



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • TTY (808) 586-8162 • Fax (808) 586-8129

February 14, 2024

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HOUSING, AND HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

House Bill 2324 – Relating to Housing

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) offers comments on House Bill 2324 – Relating to Housing.

This bill addresses the housing crisis by appropriating funds for prefabricated, modular, or kauhale-type housing for homeless individuals and low income households.

The housing crisis is magnified for people with disabilities. People with disabilities are twice as likely to live below the poverty level.

In addition to addressing the temporary housing shortage, legislation should address the quantity of supportive temporary housing units that are accessible to people with mobility and communication disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design (ADA Standards) specifies the minimum percentage of accessible temporary housing units in public facilities. The ADA Standards only requires five percent of units to be accessible for mobility disabilities and two percent of units to be accessible for communication disabilities.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2021 Disability Characteristics for the State of Hawaii, 19.1 percent of Hawaii's residents that are sixty five years and older have mobility difficulty, 12.6 percent have hearing difficulty, and 4.7 percent have vision difficulty. The following adjustments that exceed minimum accessibility and adaptability requirements would help ensure Hawaii residents with disabilities are able to access the services funded by this bill.

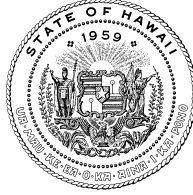
- In public facilities with temporary housing units, at least twenty percent, but no fewer than one unit, of the total number of the units shall provide mobility features that comply with applicable technical requirements in the ADA Standards.
- In public facilities with temporary housing units, at least thirteen percent, but no fewer than one unit, of the total number of units shall provide communication features that comply with applicable technical requirements in the ADA Standards.

Investing in accessible, temporary housing would ensure that people with disabilities who are homeless or low income are not excluded from this program.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of **John Mizuno**
Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness
Before the
House Committee on Housing/ Health and Homelessness
February 14, 2024
9:30 a.m., Conference Room 312

In consideration of
House Bill No. 2324
RELATING TO HOUSING

Aloha Chair Evslin, Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Aiu, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

I am writing in **strong support** of HB2324 which appropriates funds for prefabricated, modular, or kauhale type housing for homeless individuals and low-income households.

This measure is aligned with Governor Green's priorities on homelessness, specifically with the emphasis on the Kauhale Initiative- **testing innovative models of low-cost long-term housing**, where people support each other's healing and growth as a community.

I commend the legislature for its prior investments into Kauhale and appreciate any future support.

Mahalo,

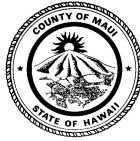
John Mizuno
Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

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Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

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Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 13, 2024

TO: The Honorable Luke A. Evslin, Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Housing
The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Health & Homelessness

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 14, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2324, RELATING TO HOUSING**

I **support** this measure to appropriate funds for prefabricated, modular, or kauhale-type housing for homeless individuals and low-income households.

I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Modular or kauhale-type housing units are a cost-effective construction option that can be expeditiously permitted to create direly needed housing. These units are innovative and provide a solution for homeless and low-income households.
2. Appropriate levels of funding for this program will broaden its reach. I would also ask that the Legislature explore ways in which the program can assist with the transitional needs of Maui wildfire victims.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.

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MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HOUSING and
HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 312
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 AT 9:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Luke A. Evslin, Chair
The Honorable Micah P.K. Aiu, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Housing
The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the committee on Health & Homeless

SUPPORT HB2324 RELATING TO HOUSING

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **SUPPORTS HB2324.**

Maui County had a housing crisis prior to the wildfires and given the now extreme need for housing on Maui exacerbated by the wildfires, we need urgent solutions.

The Chamber would like to note that this bill does not have a section describing its purpose. Yet, there is a clause in the bill that states "The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of the governor for the purposes of this Act." Since there is no stated purpose, what is allowed with the appropriated funds?

We agree that the use of prefabricated, modular, or kauhale-type housing for homeless individuals and low-income households would greatly help with the crisis at hand.

We need as many tools in our toolbox for providing shelter to our populations who need them.

For these reasons we **SUPPORT HB2324.**

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.