housing revolving fund for the construction of Phase I of the School Street elderly housing project that is on Hawaii's Public Authority Housing property. Building more housing is a priority for the state and this bill supports this priority. There is a long waitlist for these affordable housing units for Hawaii's kūpuna. While the State is facing revenue challenges as a result of the pandemic, it still remains important to invest in projects that can address our tight housing supply while stimulating our economy with more construction jobs.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to support H.B. 1132

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dolores Foley".



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: Feb. 24, 2021

To: Chair Rep. Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Rep. Ty Cullen
and Members of the Committee on Finance

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Public Policy Advocate
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of HB 1132: Relating to Housing
Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021, 12 p.m., Capitol Room 308

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 1132, HD1, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to be appropriated into and out of the rental housing revolving fund for construction of phase I of a senior affordable housing project on Hawaii public housing authority property on School Street, 'Oahu.

The Hawaiian Humane Society has been a voting member of Partners in Care for the past four years. We joined the organization with the goal of better understanding the needs of homeless and low-income pet owners, partnering with other organizations that serve these vulnerable populations and collecting data to inform our policies and decision making. We have deep respect for the work being done by our local human social service agencies.

Many of the pet owners served by Hawaiian Humane's Pet Kōkua program for low-income resident are seniors. Their animal companions provide them a vital buffer from social isolation. Housing insecurity can be particularly tragic for our kūpuna, and their numbers are growing rapidly. Between 2010-18, Hawai'i's 65+ population grew by 33 percent, more than six times faster than the general population. We need more affordable senior housing to meet this need. I would ask the committee to note its preference that these units be pet friendly so that our kūpuna can enjoy the comfort of their beloved family members.

Please pass HB 1132, HD1, and invest in the affordable, pet-friendly housing that our community so desperately needs. Mahalo for your consideration.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1132: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: House Committee on Housing.

FROM: Anders Plett, Vice President of Acquisition and Development, Retirement Housing Foundation

Hearing: Tuesday, 2/9/21; 10:00 AM

Chair Nakamura, Vice Chari Hashimoto, and Members of the Committee on Housing:

Retirement Housing Foundation (RHF), as the Master Developer of the School Street Affordable Housing Redevelopment Project (Project), **strongly supports HB 1132**, which authorizes \$40 million in general obligation bonds for the construction of phase 1 of the Project.

The primary objective of the Project is to redevelop an underutilized State land asset to facilitate delivery of 800 urgently needed, new, affordable senior housing rental units, to help address the existing affordable housing crises across the State of Hawai'i. As has been widely publicized, there is a severe affordable housing shortage in this country. In response, the State of Hawai'i seeks to provide over 22,000 affordable rental housing units, ready for occupancy, by the end of 2026. This Project specifically responds to this urgent need for developing affordable rental housing and will assist with the State's goals. Seniors are particularly affected because most are on fixed incomes. This Project will create an opportunity for senior residents to access new, high-quality, sustainably-designed rental housing in the urban core of Honolulu in close proximity to a concentration of commercial and retail establishments, medical providers, a senior center, an established bus line and two planned HART rail stations.

The Project will be built over three phases and has the potential to significantly expand the number of quality, affordable rental apartments available in the community. At full buildout, the Project will include 797 affordable rental units, offered to senior households earning between 30 percent and 60 percent of the area median income (AMI) for Honolulu (three units will be reserved for on-site property managers), secured off-street parking, residential amenities, and commercial retail space.

Phase 1 will include 250 affordable senior units. Planned amenities will include an exercise room, classrooms, arts and crafts room, multi-purpose room with kitchen, media room and lending library, and computer lab, along with an outdoor recreation deck on top of the parking structure with walking paths, BBQ areas, resident gardens and a stage for outdoor events. The ground floor lobby area will contain the manager's office, the service coordinator's office, mail area, bike storage, restrooms and sitting areas. The buildings will be fully secured with key fob entry system and security cameras throughout, and the adjacent parking garage will have a security gate. Since the Project is designed for seniors, aged 55 years and older, all Project amenities, programs and

services will cater to this age cohort. As seniors “age in place”, the services and programs will evolve to meet their specific needs so they can lead long, independent and dignified lives. These services may include health and wellness clinics, exercise classes, affordable in-home health care, and transportation. RHF’s affiliate, Foundation Property Management, who already manages two affordable senior projects on Oahu, will hire local Hawaii personnel to manage the lease-up and operation of the Project.

