



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
Tuesday, February 15, 2022
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

in consideration of
SB 2581
RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports the intent** of SB 2581, which would amend Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 226-109 Affordable Housing to add as a priority guideline a section (9) that seeks to use lands within the State that are leased to the federal government or under federal government control that are to be returned to the State, including lands that have been used to house former military facilities, for affordable housing.

OPSD is in favor of measures that facilitate affordable housing. For your information, OPSD is currently in the process of collecting data from DLNR and the various counties regarding federally controlled lands, including federal lands used by military facilities. This study was called for in Act 93, SLH 2021.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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 SB 2581: RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

TO: Senate Committee on Housing

FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)

Hearing: Tuesday, 2/15/22; 1:00 PM; via videoconference

Chair Chang and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 2581**, which would seek state land which is currently leased to the federal government for housing purposes.

Partners In Care (PIC), a coalition of more than 60 non-profit homelessness providers and concerned organizations, works on Oahu to end homelessness. Partners In Care supports this bill to increase the number of affordable housing units available to those exiting homelessness and low income renters. For the last several decades, we have seen the decommission of housing on military bases across the country. Here in Hawaii, there are a number of properties that are no longer used for their original intended use. Many military families have chosen to move into the neighborhoods outside of the multiple bases on our islands or have been informed that base housing is unavailable. We would like to encourage a review of these properties so that they can be renovated as needed, or cleared so that land can be used to create new housing to address the lack of affordable housing throughout our islands. We have allowed many of these properties to sit vacant and become unsafe and uninhabitable while we price out folks from housing in our community.

We urge your support for this bill as a step forward to increase access to affordable housing throughout Hawaii.

Aloha.