



**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 WAYS AND MEANS
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Wednesday, February 23, 2022
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

in consideration of
SB 2581
RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

Chairs Dela Cruz and Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and Water and Land.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **appreciates 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 federal leased lands, including federal lands utilized 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 Ways and Means

FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)

Hearing: **Wednesday, 2/23/22; 1:00 PM; via videoconference**

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

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.

SB 2581 TESTIMONY

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Decision Making on Feb. 23, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

From: John Kawamoto

Position: Support

Federal, State, and local governments are doing far too little to ensure that all citizens have access to housing that they can afford. Hawaii suffers from a shortage of 50,000 homes, and much more must be done to alleviate this shortage. This bill represents a step in the right direction.