

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
INTERIM DIRECTOR

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Interim Director

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
and
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Thursday, March 14, 2024

1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of
HB 2358, HD1
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS.

Chairs Chang and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Hashimoto and Richards, and Members of the Senate Committees on Housing and Agriculture and Environment.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) offers the following **comments with amendments** on HB 2358, HD 1, which excludes certain affordable housing developments from Hawaii's environmental review process. HB 2358, HD 1 proposes to amend HRS Chapter 343 to exclude from the requirements of the statute certain affordable housing developments that are appropriately sited.

We agree that appropriately sited affordable housing developments should be able to be exempted from the requirement of preparing an environmental assessment. In fact, the administrative rules that implement HRS Chapter 343 currently provide for such an exemption at HAR Section 11-200.1-15(c)(10). However, by excluding eligible developments from the notice requirements of HRS Chapter 343, this bill would reduce transparency by removing the minor record keeping and filing requirements that allow the public to learn about these projects.

In the interest of transparency and consistency with established notification process for exempt actions, should you wish to approve this bill, **OPSD offers the following amendments** to HB 2358, HD 1:

On page 1, lines 5 and 6, delete the phrase "Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary," so the sentence reads "(a) The construction of a new affordable housing project that:..."

On page 1, amend line 17 to read “shall be considered as a general type of action eligible for exemption pursuant to HAR Chapter 11-200.1-15.”

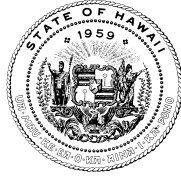
With these changes, new affordable housing projects referenced in the bill can be exempted from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment and will only be required to list the exemption on a monthly list of exemptions published in The Environmental Notice.

Such an exemption streamlines the development process for these projects. The minor filing and reporting requirements of the current process are not overly burdensome on agencies and do provide public notice and awareness of proposed actions for which an environmental review document is not being required.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawai'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawai'i*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRMAN, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. DUCATT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawai'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

**TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
HEARING ON MARCH 14, 2024 AT 1:00PM IN CR 225**

HB 2358, HD 1, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

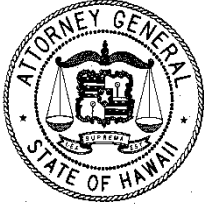
March 14, 2024

Aloha Chairs Chang and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Hashimoto and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) supports this bill, which would add a new section to Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, that would exempt certain affordable housing projects from the requirements of the chapter.

DHHL intends to develop affordable housing projects that fit within the definition provided in this measure. DHHL appreciates the intent of this bill because it will help to streamline processes for the development, planning, permitting, and construction of all new affordable housing projects produced by the state and counties.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2358, H.D. 1, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON HOUSING AND ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

DATE: Thursday, March 14, 2024 **TIME:** 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 225 and Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Alison S. Kato or Bryan C. Yee, Deputy Attorneys General

Chairs Chang and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following technical comment on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to exempt certain affordable housing projects from the requirements of chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

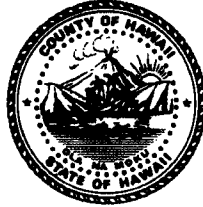
The proposed section 343- (c) in section 1 of the bill on page 2, lines 5-7, inadvertently defines an "affordable housing project" as a "law" by providing that "[a]ffordable housing project' means the applicable controlling law for the state or county agency that is either developing or approving the project." To correct this, we recommend amending the definition as follows: "'Affordable housing project' has the same meaning as defined by the applicable controlling law for the state or county agency that is either developing or approving the project."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Deanna S. Sako
Managing Director

Robert H. Command
Deputy Managing Director



Susan K. Kunz
Housing Administrator

Harry M. Yada
Assistant Housing Administrator

County of Hawai'i
Office of Housing and Community Development

1990 Kino'ole Street, Suite 102 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8379 • Fax (808) 961-8685
Existing Housing: (808) 959-4642 • Fax (808) 959-9308
Kona: (808) 323-4300 • Fax (808) 323-4301

March 13, 2024

TESTIMONY FOR COMMENT IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2358, HD1

**A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATED TO
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

Sen. Stanley Chang, Chair

Sen. Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair

Sen. Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 1:00 PM

Place of Hearing: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference


Aloha Honorable Chairs Chang, Hashimoto, Gabbard, and Richards, and members of the Committee on Housing and Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

On behalf of the Office of Housing and Community Development of the County of Hawai'i, I am providing testimony in **support of House Bill 2358, HD1**, which would expand the criteria that make certain affordable housing project eligible for exemption from an environmental assessment.

Reducing regulatory and entitlement processes that delay and add unnecessary costs to the development of affordable housing projects, often making them unfeasible, will help the Hawai'i realize development of much-needed affordable housing units.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of this measure.

Mahalo,



Susan K. Kunz
Housing Administrator



HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 2:32:13 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Carney	Testifying for Affordable Housing Connections LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill as it will help to expedite the development process, reduce development costs and is focused on affordable housing. A recent article in PBN by UHERO notes that regulations are 50% of the cost to develop and sell condominiums at market prices. Based on that you could estimate that regulations make up more than 50% of the cost to develop affordable housing.

In order to meet the ever increasing need for housing, the industry needs more incentives like this rather than keeping the status quo or imposing more regulations and restrictions.

Kevin R. Carney, President & Principal Broker

Affordable Housing Connections LLC

▪ March 11, 2024

The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair
The Honorable Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Re: Testimony – HB 2358, HD1, Relating to Environmental Impact Statements
Hearing: March 14, 2024 at 1:00 PM
Conference Room 225

Dear Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and
Committee Members:

Stanford Carr Development (SCD) is writing to **support** HB 2358, HD1 that proposes to codify the exemption from environmental impact statements for certain affordable housing projects.

The codification will align with HRS §201H-38 that allows for exemption from HRS Chapter 343 Environmental Impact Statements when affordable housing projects are located outside of an "environmentally sensitive area."

The 2005 Regular Session of the Twenty-Third Legislature enacted Act 196 whereby section 35 established a joint legislative housing and homeless task force to further identify solutions to Hawaii's affordable housing problem. Recommendations of the task force included a need to "streamline government approvals and permitting of affordable housing projects." We appreciate the continued effort to simplify government approvals of affordable housing projects.

We request your support and ask for a single amendment to the House Draft to allow the proposed change to take effect upon approval. Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on this measure.

Respectfully,



Stanford S. Carr



March 11, 2024

Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senator Troy Hashimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Housing

Senator Mike Gabbard
Senator Tim Richards
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

RE: **HB 2358 HD1– RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS**
Hearing date – March 14, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, and members of the committees,

Thank you for allowing NAIOP Hawaii to submit testimony in **SUPPORT OF HB 2358 HD1– RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS (EIS)**. NAIOP Hawaii is the Hawaii chapter of the nation’s leading organization for office, industrial, retail, residential and mixed-use real estate. NAIOP Hawaii has over 200 members in the State including local developers, owners, investors, asset managers, lenders, and other professionals. NAIOP Hawaii is generally supportive of efforts to incentivize sustainability and promote the development of more affordable housing.

