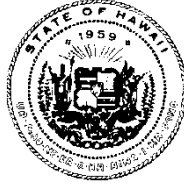


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

April 1, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 211

In consideration of  
**H.B. 606, H.D. 1, S.D. 1**  
**AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING.**

The HHFDC ***supports*** H.B. 606, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, which makes FY2021-2022 General Obligation Bond appropriations of \$20,000,000 for infusion into the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund (DURF) and \$25,000,000 for infusion into the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF). HHFDC appreciates the consideration of infusing funds into DURF and RHRF, provided that it does not adversely affect priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget.

The Executive Biennium Budget includes a General Obligation Bond appropriation of \$20,000,000 in FY2022-2023 for infusion into DURF and a General Obligation Bond appropriation of \$25,000,000 in FY 2022-2023 for infusion into RHRF.

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



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830  
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882  
aarp.org/hi | [aarphi@aarp.org](mailto:aarphi@aarp.org) | [twitter.com/AARPHawaii](https://twitter.com/AARPHawaii)  
[facebook.com/AARPHawaii](https://facebook.com/AARPHawaii)

**The State Legislature  
The Senate  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Thursday, April 1, 2021  
9:30 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

RE: H.B. 606 HD 1, SD1 Relating to Issuance of General Obligation Bonds for Affordable Housing

Aloha Chair Chang 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. 606 HD 1, SD1 which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds with funds to be deposited in the dwelling unit revolving fund and the rental housing revolving fund.

AARP continues to support funding allocations for affordable housing. The high cost of housing has driven many people to homelessness or the need to leave Hawaii. There is an urgent need to increase Hawaii's inventory of affordable housing so that residents can have a place to live and not leave the state. Issuing general obligations bonds for the rental housing revolving fund and the dwelling unit revolving fund is a prudent investment in our future. For example, 1,169 new units - in 10 rental projects - will be completed in FY 2021. These projects were financed through the Rental Housing Revolving Fund.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to support H.B. 606, HD1, SD1.

Sincerely,

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

Keali'i Lopez, AARP Hawai'i  
State Director



**Hawaiian Humane Society**  
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
808.356.2200 • [HawaiianHumane.org](http://HawaiianHumane.org)

Date: March 29, 2021

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

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

RE: Testimony in support of HB 606, HD1, SD1: Authorizing the Issuance  
of General Obligation Bonds for Affordable Housing  
Thursday, April 1, 2021, 9:30 a.m., Capitol Room 211

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Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 606, HD1, SD1, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds with the funds to be deposited into the dwelling unit revolving fund and the rental housing revolving fund.

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.

One issue looms over all of their hard work, Hawai'i's lack of affordable housing. More than half of local families pay more than one-third of their income on rent, which means that unexpected life events, such as losing a job, caring for a sick family member or recovering from a car accident, will put them into financial jeopardy. This housing insecurity is a real and ever-present threat to the wellbeing of Hawai'i's people and pets. The state must invest in making sure families can stay intact and have a roof over their heads.

Please pass HB606, HD1, SD1, and invest in the affordable, pet-friendly housing that our community so desperately needs. Mahalo for your consideration.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 606 HD1 SD1: AUTHORIZING THE ISSURANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
Hearing: Thursday, 4/1/21; 9:30 am; via videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of HB 606 HD1 SD1, authorizing GO bonds to the rental housing revolving fund for the construction of affordable rentals. I am Rob Van Tassell, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care (PIC).

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 GO bond funding to the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF).** This past year has shown that affordable housing is critical as people try to recover from economic disaster, but often with reduced hours or long-term unemployment. Continuing to create affordable rentals will not only give hope to stressed families as we recover, but will give a much needed boost to the state's economy. We recognize that the State faces many challenges and even bond funding faces limits. **We urge that the immediate and ongoing needs of our residents for affordable rentals should be a priority in allocating CIP funding.**

The legislature is concerned about the ALICE population. Many may face homelessness in this crisis. Creating affordable rentals is one major factor of the cost of living over which the Legislature has some control. We also are greatly concerned about our kupuna who are at great risk due to limited incomes. *Seniors like a 63 year old woman who came to our Housing Assistance Program for elders since she was renting a room from her niece but wanted her own place. We counseled her and helped her to apply for rentals. However, with the long wait lists for an affordable unit, she eventually became homeless due to overcrowding and safety issues. She was living in her car when she called us with awesome news. She had gotten a unit at a senior housing project in Pearl City, funded by the RHRF! She was even willing to give up her car in order to pay the rent and remain independent with her limited income.*

Hawai'i's people, communities, and especially our most vulnerable, depend on all of us to continue to pay attention to affordable housing during this crisis.

We urge your support for HB 606 HD1 SD1 including an increase in the allocation for the construction of affordable rentals. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 373-0356 or [bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org) if you have any questions.



# PARTNERS IN CARE

*Oahu's Continuum of Care*

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

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 606 HD1 SD1: AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)  
Hearing: **Thursday, 4/1/21; 9:30 am; via videoconference**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of HB 606 HD1 SD1 authorizing the issuance of GO bonds for the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (at HHFDC) for the construction of affordable rentals. Partners In Care (PIC), is a coalition of more than 60 non-profit homelessness providers and concerned organizations. We urge your continued prioritization of GO bond funding for affordable rental production to prevent homelessness and give hope to the people of Hawai'i.

We cannot afford to stop investing in affordable housing development, and by investing in it now, the legislature will be strengthening our economy. Job creation is vital to help pull the State out of this economic crisis. While it may not be feasible to commit the level of resources committed in previous years, **PIC urges your support for a strong allocation to the RHRF to meet the critical needs of our population during this crisis which will extend out at least for the next 2 years.**

60% of Hawaii's families pay more than one-third of their income on rent. Hit hard by the pandemic, they are in financial jeopardy. Growing homelessness is a real concern. Building affordable rentals builds resiliency for the future, as well as bringing hope to Hawaii's families. The RHRF is the major pathway for the State to promote the development of affordable rental units. RHRF has build thousands of units, yet 20,000 rentals are still needed by 2025 for Hawaii's lower income families (making \$61,000/year or less)

Partners In Care is also 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 almost a 300% increase in elderly homelessness over the next 10 years.** Even worse, these projections were prior to the pandemic which has hit older workers hard.

Housing is healthcare—and can prevent much more expensive institutionalization for Hawai'i seniors. Partners In Care urges your strong support for GO bond funding for affordable rentals. Besides the important economic impact, this funding will provide hope to our struggling families, elders and disabled persons.

**HB-606-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 5:24:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                             | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kaikea K. Blakemore | Testifying for<br>Neighborhood Place of<br>Puna | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

As housing service providers we support this fund to assist local families in homeownership. Hawaii's cost of living has greatly outpaced wages, and we see this every day in our work as a non-profit agency. The need for social services is far beyond what we have resources to give, and many families are stricken with poverty. Without swift action towards the development of affordable housing, we will continue to see the housing crisis increase. Thank you for supporting this bill to help local low-income families increase housing security.

Kaikea Kaleikini Blakemore

Community Development Specialist

Neighborhood Place of Puna

**HB-606-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2021 9:30:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christy MacPherson  | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support HB606, HD1 SD1. We just CANNOT build enough affordable housing units for the people of Hawai`i.

**HB-606-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 11:07:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2021 9:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John D. Smith       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I support.