

Office of the President
The Senate
State of Hawaii
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii
96813



September 12, 2014

Chairman Aila and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

As the Senate President and the Senator representing District 14, I am requesting that the Board defer action to issue a direct lease of land on Sand Island to the City and County of Honolulu for a temporary housing first transition center for the homeless. Issuing a lease without the details would be premature and it eliminates the community the opportunity to give input **prior** to granting the lease.

First, the Kalihi community, people who live and work in the Sand Island area, and the general public should have more time to examine and digest the City's proposal in full and to hear its potential impact in the short- and long-term. The only public meeting on this proposal to date was held by the City this past Wednesday, September 10 with short notice.

Second, I appreciate the city's plan to drive this transitional center to temporarily house 100 homeless families but we don't have sufficient details of this project. Therefore, I ask for the Board to approve granting access but defer until your next meeting entering into a lease with the city and county. A one month delay will not affect the project but will go a long way to involving the community and giving the city time to develop and share details of the project. This project is just too important to push it on the community prematurely. I am optimistic that if done right this Housing First proposal will be successful over the long term.

Lastly, when the Board does enter into the lease, I suggest that you require the city to submit quarterly reports, assessing the project's overall progress to ensure accountability and transparency as to the city's representations to the community.

There is everything to be gained in granting the public an opportunity to express their thoughts and concerns about a project that could impact the community

Mahalo