HB 2358 HD1 expressly codifies the exemption from environmental impact statements for affordable housing projects that meet certain criteria. Specifically, the exemption is narrowly tailored to affordable housing projects that:

1. Trigger review due to use of state or county lands or use within the Waikiki special district;
2. Is consistent with county zoning classifications; and
3. Does not require a variance for a shoreline setback or is not located in an environmentally sensitive area.

NAIOP Hawaii is supportive of creative housing solutions to address Hawaii’s housing shortage. Hawaii is currently facing housing crisis with the need for more affordable homes for residents reaching an all-time high. We support this measure which attempts to

Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
March 11, 2024
Page 2

strike a reasonable balance between environmental concerns and the pressing need for more affordable housing. We completely understand the importance of EIS', however, we support the need for expedited regulatory reviews that enable the development of much needed affordable housing.

Ultimately, Hawaii residents need housing units to be produced to allow our local families to continue to thrive here. NAIOP Hawaii supports HB 2358 HD1 which will advance the production of homes for our residents. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reyn Tanaka', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Reyn Tanaka, President
NAIOP Hawaii



Ka Iwi Coalition

Mauka to Makai



A COMMUNITY DRIVEN, VOLUNTEER-BASED RESTORATION PROJECT.

*Hāwea Heiau Complex
& Keawāwā Wetland*

CELEBRATE THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF YOUR COMMUNITY!

2024

March 12, 2024

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Livable Hawaii Kai Hui

Livable Hawaii Kai Hui is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, community organization serving East Honolulu since 2004. We strive to promote sensible growth, respect for cultural & natural resources, and upholding the integrity of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan.

Hawai'i State Senate
Committees on Housing & Agriculture and Environment
Meeting on March 14, 2024 at 1 p.m.
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

SUBJECT: STRONG OPPOSITION TO HB2358 HD1, EIS Exemptions

Aloha e Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards & HOU/AEN Committee Members,

As an 'āina-based nonprofit with a mission to protect East Honolulu's cultural and natural resources, Livable Hawaii Kai Hui **strongly opposes HB2358 HD1** providing exemptions to certain projects from Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) requirements.

To be clear, the Hui supports sustainable development. This is not a matter of NIMBY-ism or total opposition to development, but rather a genuine and shared concern that in the rush to address Hawai'i's housing crisis, we may end up circumventing crucial environmental protections.

The Hui recognizes that EIS and other environmental review requirements can be burdensome, particularly for affordable housing projects. But we also recognize that especially in a place like Hawai'i, those obstacles can sometimes be the public's only way to slow down projects that are clearly harmful to our 'āina. There has to be a better balance than the one struck by this bill.

Please **OPPOSE** HB2358 HD1. Mahalo to both Committees for hearing this measure and voting in support of our 'āina.

Mālama pono,

Elizabeth Reilly

Founder/President

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 10:49:26 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvia Dolena	Testifying for Pele Lani Farm LLC and Aloha Lokahi Assoc 501c3	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB2358 HD1.

Mahalo,

Sylvia Dolena

Pele Lani Farm LLC



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

March 14, 2024

1:00 PM

Conference Room 225

In **OPPOSITION** to **HB2358 HD1**: Relating to Environmental Impact Statements

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **OPPOSES HB2358 HD1**, which could result in significant and unnecessary environmental, socioeconomic, and cultural impacts to the public interest, from certain housing projects on public lands or using public funds. **Should the Committees choose to move this measure forward, we do offer a proposed amendment below that would mitigate the potential for such unintended consequences.**

This measure may result in significant and avoidable impacts to our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life, by greatly expanding the existing regulatory exemption from environmental assessments for “affordable housing” projects.¹ Existing rules, which provide for a categorical exemption of certain affordable housing projects in the urban land use district, do *not* allow for such exemptions to be issued when a project *may nonetheless result in significant impacts*. For example, currently, an exemption may not be issued for projects that are likely to have significant impacts due to their location on lands that contain cultural sites, endangered species habitat, and other environmental and cultural features, or that may also contain residual and highly toxic pesticides, heavy metals, and other contaminants. This measure instead would disregard any and all potential environmental, cultural, and human health impacts,

¹ The Sierra Club emphasizes that an exemption from our environmental review law as proposed by this measure may result in significant, unnecessary, and irreversible impacts to a range of public interests in the use and development of our limited public lands. Our environmental review law has, for 40 years, played a critical role in ensuring that certain decisions potentially impacting our islands' environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic integrity are carefully and transparently assessed by government decisionmakers. The environmental review law also helps to ensure that decisionmakers explicitly consider ways to avoid such impacts, to the extent feasible. Notably, the environmental review process includes opportunities for decisionmakers and project planners to be informed by those with a wide range of expertise, insight, and experiences, who can identify and offer mitigation recommendations for the broad spectrum of specific impacts that may arise from particular projects. Exempting development projects from environmental review may therefore result in less-than-fully-informed project planning and decisionmaking, which could lead to significant, unanticipated, and potentially avoidable impacts to the public's interests.



regardless of their severity, and allow decisionmakers and project planners to proceed without any assessment of such impacts, much less potential options to mitigate them.

Moreover, this measure would deprive the public of the current opportunity to inform government and project decisionmakers regarding potential impacts or environmental features that these decisionmakers may not be aware of. The current categorical exemption rules, including those concerning the development of affordable housing, generally provide for some form of public notice, whether through a decisionmaking body's public approval of a categorical exemption pursuant to the Sunshine Law, and/or via publication in the Environmental Notice. **Projects under this measure could instead proceed with no public notice or input until plans are completed and in the process of being implemented, running the risk of unanticipated significant impacts as well as substantial and costly community conflict or controversy, due to the lack of knowledge on the part of project planners and government decisionmakers.**

The Sierra Club emphasizes that the urban land use district contains vast acreages of land that are not fully developed, and that may still contain significant environmental and cultural resources or other features that may be significantly impacted by development projects. For example, much of the coastal regions of Kahalu'u, Ka'a'awa to Kahuku, as well as Hale'iwa, Pūpūkea, and Waialua on O'ahu are within the urban land use district boundary. Other areas in the urban district include Kaunakakai on Moloka'i; Hāna, Maui; and Keauhou, Hawai'i Island, among many, many others. The Sierra Club therefore urges the Committee not to dismiss the need to assess the environmental and cultural value of 'āina due to its inclusion in the urban district, as would be proposed under this measure.