Since first being awarded the Project by the HPHA, RHF and the HPHA have worked very hard together to move the project forward expeditiously. The FEIS was approved by the Governor in July 2018 and the 201H entitlements were unanimously approved via Resolution 20-251 by the Honolulu City Council in November 2020. During both processes, RHF worked meticulously with the HPHA, the public and Project stakeholders. Our extensive public engagement process sought their input every step of the way through numerous public workshops, design charrettes, and general update meetings, which has resulted in overwhelming support for the Project.

The \$40 million in general obligation bonds, provided through the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF), will be critical to the success of this Project.

RHF is one of the largest non-profit affordable housing developers and property management organizations in the United States. We are dedicated to and focused on our mission to build and preserve affordable housing for the most vulnerable members of society. We develop, own, and operate our properties long-term and take great pride in producing beautiful and lasting communities.

Thanks in advance for your consideration. RHF is very grateful to the HPHA and the State for this opportunity.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1132, HD 1

TO: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, & Finance Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz, Grants, Development & Policy Manager

DATE: February 25, 2021 (12:00 PM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports** HB 1132, HD 1, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to be appropriated into and out of the rental housing revolving fund for construction of a senior affordable housing project on School Street in Honolulu.

We support legislative efforts to ameliorate Hawai'i's housing crisis. Affording more low-cost options will help alleviate some of the obstacles faced by Hawai'i residents who are struggling to procure or maintain adequate housing in the current rental housing market.

HHRC is member of [Partners in Care](#) (PIC), a coalition of more than sixty non-profit homeless providers and allied organizations. HHRC works with many individuals who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those relating to substance use and underlying mental health conditions.

We share PIC's concerns about increasing homelessness for elders, who are vulnerable to COVID-19 and face significant health trauma from homelessness. Even in non-pandemic times, many elderly persons have a range of chronic health conditions that require regular medical care that can include daily medication. Housing instability is especially threatening for these persons.

As noted by other proponents of this project, it will create at least 250 jobs during construction and more after the project's completion. The project is also close to transit, shopping, and medical facilities. Tenants would also have opportunities to engage in classes and other social activities at a nearby senior center. [Maintaining regular social connections is an important factor in senior health and well-being, including mental health, cognitive function, and motor skills.](#)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-1132-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 4:42:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. We need adequate affordable housing for our kupuna and we are far behind in building enough. This project is shovel ready and we've been talking about it for years. It's time to get it started.

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair; Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair;
House Committee on Finance
From: Niana Kilbey, 808-446-0032; Nakaka@hawaii.edu
Hearing: Thursday 02/25/21 via videoconference
Subject: **HB 1132 HD1: RELATED TO HOUSING**

I am testifying **in support** of HB 1132 HD 1 which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for construction of phase I of a senior affordable housing project on School street, Oahu. My name is Niana Kilbey and I am a student in the Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health BSW program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The high cost of living in Hawaii has especially affected the elderly population. As of 2020, 12% of those experiencing homelessness on Oahu are 60 years of age or older and studies predict that homelessness among the elderly will increase by three hundred percent within the next ten years. As the aging population continues to grow, the demand of affordable housing units for kupuna increases. To meet the needs of kupuna on fixed, low incomes, 1,967 units are needed by 2025. Phase I of the senior affordable housing project on School street would provide 250 units conveniently located next to the Lanakila Multi-purpose Senior Center. Passing this bill is a crucial first step in the direction of preventing our kupuna from experiencing homelessness.

As a native Hawaiian citizen of Hawai'i with a heart for the community, I strongly support the issuance of \$40 million for the construction of a senior affordable housing project on school street. The construction of this senior affordable housing project will not only assist our kupuna who are unable to make a living on their own but will provide job opportunities for those who have been impacted by the high cost of living in Hawai'i and the loss of employment due to the coronavirus pandemic.

For the above reasons, I humbly urge you to pass HB 1132 HD 1. Thank you for taking the time to schedule this hearing and allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.