

# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

LEO R. ASUNCION  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of  
**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
Wednesday, March 1, 2017  
12:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of  
**HB 1395, HD1**  
**RELATING TO THE KALIHI 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY COMMISSION.**

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports the intent and offers comments on HB 1395, HD1 which establishes a temporary Kalihi 21<sup>st</sup> Century Commission (Commission) in the Office of Planning and requires the Commission to develop a comprehensive community development plan for the development of the Kalihi area on Oahu.

OP agrees that community planning through collaboration with stakeholders is needed to provide for comprehensive solutions for the efficient use of Hawaii's resources and guiding community development in a responsible manner. While the proposal establishes a temporary Commission to create a comprehensive community development plan for the Kalihi area, OP has a number of concerns to the bill as it is currently written:

- OP is currently working on the Kalihi 21st Century Transformation Initiative with a Vision Committee (Vision Committee) comprised of area legislators, neighborhood board members, and representatives from the public sector, private sector, social service agencies, and community-based organizations to establish a vision concept that re-imagines the future of Kalihi in the event the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) is relocated or replaced. The proposal to establish a temporary Commission of similar character would be duplicative of the existing Vision Committee, as the proposed membership of the temporary Commission is very similar to those invited to participate on the current Vision Committee.
- The Vision Committee has produced a Draft Vision document and continues outreach and collaboration efforts to finalizing the document by June/July 2017. Any comprehensive planning efforts delegated to a temporary Commission should take

into consideration the Vision document developed by the Vision Committee and final recommendations developed.

- OP also suggests that additional existing background research or documents be considered in development of the comprehensive development plan. The list of documents to be considered should include but not be limited to the following: Kalihi Neighborhood Transit-Oriented Development Plan (2014), the Kalihi-Palama Action Plan (2004), and the Primary Urban Center Development Plan (2004).
- We suggest that the members of the temporary Commission be allowed to designate another officer or employee of the members' department or agency or member's representative organization to attend one or more meetings in place of the member. The member shall make the designation in writing and submit it to the Commission Chair before the meeting that the designee is to attend. The designation may apply to more than one meeting or the entire term of the Commission. The designation may be withdrawn at any time by written notice to the Commission Chair.

The designee of a Commission member shall have all rights and privileges of the member while serving as a designee.

- OP also suggests removal of the language in section 6 (page 7, beginning at line 7) of the measure that requires that the "proposed Commission may hold meetings as it deems necessary" and shall give public notice of its meetings "pursuant to section 1-28.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes". The language requiring compliance section 1-28.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes is not necessary and will result in administrative and budgetary challenges for OP.
- OP appreciates the over-all concept of this bill as it includes initiatives supportive of our goals and objectives, but we are concerned about the potential cost implications generated by this proposal, which is unbudgeted at this time. Support of a temporary Commission proposed in HB 1395 would require additional staff resources and allowances for reimbursement of travel expenses of the temporary Commission members, as well as, funding for developing the comprehensive community development plan. OP respectfully request that an appropriation amount of \$100,000 be inserted for both fiscal years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 in order to develop a comprehensive development plan for the Kalihi area, develop annual reports to the legislature, allowing OP to hire one additional temporary planner, and for operations of the temporary Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**LATE**

## OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

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TELEPHONE: 808-586-1400 FAX: 808-586-1412  
EMAIL: oip@hawaii.gov

To: House Committee on Judiciary

From: Cheryl Kakazu Park, Director

Date: March 1, 2017, 12:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Re: Testimony on H.B. No. 1395, H.D. 1  
Relating to the Kalihi 21<sup>st</sup> Century Commission

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill. The Office of Information Practices (“OIP”) takes no position on the substance of this bill, which establishes a temporary Kalihi 21<sup>st</sup> Century Commission in the Office of Planning, but is testifying to **seek clarification of a provision relating to public meetings.**

In bill section 6 (page 7, beginning at line 7), the bill provides that the proposed Commission “may hold public meetings as it deems necessary” and shall give public notice of its meetings “pursuant to section 1-28.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes.” **The Commission as proposed appears to meet the definition of a “board” subject to the Sunshine Law, part I of chapter 92, HRS, which means the Sunshine Law’s notice provision and general open meeting requirements would apply to it. Thus, OIP questions whether it is necessary to require the Commission to give two different forms of public notice of its meetings, which will present administrative challenges for it.** Also, it is not clear whether the provision allowing the Commission to “hold public meetings as it deems necessary” is based on an inaccurate assumption that the

House Committee on Judiciary  
March 1, 2017  
Page 2 of 2

Commission would not be generally required to hold public meetings as required by the Sunshine Law, or is simply intended to make clear that the Commission is not limited to holding meetings only once a quarter.