The Sierra Club also appreciates that certain privately-funded affordable housing projects on private lands may in some instances not be subject to the requirements of our environmental review law. However, the heightened public interest in the use of our limited public land base, and the fiduciary public trust obligations of government entities in the use and disposition of our public lands and resources,² strongly counsel retaining the careful analysis, transparency, and input opportunities that environmental review provides.

Should the Committees choose to move this measure forward, the Sierra Club does believe its unintended impacts may be mitigated by replacing the language on page 1, lines 4-7:

"§343- **Certain affordable housing developments;**
exemption; qualifications. (a) The construction of a new
affordable housing project that:"

And by replacing the language on page 1, line 17, to read as follows:

² See HAW. CONST. ART. XI SEC. 1.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI‘I

"shall be considered a general type of action eligible for
exemption pursuant to HAR Chapter 11-200.1-15."

Our public lands and natural and cultural resources are held in trust for the benefit of present and future generations, and potentially irrevocable environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts should be carefully considered when making major decisions regarding their development.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club respectfully urges the Committee to **HOLD** HB2358 HD1, or to adopt the amendments recommended above. Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:00:55 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doug Fetterly	Testifying for Sierra Club	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fail to understand (other than greed) how anyone can vote to exclude environmental laws from developments. It goes against the wellbeing of the environment, which translates to not caring about the people who live in this environment. Humans feel we can keep kicking the can down the road. Do not allow this. Our grandchildren will pay for it and ask us kupuna questions that we will find difficult to answer about how we squandered their homeland.

Mahalo.

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:49:32 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John & Rita Shockley	Testifying for Free Access Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition OPPOSES HB2358. We encourage free public access to housing but we cannot support skirting safety checks on housing, no matter the issue of expense. We hope Sen. Gabbard will table this ill-thought Bill.

Mahalo for your time.



Hawaii's Thousand Friends

335 Hahani Street #342132 * Kailua, HI 96734 * Phone/Fax (808) 262-0682 E-Mail: htf3000@gmail.com

March 14, 2024

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senator Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair
Committee Members

HB 2358 HD1

RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Hawaii's Thousand Friends, a statewide non-profit water and land use planning organization dedicated to protecting the environment, human health, and cultural and natural resources opposes HB 2358 HD1 which exempts affordable housing projects from Chapter 343 Environmental Impact Statements.

Hawaii's Constitution Article XI states, *For the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals, and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation.... All public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people.* (Emphasis added)

HRS 343 lays out the processes to protect our islands fragile and finite natural and cultural resources as directed by the Constitution and neither say except for affordable housing.

Development of "affordable" housing for which there is no definition in this bill will have the same impacts on the land and cultural resources that any development will have.

The only difference is that under HB 2358 HD1 any adverse effects of a proposed action on the environment, economic welfare, social welfare, and cultural practices of the community will not be disclosed or assessed or mitigated or alternatives considered before the bulldozes hit the ground.

An expedited affordable housing development conducted without an EIS or environmental review is vulnerable to the discovery of `iwi, shallow water table, above ground and below contamination, or a cultural site, which could stop a project for months.

To ensure that Hawaii's finite and fragile natural and cultural resources are protected from irreversible harm Hawaii's Thousand Friends urges the committee to hold HB 2358 HD1 in committee.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:28:23 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No projects should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first actually looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement if the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligible. This bill is an insult and a violation to citizens' rights. Strongly oppose

LATE



**HAWAII STATE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HOUSING; AND
AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol
1:00 PM**

MARCH 14, 2024

Subject: HB 2358 - RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

Chairs Chang & Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Hashimoto & Richards, and members of the Committees:

My name is Max Lindsey, Government Relations Committee Chair of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. Our members build the communities we all call home.

HB 2358 proposes to codify the exemption from environmental impact statements for affordable housing projects that meet certain criteria.

BIA-Hawaii is in **support** of HB 2358, as it exempts affordable housing projects within the state urban land use district or up to fifteen acres of land in the state agricultural land use district from current environmental assessment (EA) requirements.

Exempting affordable housing projects from the EIA/EIS process would save these much-needed projects both time and money. These exemptions appear to be limited to areas already disturbed and not likely to impact sensitive areas. These types of exemptions could incentivize more investment into the development of affordable housing across the state. Given our current housing crisis, these "little steps" could help move us in the right direction.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments on this matter.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 7:49:50 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill. Too many times we think just of the short term. Remember that our children also want a livable Hawaii. We can't afford to keep ignoring our aina! It's great to have affordable housing, but let's be smart about it!

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 10:03:51 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jennifer valentine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners' lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

*Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to oppose, that is, **HOLD HB2358 HD1.** Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 10:31:36 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Milena Kari	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Milena Kari and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

The current rules governing environmental review for affordable housing projects in urban districts already include carefully-tailored categorical exemptions. These exemptions are designed to balance the need for affordable housing with the protection of public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Furthermore, exemptions granted under the current rules are subject to public notice requirements, ensuring transparency and accountability in the development process.

HB2358 would eliminate these vital safeguards, allowing affordable housing projects to proceed without any environmental review or public notice, regardless of potential impacts. This reckless approach disregards the complex interplay of environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic factors inherent in development projects and jeopardizes the health and well-being of our communities.

I urge the Committee to HOLD HB2358 and uphold the integrity of our environmental review process. It is essential that we prioritize responsible development practices that balance the need for affordable housing with the preservation of our natural and cultural heritage.

Thank you for considering my testimony and for your commitment to protecting the public interest.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 10:38:23 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and esteemed Members of the Committees,

My name is Benton Kealii Pang, and I am here to respectfully express my opposition to HB2358 HD1, which poses a needless threat to our environmental and cultural integrity, as well as our overall quality of life, by granting an outright exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects.

Under current regulations, there exists a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for specific "affordable" housing projects within the urban district. However, this exemption is contingent upon the projects being unlikely to result in significant impacts on public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Furthermore, exemptions granted under these regulations are subject to public notice requirements, which help minimize the potential for unforeseen significant impacts resulting from project planners' unfamiliarity with specific project sites. This exemption framework was meticulously crafted after thorough consideration of the diverse public interests potentially affected by such projects.

In contrast, the proposed measure seeks to allow all such projects to proceed without undergoing any form of environmental review or public notice, regardless of the potential severity of environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts, and regardless of the threats posed to the public interest.

