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Testimony of **John Mizuno**
Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness
Before the
House Committee on Finance
February 28, 2024
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 308

In consideration of
House Bill No. 2084 HD1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

I am writing to provide comments for HB2084, which appropriates funds and establishes a vacated encampment clean up task force to identify potential entities to enter into intergovernmental agreements to coordinate the clean up of vacated encampments located on lands managed by United States Army Garrison Hawai'i.

I appreciate that this measure focuses on clean ups of **vacated** encampments. I have witnessed the harmful effects that enforcement and/or sweeps have on individuals experiencing homelessness. To ensure that only vacated encampments are cleaned up, I humbly request that "vacated encampment" be defined in this measure:

"Vacated encampment means a homeless encampment that has been abandoned by **all people previously living there** for a period of time as determined by the vacated homeless encampment clean up task force."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for HB2084.

Mahalo,

John Mizuno
Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness



**COMMENTS ON HB 2084, HD1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") wishes to offer comments on HB 2084, HD1 which establishes a vacated homeless encampment clean up task force to identify parcels of land that require intergovernmental coordination to clean up vacated homeless encampments located on lands managed by government agencies, including but not limited to the United States Army Garrison Hawai'i, and execute a memorandum of understanding to clean up vacated homeless encampments located on the identified parcels.

The MAC was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

The proposal to establish a homelessness encampment clean up task force within the Department of Transportation is well-intentioned. However, there is already an existing, effective collaboration between the United States Army Garrison and the Department of Transportation which successfully works on, among other issues, the challenges of homelessness on state- and federally-owned lands.

The Department of Transportation, with its clearance capability, has been working to address the environmental and public health hazards posed by vacated encampments. The proposed task force seems redundant given this established commitment and relationship. Most respectfully, it would be more beneficial to focus on strengthening this relationship and leveraging their combined capabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments.



Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair
Committee on Finance

February 28, 2024
10:00 am
Conference Room 308

RE: HB 2084- RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Aloha Chair Yamashita, and Vice Chair Kitagawa,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB 2084**. At Castle & Cooke Homes Hawaii, we wholeheartedly support the enactment of this legislation aimed at addressing homelessness and its associated challenges on state- and federally-owned lands. We recognize the importance of collaborative intergovernmental approaches in tackling such complex issues. The establishment of an intergovernmental homelessness task force, as proposed in this Act, aligns with our commitment to fostering sustainable communities across Hawaii. By bringing together relevant stakeholders, including state agencies, the United States Army Garrison Hawaii, and homeless services provider agencies, this task force can effectively coordinate efforts to identify and clean up vacated encampments, thereby mitigating environmental and public health hazards.

Furthermore, Castle & Cooke Homes Hawaii understands the significance of prioritizing the safety and well-being of both homeless individuals and surrounding communities. The provisions outlined in this legislation, such as the requirement to prioritize the removal of biohazards, hazardous materials, and items posing immediate public health or safety risks, demonstrate a proactive approach to addressing these concerns. Additionally, the consideration of factors such as public health risks, environmental concerns, and the potential for reoccupation in determining the status of vacated encampments underscores the thoughtful and comprehensive nature of this proposed framework.

In conclusion, Castle & Cooke Homes Hawaii believes that investing in solutions to homelessness not only benefits those directly affected but also contributes to the overall resilience and vitality of our state.

Mahalo for your consideration of this testimony.

CASTLE & COOKE HOMES HAWAII, INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Garret Matsunami".

Garret Matsunami
Executive Vice President & Chief Operations Officer

HB-2084-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 6:19:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Meehan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: HB2084, Relating to Homelessness

I am writing the letter to provide support for HB 2084 which appropriates funds and establishes a vacated encampment clean up task force. As well, to enter into agreements to coordinate the clean up of vacated encampments located on lands managed by the U.S. Army Garrison.

I most recently worked with the office of Representative Trish La Chica regarding critical conditions of an encampment at Mile Marker 15 on Kamehameha Hwy. in Waipahu. This encampment was directly adjacent to the Koa Ridge Community where I reside with my family.

Representative La Chica's office identified outside agencies who contacted the residents of the illegal encampment to inform them of residential housing opportunities that would provide appropriate and safe shelter. Some months ago, a coordinated effort with the U.S. Army Garrison and the DOT and others, cleaned up the large encampment. The unsightly and unsafe site is now vacated, nightly altercations have ceased, occupants no longer roam the Koa Ridge Community and vehicles parked adjacent to the camp site no longer pose a traffic hazard along this busy stretch of Kamehameha Hwy.

It is my sincere hope HB 2084 passes and a Task Force is created and funding appropriated. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

Ted Meehan