**To clarify this language, OIP would recommend deleting the extra notice requirement and amending the “additional meetings” provision so that the first sentence of bill section 6 reads as follows: “The commission shall meet quarterly and may hold additional meetings as it deems necessary.”**

Thank you for considering our proposed amendment.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2017 4:17 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** blawaiianlvr@icloud.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1395 on Mar 1, 2017 12:00PM

**HB1395**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Mar 1, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments: We continue to STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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February 28, 2017

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TO: Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Ronald M Higashi, Executive Director  
Susannah Wesley Community Center

Subject: Testimony in support of the intent of HB 1395 HD1

Chair Nishimoto and members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Ronald Higashi. I am the executive director of Susannah Wesley Community Center (SWCC). I write in support of the intent of HB 1395 HD1,

I did submit written testimony for HB 1395 when it was before Chair Nakashima and members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Business. This is a addendum to that testimony, I stand on the testimony that was submitted. I apologize for not being able to attend this meeting

I would like to restate my support for the bill's intent to address the need to coordinate review of the various economic development projects underway in the Kalihi Palama area and not focus on any specific project. Major development includes Transit Oriented Development (TOD) along Dillingham, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Kalihi Envisioning at OCCC, the Kapalama Canal Improvement Project, redevelopment at Mayor Wright Housing, and development of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority on School Street. All of these are occurring within less than two mile

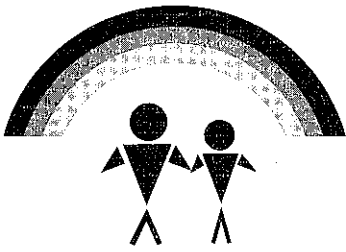
I would like to suggest that the name of the bill be changed so that it is not to be confused or limited to the efforts of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Envisioning efforts current underway at the Oahu Community Correction Center.

I am exciting over the potential for economic growth, and at the same time concerned about their combined impact on the community. Collectively, these developments will have tremendous social, economic, and cultural impact on our community. This bill's intent is to have a community based review of development within it's boundaries and provide such an overview.

Thank you for this opportunity. Mahalo

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### Adult Friends for Youth

Submitted to House Committee on Judiciary

Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Submitted by McKay Schwenke  
Vice President,

Date: February 27, 2017

### HB 1395 Relating to the Kalihi 21<sup>st</sup> Century Commission

I am in strong support for HB 1395 relating to the Kalihi 21<sup>st</sup> Century Commission. I agree that the Commission should be made up of the right community leaders, stake holders, Government Representatives, and service providers that have a vested interest in the growth and development, healthy lifestyles, safety and well-being of the Kalihi community as a whole is absolutely crucial and imperative.

First and foremost, the Commission's responsibilities should include establishing and creating a solid and extensive community development plan that makes sense, and caters for the needs and priorities of the community. A critical part of this plan is addressing the immediate needs and concerns of the residence, especially families, parents and their children, such as providing quality health-care and affordable housing. In addition, exposing and familiarizing residence with the resources available including service providers. These resources will help to strengthen family support and cultural diversity. Helping to decrease violence and crime is a key initiative in this effort. The Kalihi community is ripped and ready for these long awaited changes and development. This overhaul is long overdue and the community deserves it. For this reason, I stand in firm support of this measure and hope the committee will see the value as well.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.



**TO:** Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and the Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

**FROM:** Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

**DATE/LOCATION:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017; 12:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1395 HD1 – RELATING TO THE KALIHI 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY COMMISSION**

**We support HB 1395 HD1 – Relating to the Kalihi 21<sup>st</sup> Century Commission.** Over the past year there has been a focus on “reimagining” Kalihi. The potential relocation of OCCC, TOD progress, and multiple other projects has precipitated conversations long overdue. Kalihi has a rich history rooted in a multicultural environment and has provided a start to many new immigrants to Hawaii. These people regard Kalihi as “home” and its close proximity to the downtown corridor provides important access to many needed resources.

The Governor stated in his 2016 State of the State Address, “We have an immediate opportunity to get it right in Kalihi.” Surely, “getting it right” means a focus on including voices and concerns that make up Kalihi. If we support Kalihi with purpose and inclusivity, we can ensure a community that supports the people of this area for generations.