Our current environmental review law plays a crucial role in facilitating informed decision-making by both decision-makers and the public. It enables the assessment and mitigation of potential long-term impacts to the public interest, ensuring prudent planning, conflict reduction, minimized adverse outcomes, and the protection of the health and well-being of present and future generations. We must not regress from this critical framework under the guise of merely "codifying" existing rules, as this measure significantly exceeds the scope of our current regulations.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committees to HOLD HB2358 HD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Aloha ‘Āina,

Benton Kealii Pang

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 12:24:07 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bo Breda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Bo Breda and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

*Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 12:25:06 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Wilson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Peter Wilson and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

*Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 1:05:53 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely NO. Our environmental review law needs to be protected as is.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 1:37:50 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Puppione	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Greg and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

*Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 2:58:10 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssandra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Alyssandra Rouseve and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 5:14:58 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1. Exempting Environmental Impact Statements is never a good idea, strategy or precedent.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 5:36:27 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The definition of carte blanche: complete freedom to act as one wishes or thinks best

Exempting Environmental Impact Statements will be opening Pandora's box. As tempting as it is, this bill is really not a good idea. It needs to die; please don't even tweak it.

I guess it is obvious that I OPPOSE HB2358 HD1!

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 6:03:11 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 7:34:52 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Nanea Lo and I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to HOLD HB2358 HD1.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili, O‘ahu

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 10:56:01 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
emily gambino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Emily Gambino and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Emily Gambino

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 10:53:25 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheyenne kalama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Cheyenne Kalama and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to HOLD HB2358 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 11:33:05 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natasha Latta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Natasha Latta and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

*Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 12:45:10 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradford Baang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No projects should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first actually looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement if the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligible

MAHALO

Brad

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 1:02:05 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Please do NOT pass this exemption from the environmental impact statement law. Assessing impacts of affordable housing projects is not mere red tape and assists in better planning and living conditions, including for those who plan to purchase these projects. Thank you.

Bianca Isaki

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 1:03:16 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dyson Chee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to HB2358!

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 1:18:03 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Weiss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am in full opposition of this measure as no project should be exempted from environmental impacts. Thank you for your positive consideration for our environment.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 1:29:19 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE HB2358 HD1

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 1:42:42 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Penelope Hazzard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely not. We desperately need housing but not at the expense of the aina. A developer (the Manoa Chinese Cemetery) is trying to put too many elderly housing units in upper Manoa without adhering to the existing environmental laws. Stop the madness.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 1:44:00 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janis Turner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this legislation. It is dangerous and unnecessary.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 1:47:26 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this proposed Bill. None of us should have to live in harmful environments, but, already, people with low-incomes, many of whom are people of color, face the brunt of what many have termed "environmental racism." This Bill exacerbates this. No projects should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first actually looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement if the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligible.

Please oppose this Bill!

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 1:48:07 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Exempts from environmental impact statement requirements certain affordable housing projects. **Scheduled for a hearing on 03/14/24** Introduced by Speaker Scott Saiki for Governor Green. **Testimony in opposition needed:** No projects should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first actually looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement if the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligible.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 2:28:23 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill.

We consistently see the disastrous impacts of short-term, rush thinking on projects that result in long-term harm, whether it's housing built on land that crumbles or is eroded, or landfills the eventually leak toxic substances into our soil and water.

No projects should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first assessing the impact. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter or statement if the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines that the impacts are none to negligible.

Please **OPPOSE HB2358 HD1**.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Michele Mitsumori
Hilo, Hawai'i County

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 2:33:37 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha House Representatives,

Although I understand the intent of this bill, it is a slippery slope. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement if the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligible.

The law as written, should not move forward.

Regards,

Pamela Burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 2:40:44 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Maryanoff	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in opposition:No projects should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first actually looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement if the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligible.

Strongly oppose making it easy to damage the islands.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 2:41:58 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Speaker Scott Saiki , Governor Green.No projects should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first actually looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement if the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligible. Eliel,Kapaa

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 2:43:12 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Klocker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No projects should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first actually looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement if the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligible. Oppose

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 2:52:32 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Shay Chan Hodges and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

*Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 2:52:43 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong opposition!

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 3:09:09 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Dinner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Of course we need more affordable housing. However, we also, and even more, need an environment that is safe from crash and burn development. We can have both a healthy ecology and good building practices if we become more efficient. Malama aina!!!

This is exactly the kind of action that brings a bad connotation to the word Haole. Let's be conscious stewards and honor the principles of the host nation.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 3:23:36 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danelle Guion	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose HB2358 HD1 because *no* projects should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first actually looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement if the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligible.

Thank you for opposing this bill!

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 3:31:42 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judie Hoeppner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 3:43:18 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorna Holmes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this measure as dangerous, and unnecessary since there is already provision for bypassing environmental review in cases where that is advisable. Please do not pass this giveaway to developers.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 3:56:31 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Landreau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The environment is too important to set aside the requirements of environmental impact review. We can and should address housing without sacrificing our aina. By reviewing the impact before construction, we ensure housing in a safe and healthy manner for the long term.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 4:26:51 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anita Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2358 HD1. No housing projects should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement if the responsible agency looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligible. Thank you

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 5:00:03 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
irene kloepfer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Left to their own devices developers always do what is best for them and their wallets. We need laws that protect the aina. Reject this bill. Mahalo

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 5:25:04 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB2358 HD1

Mahalo,

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 6:33:15 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darlene	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I very strongly oppose this bill. No projects should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first actually looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement if the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligible. Mahalo.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 8:22:40 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill! No projects should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first actually looking at the impacts. This bill is a bad idea even if it was well-intended.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 8:28:48 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamalii Haumea-Thronas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The necessary exemption measures are already permitted by law through a short letter. No business, project, etc should be exempt from environmental assessments, bypassing this is a critical wrongdoing that negatively impacts sustainability and land preservation.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 8:32:26 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce L Hultgren	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose the adoption of HB2358. This is not in the best interest of the state and its citizens. There is already room for exemptions after an environmental impact statement if the implications are minimal.

Please vote against adoption of this misguided proposal.

Bruce L Hultgren MD

Kailua

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 8:47:18 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

No projects should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first actually looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement if the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligible. I respectfully ask you to vote against the bill.

mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 9:00:56 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Klyman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Environmental impact statements were created for a reason - to take a good look at what will happen when a construction project is allowed to proceed. It is short sighted planning that wants to make use of legislated short cuts to a complete permitting process. I have difficulty believing there is insufficient time to complete a EIS before issuing a building permit. I have seen construction projects that short cut approvals that end up contaminating a critical water source or ecosystem, requiring kilos of cure (pounds are too small these days) that an ounce of preventions and proper permitting would have avoided.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 9:08:30 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I am testifying in strong opposition to HB2358 HD1. No projects should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first actually looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement if the responsible agency looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligible.

