



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
The Honorable Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair
The Honorable Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair
Committee on Housing

Re: **SCR 210 / SR 203 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE BARRIERS TO CREATING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE STATE.**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 30, 2022, 3:10 p.m., Conference Room 224 and via Videoconference

Position: **Strong Support**

Aloha, Chairs Wakai and Chang, Vice Chairs Misalucha and Kanuha, and Members of the Committees on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism and Housing:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in strong support of SCR 210 / SR 1203. These Resolutions would request the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to submit a report to the Legislature on the barriers to creating affordable housing in the State.

Affordable housing must be based on typical wages earned in the State. The definition of "affordable" sales prices must more accurately reflect what households in Hawaii can realistically afford, taking into consideration additional costs such as homeowners association fees, insurance, utilities, transportation, cost of living, access to low interest rates, and other considerations.

These reports are necessary to assist the state and counties in providing affordable housing for Hawaii residents. The reports will also look at methodologies for determining affordable housing in other states and municipalities with similar high costs of living.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Melodie Adaja and Alan B. Burdick

Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i