Over the past year, a number of not-for-profit service providers (listed in this bill) have been convening conversations to discuss the importance of lifting up the diverse voices in Kalihi. Some of the providers have been working in Kalihi for over 50+ years. We have a strong pulse on our community and the people we serve. We have attended the many meetings hosted by those engaged to solicit community feedback. We have also met with Kalihi area legislators to discuss our concerns. **While we have been engaged in these conversations, there is still much to discuss and voices to bring together for this important dialogue. Many key voices are not at the table. Many of them are served by agencies like ours. These voices can share a very personal and accurate voice and will put a localized face to this project.** Providing input at various meetings were sometimes difficult to attend and confusing with the multitude of projects. Coordination amongst the various projects is also critical.

Community planning done right, has the potential to reduce homelessness, crime, substance abuse, health inequities, and improve overall social and economic well-being. These impacts have long lasting and multi-generational consequences that impact the war on poverty and homelessness. For healthy community planning to be supported in a meaningful way, a sustained political commitment is required. The foundational strength of community planning is the engagement of community members. We must involve community members in the planning process, especially those disadvantaged groups, to address the relevant determinants of health, target disadvantaged populations in planning, monitor and evaluate outcomes, and coordinate projects. **Parents And Children Together supports this bill to ensure that any development in Kalihi is purpose built and focused on reducing inequities. Additionally, the nonprofit organizations in Kalihi have a strong pulse and connection with families of Kalihi and must be intentionally included in the planning process to help evaluate the social impacts of these changes.**



Over the past year we have addressed the following concerns for regarding the planning for Kalihi:

- **Various impacts of modernization**
  - We have concerns that the impacts of modernization will have unintended consequences such as:
    - Zoning issues
    - Potential property tax increases that push out longtime residents
    - Adequacy of infrastructure – sewers, roads, etc.
- **Economic Development**
  - Successful economic development is typically not about one big thing.
    - It is more likely about lots of little things working synergistically together in a plan that makes sense.
  - Planning for decent employment opportunities that provide opportunity for working families.
  - Support of the businesses (including small business) that will support employment in Kalihi
- **Access to appropriate affordable housing**
- **Purpose Built Communities that will support healthy communities (Social Determinants of Health)**
  - Safe and walkable communities
  - Cradle to grave education opportunities
  - Promotion of health (healthy food options, access to healthcare facilities, etc.)
  - Open community spaces (with adequate lighting at night)
  - Space for Social Service Providers
  - Appreciation and recognition of cultural diversity and how it is represented in new space
  - Transportation options
- **Representation at community planning meetings – to ensure voices are being heard**
  - Meetings held at times and places that are sometimes difficult to access
  - Voices of seniors, youth, schools, public housing residents
  - Multiple community meetings makes it difficult to be in all places
  - There were little solutions provided regarding the coordination of the multiple plans.
- **Previous Lessons Learned**
  - Lessons learned from Rail – are there plans for community support when these changes occur (i.e. businesses along Kamehameha Hwy experienced impacts to revenue due to accessibility issues)
  - Support for non-profits and clients for accessibility
- **Coordination of multiple projects?**
  - There are multiple development projects in Kalihi that could potentially happen at the same time.

- Some of these projects have the possibility of overlapping with one another.
- This could cause stress on infrastructure and resources. For example, if projects occur at the same time, infrastructure like traffic and accessibility will be stressed.
- There needs some time and effort spent on coordination of these projects and this has not been answered at the multiple community meetings.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 16 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB 1395 HD1**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.

**KALIHI PALAMA HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB**

**TESTIMONY WITH COMMENTS  
REGARDING**

**HB 1395, HD1, RELATING TO THE KALIHI 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY COMMISSION**

**Committee on Judiciary  
Hearing, Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 12:00 p.m.**

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Judiciary

Aloha mai kākou

The Kalihi Palama HCC provides these comments regarding HB 1395, HD1, Relating to the Kalihi 21<sup>st</sup> Century Commission that proposes to establish a temporary Kalihi 21<sup>st</sup> Century Commission in the Office of Planning; and requires the Commission to develop a community development plan for the development of the Kalihi area on O'ahu.