Mahalo for your commitment and service to our communities,

Tamara Paltin

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 9:14:50 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda L Jenks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There should be no exemptions for construction projects to undergo an environmental impact review

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 9:37:44 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I am in **STRONG OPPOSITION** for [HB2358 HD1!](#)

We should NOT give exemptions from environmental impact statement requirements for certain affordable housing projects. NO PROJECTS should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first actually looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement if the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligible.

This is absolutely in the wrong direction when we are facing coral collapse! Hawai'i has a huge responsibility to the global ecosystem, with over 420 acres of struggling coral. Lahaina's chemical impact after the fires on our ocean affected ALL islands' waters, along with the sewage for every island and its fast brown water runoff. This is not the time to exempt environmental impact during a climate change crisis.

DO NOT pass this bill!

Mahalo

Maki Morinoue

Holualoa, Hawai'i Island

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 9:41:22 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janeen Kuhn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No projects should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first actually looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement if the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligible.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 9:43:12 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB2358 HD1 which would exempt more construction from the necessity of conducting an environmental impact statement. This is being done under the guise of "affordable" housing, but an EIS should be conducted, whatever the building purpose. "Affordable" is not an excuse to ruin our island's environment.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 10:20:13 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE!

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 11:46:50 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Audrey Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as any building, affordable housing or not, should be checked out with an EIS to have passed environmental standards for construction. This is an irresponsible way of building in our islands. Affordable housing needs to be up to code environmentally and structurally like any other building. It is a safety issue to the people living there and to the surrounding areas and buildings. The State will be held accountable and it cannot afford to make these errors of judgement.

Comment: In addition to this, not all buildings that apply as affordable housing projects for sale or rent may qualify for financing. If they do not qualify, then they are switched over to market rate housing for sale. Once that is changed, it is no longer affordable and should be required to have an EIS before any permits are given or any building is allowed.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 4:28:39 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean Jewell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. All projects must go through some kind of environmental impact review before it is approved, even those for affordable housing. We cannot just be throwing up housing or any other permanent building projects without environmental review.

Jean Jewell

96725

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 5:38:25 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tony Radmilovich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is bill, which consequences will be stretching far in the future, is dangerous, please vote no!

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 6:39:20 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Garland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose.

Mahalo,

Emily

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 6:49:47 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Michele Nihipali and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners' lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

*Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 7:35:39 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick Gerding	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No projects should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first actually looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement if the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligible.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 8:33:44 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Janik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No projects should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first actually looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement if the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligible.

I fully oppose the above bill.

Richard J Janik, MD

PO Box 1311

Lihue, HI 96766

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 9:01:40 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherri Thal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 2358 HD1

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 9:23:59 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Douglas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly opposed.

This opens up an exploitative Pandora's box for corporations and their crafty lawyers. Hawaii has experienced too many desecrations of the culture and environment to contemplate this. These projects must take the time for due diligence. Find other processes to streamline and save time.

Bob Douglas

Hilo, HI

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 9:31:10 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Hall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose = EIS should never be overlooked

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 9:53:53 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John NAYLOR	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

No matter how urgent the need , NO projects without an EIS period.

Mahalo,

JN Makawao

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 10:08:37 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Stowell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed HB2358 HD1. No project should be exempted from from an environmental impact review without first looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows for exemptions if the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligilble.

Mahalo,

Julie Stowell

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 11:27:00 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

oppose

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 12:01:25 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lory Ono	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Lory Ono and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

*Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

Lory

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 1:04:36 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teri Corpuz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Teri Corpuz and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

*Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 1:21:52 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Kaaumoana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a former member of the Hawaii State Environmental Advisory Council and a resident of Hawaii, I oppose this legislation which will remove many environmental protections both in content and process for which our Hawaii residents have fought for many decades. This is very dangerous legislation as it promotes removal of many environmental reviews of our precious and fragile cultural and natural resources as well as the character of many of our rural communities.

PLEASE HOLD THIS BILL.

Makaala Kaaumoana

Kauai

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 1:41:50 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Char	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Under no circumstances should any project be exempted from an environmental impact review without a complete examination. Our environment needs to be protected, and a thorough examination of each project is the only way to ensure this. Therefore, I strongly oppose HB2358-HD1.

Please note: The existing EIS laws already allow for exemption IF the responsible agency actually looks at the specifics of the proposed project and determines that the impacts are none / negligible.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:35:04 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lela Kalama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Lela Kalama and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

*Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 8:55:50 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breanne Fong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Breanne Fong, and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 8:48:53 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keri Zacher	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Keri Zacher and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll

back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to HOLD HB2358 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 8:20:31 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose!

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 7:56:17 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Penny-wise and pound-foolish! Auwe!

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 5:00:22 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Barry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Barbara Barry and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners' lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

*Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1.**
Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 4:19:07 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

NO to projects being exempted from an environmental impact review without first actually looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement if the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligible.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



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

March 12, 2024

TO: The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Housing

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 14, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2358, HD1, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS**

I **support** this measure to exempt certain affordable housing projects from Environmental Impact Statement requirements.

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. This measure shortens the regulatory and entitlement approval processes for much-needed affordable-housing projects.
2. It makes affordable housing more feasible by reducing development costs.
3. It supports residents' vision for their county by encouraging development that is consistent with county zoning classifications that allow housing.

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

ocs:proj:legis:24legis:24testimony:hb2358_hd1_paf24-002(82)_pmg

March 12, 2024

TO: Senator Stanley Chang, Chair. Senator Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

FROM: Kristin M. McAndrews, PhD

CC: Earth Justice

RE: Testimony on **HB 2358, HD1 - (HSCR879-24)** RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS. Exempts from environmental impact statement requirements certain affordable housing projects. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1).

A clarification on this proposed bill would be appreciated. Which affordable housing projects will be exempt from Environmental Impact Statements. And why? And who will determine this new exemption. Mr. Chang? Or perhaps Mr. Hashimoto? This proposal seems counter-intuitive and frankly unsafe for future residents of affordable house developments and their neighbors. And how can the State of Hawai`i make an exception to the law for one entity and not for others? Earthjustice will be interested in this proposal.

Mānoa Banyan Court, the proposed Chinese Cemetery Project in Mānoa, had over one hundred and thirty responses against the way in which the property was going to be developed in the draft EIS. And I suspect that they are one of the entities that are pleading with the State of Hawai`i to suspend the need for a proper EIS.

If Mr. Chang or Mr. Hashimoto had read the MBC draft EIS, they would have understood the ways in which the development was not the right fit for Mānoa or any neighborhood on Oahu. The Revised Draft EIS, contradicted itself in many places and the document was misinformed, bringing up additional issues, such as historic preservation, flood mitigation, sewage management, parking, and conformance to building codes in Woodlawn and Mānoa Valley.