In August 2016, the Office of Planning (OP) launched the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Kalihi Initiative that was instituted by Governor Ige to put forth a vision concept that re-imagines the future of Kalihi in the event the O'ahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) is relocated or replaced. A Vision Committee (VC) was established comprised of area legislators, neighborhood board members, and representatives from the public sector, private sector, social service agencies, and community-based organizations to work with the OP to establish a vision concept for the site. This vision would be informed and inspired by community aspirations and would have the potential to be a catalyst for a preferred future for Kalihi in the 21st Century.

**It appears that HB1395, HD1 that proposes to establish a temporary Kalihi 21<sup>st</sup> Century Commission in the Office of Planning may duplicative of this effort, except that the HB1395 HD1 is not conditioned on the relocation of the OCCC.**

**If HB1395, HD1, continues to move, we strongly recommend that the temporary Kalihi 21<sup>st</sup> Century Commission include among its members the City & County Kalihi Palama Neighborhood Board. This is a grassroots Board that operates on the concept of participatory democracy, involving communities in the decisions that affect them. Monthly meetings are held.**

We appreciate the attention that the Governor and the Hawaii State legislature are giving to develop a framework in economic development and community planning to effectively use the State's resources and guide the future development of the Kalihi area. The top priorities for the 21st Century Initiative focus on Economic Development and Housing for the support and betterment of Kalihi's current and future generations. It supports

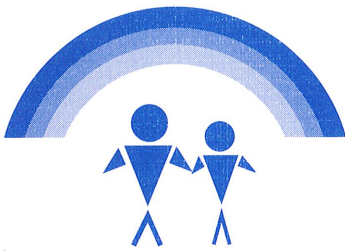
innovation and capacity-building, and takes a balanced approach in creating jobs and providing housing so the people who live in the area can continue to live and work in Kalihi and future generations can be elevated. Mixed-income and mixed-housing types would be provided, including affordable, workforce, low-income, and kupuna housing as well as market-rate and larger 2-3-bedroom units to support families and multiple generations. The mixed-use neighborhood that is envisioned would provide safe and convenient access to goods and services, including restaurants, child and kupuna care facilities, small grocery stores and pharmacies, and health/medical clinics. Mom and pop stores would thrive and gentrification would be mitigated.

Thus, we are hopeful, that truly **whether it be the Kalihi 21<sup>st</sup> Century initiative, or the initiative being proposed by HB 1395, HD 1, it will result in improved living conditions for Kalihi residents. Otherwise, we all fear, as with other communities in this State, such as Kaka'ako, that its residents will be priced out of real estate, jobs will go to others, and the costs of rentals will be higher.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

LEIMOMI KHAN  
President



## Adult Friends for Youth

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Submitted to Committee on Judiciary  
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Chair  
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members on the Committee on Judiciary. I am here to testify in support of HB1395 HD1 that will establish a Kalihi 21<sup>st</sup> Century Commission to include many non-profit agencies that represent a larger number of people living and working in the Kalihi community.

For years, non-profits have been the voice and advocacy entity for the many working and struggling families considered to be low-income and economically challenged. The nine non-profit organizations listed in this bill collectively serve thousands, from keiki to kupuna. The Governor mentioned in his State of the State Address on January 25, 2016, "I've long had strong concerns about the way the redevelopment in Kakaako proceeded. So do a lot of people who felt left out. We have a great opportunity to learn from past experience and do things differently going forward. We have an immediate opportunity to get it right in Kalihi." Yet, many were still left out (mainly the non-profits) going forward with his Kalihi 21<sup>st</sup> Century Initiative.

There are many reasons why the non-profit sector should be included in the process of land use and development. First, not only do we serve and represent a large number of people, we are concerned for their well-being and the safety of the community. In an article dated 1/12/2017 from the Prevention Institute E-alert: Report draws on recent, multi-sector summit of policy makers, community groups working to address health, safety through land use, it was stated, "Bringing together the disciplines of land use and violence prevention holds tremendous potential to improve community safety through smart investments, cross-sector collaboration, and democratic engagement. We strongly believe that, if we work together, we can work through the land use system to address deep-rooted inequities and sow the seeds of a better future for all communities, free from violence and fear".

Secondly, we work with inequities at many levels on a daily basis. We see firsthand the impact it has on our clients in the community. Including the non-profits will allow the voice of this population to be heard and will prevent further inequities as well as lowering frustration that often leads to violence which ultimately leaves the community in fear.