In the most recent MBC Draft EIS, Lin Yee Chung Association (LYCA) did not address the cultural and historic significance of the property. No archeologist, archivist or cultural expert gave a thorough assessment of the site. This property belonged to Queen Ka`ahumanu. It was reported by a cultural expert at the university that iwi might be located on this preservation land. Maps indicate the specific location of her property which is on cemetery property. LYCA has used a dated, and inaccurate account of Kaahumanu published by Mutual Publishing as their only reference to refute the fact that Kaahumanu lived on that property (Page 126 of EIS). An out-of-date book by an author of known racist tendencies should not count as an authority on any ali`i or on anything regarding the Kānaka Maoli. That kind of effort requires an archivist or cultural expert on Hawaiian culture.

Regarding artifacts, Manoa Stream flowed right through that property before the Woodlawn Ditch was created. Certainly, there would be evidence of fishing and to the day to day living along the stream by Kānaka Maoli. In addition, there would be evidence at the Hawai`i State Archives and Iolani Palace Archives as to the significance of the endowment of this property to the Chinese community. The resources utilized to claim that all research into the archeological or historical story of this land is specious (see page 111). Cultural Resources and Ethnographic Study was published in 2010—13 years ago. They found “no surface archaeological features.” In other words, they did a “surface” look. In addition, in the past four years, the Hawaii State Archives has been actively engaged in correcting the wrongheadedness regarding the way in which artifacts and the history of Kanaka have been depicted and discussed. Why wasn't an archivist or cultural expert hired to do an assessment? There are several qualified archivists in this state who would be willing to take on the task of reassessing the archeological, historical, and cultural significance of this piece of land more deeply and not on the surface. The cultural significance of this property has been completely dismissed by LYCA because it does not understand the cultural value, nor do they want to. This is another example of how the State of Hawai`i, the City and County and LYCA have not done their due diligence to make sure that residents and Kānaka Maoli are respected.

The Army Corps of Engineers was worried enough about flooding in upper Mānoa and the impacts of flooding down slope that they proposed a clear plan for mitigation. On Page 62, LYCA claims that they do not need the Army Corps of Engineers permission or feedback regarding this project. According to the EIS, The Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) has a vested interest in Woodlawn Ditch, yet the EIS claims ACE does not have jurisdiction (Page 2 of Drainage Assessment). Which sadly they do not. But ACE spent years analyzing the flood situation in Manoa and created a plan for abatement. And why wouldn't LYCA want input? Mānoa has a history of flooding which the EIS acknowledges. Flooding will occur down slope to neighbors on Lower Road and East Mānoa Road.

On page 81, the Draft EIS states that “Mānoa Stream has historically been subject to flooding. However, in the upper areas of Mānoa Stream flooding has been localized to areas immediately adjacent.” And “the project site will not be impacted by flooding from Mānoa Stream.” Maybe Banyan Court will not be inundated with water but those homes abutting the Chinese Cemetery on the down slope, clear down to the University of Hawaii at Manoa, will be. The point is that a reasonable plan for flood mitigation is make sure neighbors downslope will not be affected by flooding. That's what a good neighbor does—he makes sure his neighbors are safe from harm. As most of the building area will be covered in cement or asphalt, water will be running easily downhill to neighbors. I also wonder how the developer will negotiate and impact Woodlawn Ditch. In some schematics the development is immediately constructed above the ditch. As the ditch was created to mitigate flooding, if the ditch is impacted by construction, flooding will be ensured. UH Mānoa suffered greatly from the 2004 flood. Hamilton Library lost an entire collection of ancient maps. Still, the State and the City and County seem to believe that it's worth taking a risk by supporting this development.

As stated, LYCA proposes to pave over most of the eight acres of property which will also specifically impact water retention and regeneration for the Palolo Reservoir. Residents of Oahu have already experienced the detrimental ways in which water has been adulterated by others because they cannot see the larger environmental picture. And our two worthy Senators need to have a vision of the future of an island.

According to one letter in the Draft EIS, the Department of Planning and Permitting had already provisionally approved the addition of 288+ homes to the sewage and wastewater grid. I am absolutely amazed by this approval since it was obtained in 2021, a year before Woodlawn residents knew of this impending project (Sewer Connection Application 2/12/2, pages 1-2). Even provisionally, this permit is problematic. LYCA, the State of Hawai'i and the City and County argue for this development because it needs housing so that people can age in place. But what happens to other neighbors who want to age in place and need an ADU so that a caregiver or family member can assist. Will we still be allowed a sewer hook-up? What kind of guarantees are there? Zero. Also, is this provisional permit the reason why so many Woodlawn and Mānoa residents have been recently denied sewer hookups for ADU's? If it is true, it's outrageous on its face and so cynical. The inequity for homeowners is beyond measure. And the State of Hawai'i and the City and County will be culpable for the environmental disasters. Doesn't the State have enough on its plate with the tragedy in Lahaina?

The Banyan Court units, while very small, could still expect to be inhabited by a three to four people, just like many affordable housing apartment complexes in Honolulu. This is the norm, not the exception. Does the Mānoa wastewater treatment center have the capacity for this kind for increased use? Do we have enough water in our future? The amount of cement used for this project will forever change water regeneration in the ahupua'a of Waikiki.

Have the good Senator Chang and laudable Senator Hashimoto thought about the environmental consequences? Have they spoken to Ernie Lau about our water situation? Probably not because that's too practical and it might mean looking towards a future.

These basic concerns are why ALL affordable housing developments should have an Environmental Impact Statement. Proposing this bill means that some politicians are looking out for a few developers and not for the welfare of the community as a whole.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 5:13:42 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I stand in opposition to HB2358.

While I understand the dire need for affordable housing projects, environmental reviews help to protect not only the future users of the project, but the community, the environment, and the resources for future generations as well.

This measure would completely exempt certain projects and actions, including the development of certain agricultural lands, from any environmental review which is what I stand in opposition of.

Current rules already allow for a categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects on urban lands, and this exemption was carefully developed after close consideration of public interests.

However, this measure would instead allow undeveloped agricultural lands to be developed without any environmental review, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest. Exempting projects on this type of land from environmental review could be devastating to our environment and our resources.

For these reasons, and for my love for the environment and protecting our resources for future generations, I stand in opposition to HB2358.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Keoni Shizuma

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:36:36 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Harter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

loha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Nancy Harter and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

*Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 10:30:00 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB2358 HD1 that would allow projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

The need for affordable homes must not override considerations of the environment in which they are placed. Allowing affordable housing developers to be exempt from an environmental review **only benefits the developer**, particularly in misguided bills like this one, where **“affordable” is not even properly defined**.

Just recently the Governor noted to the press that there are 75,000 Illegal short-term rentals in our state, with 52% of short-term rentals in the state owned by people who reside in the continental United States. Addressing this very concerning situation properly would go a long way in tackling our affordable housing crisis. Yet instead, the state is looking at weakening environmental reviews that are in place to protect present and future generations from potentially irrevocable environmental, and cultural harms via this give-away to developers. Our public lands are held in trust for the benefit of present and future generations, and potentially irrevocable environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts should be carefully considered when making major decisions regarding their development.

Most importantly, the term "affordable" is regularly misused. State and county policies aimed at increasing Hawaii's housing stock have had the unintended consequence of **pushing out lower-income residents**. Essentially, these so-called affordable units are completely unaffordable to many, with greedy developers getting away with rents reported as high as \$3,000 per month for 2-bedroom units. That's outrageous.

We all want to solve the affordable housing crisis. But if you want to implement policies and actions to truly address the problem, this measure isn't it.

I urge the committee to do the right thing. HOLD this misguided measure.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:09:26 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorrie Ann Santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Lorrie Ann Santos and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners' lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

*Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:22:55 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Canham	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee members: I urge you in the strongest terms to oppose and defeat HB2358 due to its vague and permissive language. Because of vague and permissive language in the codes, we now have a monster house three doors down from us, blocking our view, constricting parking, etc, etc. etc.

Don't let the profit-minded developers manipulate you. Do the pono thing and send this bill to its grave. Thank you.

Stephen Canham

Kaneohe, HI

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:57:24 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michal Fentin Stover	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2358 HD1. No housing projects should be exempt from environmental reviews. Mahalo.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:34:14 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Matson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

I am in strong opposition to this bill.

Mahalo,

Shannon M.

Hawai'i Island Resident

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:35:30 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Van Horne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have many examples of damage to valuable habitats from ignoring the environmental consequences of building projects. No project should be exempt from a full examination of its environmental impact.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:50:09 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Thelander	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Donna Thelander and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:58:14 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pamela Elders	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this measure. No projects should be exempted from the environmental review process. I understand there is a shortage of affordable housing, however, foregoing sound environmental review should not be part of the solution. It is an ill-conceived shortcut which could result in negative and unanticipated consequences. Environmental review identifies issues and determines whether problems can be mitigated. It is a sound and judicious approach and shouldn't be waived under any circumstances.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:00:24 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Marilyn Mick and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:03:10 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lei Fisher	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

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Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Lei Fisher

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:21:55 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurence Ward	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No projects should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first actually looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement if the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines the impacts are none to negligible. Please strongly oppose HB2358 .

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:28:42 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucienne de Naie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. We need honest review of the longterm impacts of proposed development projects. This is the more cost effective approach. Giving projects a "pass" on any meaningful review come back to transer the impacts of flooding, fire risk, substandard infrastructure right back on the poor future homeowner we are supposedly trying to help.

I personally have seen scores of proposed projects avoid conscientious review of traditional Hawaiian sites or burials. This type of lax planning review does not really help anyone in the long run.

I commend those many representatives who have rightly opposed this bill. Please do not pass it as written

Mahalo Lucienne de Naie

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:30:26 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gwen Demitria-de Leeuw	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Gwen Demitria-de Leeuw and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

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Our environmental review law allows decision makers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to HOLD HB2358 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:34:43 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james d hughes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

Strongly opposed to any bill that weakens current enviromental review.

Not to be confused with FEMA type relief structures, trailers, tiny homes etc. designed to be temporary in nature for disater relief.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:40:50 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bethan Pualani Baptista	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Public Service Agents say no to this bill. Myself and my family appose it. Take the time to reach out to your constituents and allow us to know your opinions about this and all the bills before you. I would really appreciate your Manao either emailed or publicly posted so I and other concerned members of your district can understand why you support or oppose all the bills before you especially this one. Mahalo Nui

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:04:15 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Perry J. White	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Having worked as an environmental planner in Hawai‘i for 50 years, I am very aware of the effort that is required to consider environmental effects before deciding (or being allowed) to proceed with a project. However, I strongly believe that the existing laws and regulations allow this to be done without undue effort WHEN THIS IS APPROPRIATE. This proposed legislation is way too vague to provide useful guidance.

No projects should be exempted from an environmental impact review without first actually looking at the impacts, and everyone should continue to be required to do this. The EIS law already allows for exemptions via a simple letter/statement so long as the responsible agency actually looks at the project and determines based on the evidence the impacts are none to negligible and then documents its reasoning. Because of this, I implore you kill HB2358.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:05:45 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jolyn Okimoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

My name is Jolyn Okimoto, and I am testifying as individual. I OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which proposes an outright exemption to environmental review for certain affordable housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners' lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed **without any environmental review, and without any public notice**, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **DEFER HB2358 HD1**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha, Jolyn Okimoto

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:06:21 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Callie Stephenson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB2358. I believe no projects need further exemption from EIS process.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:10:34 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tom Mellin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Tom Mellin and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

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Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:30:33 AM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Schacht	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Environment always needs consideration. There is already means to make this simple if appropriate.

Opposition for HB2358

To Chair Evslin, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Aiu, Vice Chair Cochran and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **strong opposition for HB2358**, while I understand the intention behind facilitating the construction of affordable housing, I believe this amendment poses significant risks and drawbacks that cannot be overlooked.

First and foremost, the exemption of affordable housing developments from certain regulatory requirements, particularly those related to environmental protections, is deeply troubling. These regulations are in place for a reason – to safeguard our fragile ecosystems, protect vulnerable habitats, and mitigate the impacts of development on our environment. Granting exemptions undermines these critical protections and sets a dangerous precedent for prioritizing short-term housing solutions over long-term environmental sustainability.

Furthermore, the lack of stringent oversight and accountability inherent in the proposed amendment raises serious concerns. Without robust regulatory frameworks in place, there is a heightened risk of irresponsible development practices, unchecked exploitation of natural resources, and negative impacts on surrounding communities. We cannot afford to sacrifice environmental integrity and community well-being in the pursuit of affordable housing.

Additionally, while the amendment aims to expedite the construction of affordable housing, it fails to address the root causes of Hawaii's housing crisis comprehensively. Simply easing regulatory burdens without addressing underlying issues such as land availability, infrastructure development, and equitable housing policies risks perpetuating systemic inequalities and exacerbating social disparities. Moreover, as we all know, these affordable housing projects are often still under the guise of profit-driven development from contractors. Some affordable housing projects have been found to contain market-rate housing units, undermining the very essence of affordability and perpetuating inequality. To take away a vital step in the permitting process, such as the environmental impact statement might just attract such exploitative developers.

It is essential to ensure that any exemptions granted under this amendment do not enable such exploitative practices and that affordable housing truly serves those in need.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider this amendment and **oppose HB2358**. We must strive for a balanced approach that addresses the needs of our communities while safeguarding the natural beauty and resources that make Hawaii unique.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community.