All I ask is that we get it right now. Developing and including the many organizations listed in this bill is a must. Kalihi is home to many diverse cultures and people. We need to keep that essence of the community. We hope you will consider moving this bill forward and helping to make the commission a reality. I thank you for your time. Mahalo



**KOKUA KALIHI VALLEY COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY SERVICES**

**2239 N. SCHOOL STREET ♦ HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819 ♦ TEL: 808-791-9400 ♦ FAX: 808-848-0979 ♦ www.kkv.net**

**LATE**

**TO:** Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and the Members of the House Committee on Judiciary  
**FROM:** David Derauf, MD Executive Director Kokua Kalihi Valley  
**DATE/LOCATION:** Wednesday, March 1, 2017; 12:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1395 HD1 – RELATING TO THE KALIHI 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY COMMISSION**

**Kokua Kalihi Valley supports HB 1395 HD1 – Relating to the Kalihi 21<sup>st</sup> Century Commission.**

Governor Ige stated in his 2016 State of the State Address, “We have an immediate opportunity to get it right in Kalihi.” We agree, but feel that the voices of Kalihi have NOT been heard and without those voices, it will be unlikely to “get it right”.

We are part of a network of not-for-profit service providers (listed in this bill) convening to discuss the importance of lifting up the diverse voices in Kalihi. But **while we have been engaged in these conversations, too many other key voices are not at the table.**

Community planning done right, has the potential to strengthen this wonderful community of Kalihi. But the foundation of successful community planning is involvement from the ground up of the community. **Lip service to this concept will ultimately fail the residents of our community. WE therefore support HB 1395.**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2017 8:40 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** sabrinanguyen2010@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1395 on Mar 1, 2017 12:00PM

**HB1395**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Mar 1, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sabrina	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB1395, HD1 because this will allow community planning the right way, by allowing all the non-profits and civic organizations to be a part of a major undertaking - the community planning of Kalihi. This will involve transportation, public safety, schools, parks, shopping affordable housing, and the future of Kalihi. This measure is very important, because if this measure works well - this can become the blueprint for future community planning for other communities in Hawaii for the future.

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**HB1395**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Mar 1, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kanani Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB1395, HD1 because it will allow the various non-profits, businesses, and community groups to be involved in community planning for Kalihi. If Governor Ige supports a united effort of community planning for Kalihi - then he would support these non-profits, businesses, and community organizations being involved in community planning. If this bill passes and community planning is successful, this can be used as a blueprint for future communities in Hawaii.

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**HB1395**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Mar 1, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Garcia	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB1395, HD1 because this will allow a larger number of community non-profits and community leaders and businesses in the Kalihi area to participate in the Kalihi 21st Century Commission. To place this measure in law - with a termination date, will ensure that all parties have an opportunity to be at the table in planning community the right way.

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**HB1395**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Mar 1, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

Testimony of Jame K. Schaedel

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

**Opposition** against House Bill No. 1395, H.D. 1 – Relating to the Kalihi 21st Century Commission

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in strong **opposition** against House Bill No. 1395, H.D. 1 which would establish a temporary Kalihi 21st Century Commission in the Office of Planning, and require the commission to develop a community development plan for the development of Kalihi.

I offer this testimony as a private citizen.

The overall theme and spirit of the Hawai‘i State Planning Act (Act 100, SLH 1978) has not been amended in 38 years. The Plan outlines specific goals and objectives that should be emulated throughout the State of Hawai‘i, but are not specific to one island or community. However, when is the last time the Office of Planning attended one of your neighborhood board meetings on the island of O‘ahu?

The task of drafting community development plans has, by default, been left to the individual counties for development and implementation because the county councils debate and enact zoning ordinances. For example, the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP), City and County of Honolulu, solicited significant input from the ‘Ewa, Honokai Hale, Kapolei, and Makakilo communities, and the neighborhood boards elected to represent them when DPP was amending the ‘Ewa Development Plan in 2012 (Ord. 13-26).

DPP has failed to develop a revised development plan for O‘ahu’s Primary Urban Core in a timely manner. The latest development plan for O‘ahu’s Primary Urban Core is dated June 2004 which was signed by Mayor Jeremy Harris (Ord. 04-14). I believe House Bill No. 1395, H.D. 1 is a reactionary measure because DPP has failed to fulfill its decadal obligation prescribed by the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu and accompanying ordinances.

Therefore, I strongly encourage your committee to defer this bill and develop a substantive resolution that encourages DPP to develop and implement a new development plan for O‘ahu’s Primary Urban Core. Hawai‘i’s taxpayers cannot afford another commission or working group.

Respectfully,

Jame K. Schaedel