Sincerely,

Katie Austin

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:05:34 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anjani Thomas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this atrocious attempt to circumnavigate environmental regulations which exist for the protection of land, resources, and people. This spurious bill will demolish the current integrity of both environment and infrastructure, in favor of lining the pockets of legislators and developers alike.

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:27:32 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Furst	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Richard Furst and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Richard Furst
Aina Haina, Honolulu

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:36:46 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Taylor-Wolfe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Malia Taylor-Wolfe and I am a law student at William S. Richardson School of Law. I respectfully **oppose** HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Malia Taylor-Wolfe

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:47:18 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill does not make sense. It exempts certain ill defined development projects from environmental review. It demeans the whole purpose of protecting our environment. No project should be exempted from environmental impact review without someone first actually looking at the impacts. The EIS law already allows exemptions through a simple letter if the responsible agency has looked and determined there are no impacts.

Why is our time being wasted on bills which are already covered in the laws?

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:51:35 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Witeck	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this measure which weakens important environmental protections. Please do not approve this ill-considered measure. Mahalo,

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:02:35 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I ooppose this bill which threatens environmental review,cultural and socioeconmoci impacts without regard to public review or the public's interest.

Mahalo,

Barbara Best, Wailuku

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:09:40 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyce Dodge	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have laws, about environmental reviews for building, for good reasons. There is no need to change the law, since there are already appropriate exemptions. Rolling back our current environmental laws would result in unnecessary degradation of the 'aina and waters.

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:30:35 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Koster	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family opposes HB2358 HD1 because bypassing environmental reviews is a very bad idea, exposing projects to potential harm, both accidental AND deliberate. It may cause more problems than it solves.

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:57:53 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Heartfield PhD	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Dr Joan Heartfield and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 2:39:45 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
malcolm mackey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Malcolm Mackey and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll

back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to HOLD HB2358 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 2:52:39 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel Watkins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

An environmental impact statement should be required for all large scale developments.

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:01:27 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill which exempts from environmental impact statement requirements certain affordable housing projects. While I believe the intent of this bill is to make it easier for some projects to proceed, it has been too evident across time in these islands that "certain" does not adequately protect or ensure that projects will be pono. There is NO real proof that an EIS will be followed but at least it gives a semblance of someone looking at a project from a lens that will ensure fidelity in the project?

Again, I Oppose.

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:03:32 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Choy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Glenn Choy, from Honolulu. I strongly oppose this bill.

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:23:06 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynne Caraway	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our environment is essential to maintaining our Island life. I am sure there are many other steps in the beaurocracy that could be streamlined that would not allow dishonest individuals from destroying our beautifful island.

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 4:25:18 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose this bill.as it exempts from environmental impact statement requirements certain affordable housing projects.

Please do the right thing.

Thank you,

Mary LLu Kelley

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 4:38:22 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meredith Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Meredith Miller and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to **HOLD HB2358 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 4:48:47 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Comittee Members,

I strongly oppose HB2358 because every housing development should have to get an environmental impact survey. There are already work arounds for affordable housing development projects currently in place.

I feel strongly that this bill just allows developers to not do their due dilligence and make sure there are not major impacts to the area when developing the area. Furthermore, it has to look to the future of the development projects. For example there are several development projects in Kihei that would be in a flood zone if they were built. If they did not have to do an EIS they would be allowed to be permitted and "affordable" housing would be built but they would be flooded out every year. Thus making the houses unaffordable.

Please keep safe guards to protect the people and the environment. A possible solution would be to offer grants to developers that are building affordable units to complete an EIS before building.

Mahalo for your time and please oppose HB2358.

Aloha,

Fitz

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 5:33:25 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ranie Mulligan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed exemption of certain projects from environmental impact reviews without prior assessment of their potential effects. As a responsible citizen and advocate for sustainable development, I firmly believe that all projects, regardless of size or scope, must undergo thorough environmental impact assessments before proceeding.

Some of the reasons are obvious:

1. Ensuring public safety, transparency and accountability;
2. Protecting our environment; and
3. Promoting sustainable development.

I oppose this bill.

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:33:02 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Piikea Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

Do you want this bill to be part of your legacy?

The EIS process exists to protect Hawaii's unique environment and cultural resources, and given increasing climate impacts the EIS is even more valuable.

As we all know "affordable housing" doesn't have strong enough statutory language and something that's "affordable" now will be market rate in no time.

I strongly oppose this bill.

Mahalo,

Pi'ikea Miller

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:33:19 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen M. Pahinui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to respectfully oppose HB2358 HD1, which threatens our overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Rules are already in place for select exemptions to the environmental review process for some "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners' lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This bill takes all of that away and will allow projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows all of us to make informed decisions that balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Please **hold HB2358 HD1**.

Mālama 'āina,

Kathleen M. Pahinui

Waialua, North Shore, O‘ahu

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:33:27 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Marie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Eroding environmental protections is irresponsible and should not be allowed.

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:35:46 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Hartmann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Hannah Hartmann and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain “affordable” housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners’ lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decision-makers and the public to make more fully informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to HOLD HB2358 HD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

96781 Pāpa‘ikou

Hawai‘i Island

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:41:06 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Wallace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Ann Wallace and I respectfully OPPOSE HB2358 HD1, which needlessly threatens our environmental and cultural integrity and overall quality of life through an outright exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects.

Current rules already allow for a carefully-tailored categorical exemption to environmental review for certain "affordable" housing projects in the urban district, provided that they are unlikely to result in significant impacts to public trust resources, cultural practices, and other environmental considerations. Exemptions granted under the current rules are also subject to public notice requirements that minimize the potential for unanticipated significant impacts due to project planners' lack of familiarity with any given project site. This exemption was carefully crafted after close consideration of the myriad public interests that may be at stake in the development of such projects.

This measure would instead allow all such projects to be developed without any environmental review, and without any public notice, regardless of the severity of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts and threats to the public's interest.

Our environmental review law allows decisionmakers and the public to make more fully-informed decisions that can balance and mitigate potential long-term impacts to the public interest. This ensures prudent planning while reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, and safeguarding the health and well-being of present and future generations. Please do not roll back this critical law under the mistaken guise that we would simply be "codifying" existing rules - this measure goes far beyond what our existing rules allow.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to HOLD HB2358 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:05:12 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2385, HD1.

LATE

HB-2358-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 6:10:06 AM
Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha- Please do not exempt environmental review for "affordable" housing projects. Our declining climate and fertile lands demand environmental review to avoid unintended consequences. Public notice is paramount to reducing conflict, minimizing adverse outcomes, safeguard the health and well-being of present and future generations. Mahalo