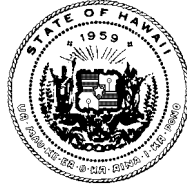


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT  
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

January 29, 2020

TO: The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing

The Honorable Senator Laura H. Thielen, Chair  
Senate Committee on Government Operations

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2442 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and offers comments.

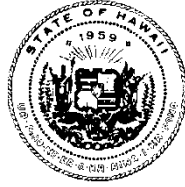
**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to establish the kauhale pilot program to provide shelter and certain services to homeless individuals. Appropriates funds for the kauhale pilot program.

Housing and homelessness remains the most pressing challenges facing Hawaii. The lack of available and affordable rental inventory is a barrier to homeless individuals and families. This barrier cannot be addressed solely by an increased investment in services such as Housing First or Rapid Re-Housing; it requires significant investment and commitment to build new permanent housing inventory for low-income residents.

DHS is concerned that the proposed appropriation not supplant the funding priorities identified in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM  
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of  
**DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA**  
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

February 4, 2020 at 1:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 225

In consideration of  
**S.B. 2442**  
**RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

HHFDC **offers the following comments** on S.B. 2442 which establishes the Kauhale Pilot program.

S.B. 2442 mandates the Lieutenant Governor to designate the HHFDC and other appropriate State agencies to develop and implement Kauhale projects in at least 6 locations on Oahu, and at least one location in each of the other counties. While HHFDC could assist with the development of the Kauhale sites, we do not have the expertise in evaluating or administering homeless and housing services, or in managing such properties. For clarity, we recommend the bill be amended to identify the appropriate state agency with specific support service and management expertise to administer and oversee the operation of the pilot program.

The bill also authorizes the transfer of state or county land designated for use as a Kauhale to an agency whose mission is more suited to the management of a Kauhale (page 4, lines 3-6). As this is a pilot program, we believe it may be more appropriate for the state or county agency to retain ownership of the public land and lease it to another public or private entity for management and operation.

Section 4 of the bill also provides for exemptions from *"...all county ordinance, rule, regulation, law, or provision in any form that applies to any county permitting, licensing, zoning, variance, processes, procedure, fees, or any other requirements that hinder, delay, or impede the purpose of this Act."* We are concerned that exemptions from ministerial approvals, such as licensing and permitting, may impact health and safety.

Finally, the bill requires HHFDC to submit Legislative reports assessing the program in 2021, 2022, and 2023. If HHFDC is to undertake the responsibilities it is given with respect to this new pilot program, the following additional staffing and associated funding will be required: 1.0 FTE Project Manager position and 1.0 FTE Office Assistant III position, and approximately \$200,000 per year in salary and fringe benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN  
ADMINISTRATOR  
BONNIE KAHAKUI  
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

P.O. Box 119  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119  
Tel: (808) 586-0554  
email: [state.procurement.office@hawaii.gov](mailto:state.procurement.office@hawaii.gov)  
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>  
Twitter: [@hawaiispo](https://twitter.com/hawaiispo)

TESTIMONY  
OF  
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES  
ON  
HOUSING  
AND  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 1:15 PM  
SB 2442  
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Chairs Chang and Thielen, Vice Chairs Kanuha and Inouye, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2442. The State procurement Office (SPO) supports the intent of the bill and makes the following recommendations:

The SPO has found that the time taken to procure for goods and services inside of a three-year pilot materially reduces the period in which mission is to be achieved. Therefore, SPO recommends three-year pilots are exempt from the competitive requirement of the procurement code for the period of the three years only.

SPO requests an addition of verbiage to ensure the exemption allowance is not abused with contracts awarded beyond the scope period of the pilot:

Add to Section 4(a), page 5, line 11 to read:

“Exemption from requirements of chapter 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall apply only during the pilot period. Contracts, entered into during the pilot period, shall not extend beyond the pilot end date of June 30, 2023.”

Thank you.



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

January 30, 2020

**TO:** The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing

The Honorable Senator Laura H. Thielen, Chair  
Senate Committee on Government Operations

**FROM:** Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

**SUBJECT: SB2442– RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact budget priorities.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to establish the Kauhale pilot program to provide shelter and certain services to homeless individuals. The bill also appropriates \$20,000,000 for Fiscal Year 2021 for the pilot program, and requires the Lieutenant Governor to designate the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation and other appropriate agencies to develop and implement the pilot program. A minimum of six sites for the pilot program shall be identified on Oahu, and at least one site on each of the islands of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.

The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH), a 27-member advisory council chaired by the Coordinator, recently voted to prioritize sustained funding commitments for affordable rental housing as a part of its 2020 legislative priorities to address homelessness. In particular, the HICH recognized a need to develop site-based permanent supportive housing units that could be paired with supportive services to address the needs of chronically homeless households.

A 2018 analysis by the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) projected a need for 1,808 new permanent supportive housing units or vouchers for chronically homeless households on Oahu within the next 10 years.<sup>1</sup> The development of nine separate Kauhale pilot sites statewide will assist in closing the gap in housing for individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness.

The Lieutenant Governor has partnered with HomeAid Hawaii to begin work on a Kauhale project located in Kalaeloa on Oahu on land owned by the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA). The proposed Kauhale in Kalaeloa represents a public-private partnership in which HomeAid Hawaii is donating labor and housing units, and the Kalaeloa program may be used as a template to provide services in other locations statewide.

Section 4 of the measure shall exempt the Kauhale pilot program from “all county ordinance, rule, regulation, law of provision in any form that applies to any county permitting, licensing, zoning, variance, processes, procedures, fees or any other requirements that hinder, delay, or impede the purposes of this Act.” The Coordinator notes that exemptions from county permitting may adversely impact efforts by the Kauhale to leverage federal funding, as certain federal funds require compliance with county permitting and zoning requirements. For example, previous projects that utilized exemptions under the Governor’s emergency proclamation to address homelessness faced challenges in demonstrating structures were compliant with County building codes because the normal permitting processes were waived.

If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator respectfully requests that the Legislature consider requiring compliance with statutes or ordinances related to issues directly impacting life safety, such as compliance with fire code regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Housing Projections & Financial Modeling for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) on Oahu, 2018, Corporation for Supportive Housing: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Hi-ProjectionsFinancial-Modeling.-Focus-on-PSH-only.pdf>



Testimony of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor  
Before the

Senate Committees on Housing and Government Operations

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

1:15 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

On the following measure:

**S.B. 2442 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Chairs Chang and Thielen, Vice Chairs Kanuha and Inouye, and members of the Senate

Committees on Housing and Government Operations:

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor **SUPPORTS** S.B. 2442 which appropriates funds to

for the Kauhale pilot program to provide permanent housing and certain supportive services to  
people experiencing chronic homelessness.

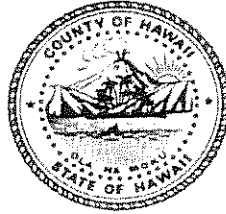
Homelessness is a public health crisis in Hawaii, and the need for permanent housing

specifically for those experiencing chronic homelessness is immediate. Kauhale is modeled after  
successful programs across the United States and already has the support of various public and  
private partners. We do expect that this bill will evolve as the session moves forward and, as it  
does, we believe it should ultimately provide legislative resources and support to construct and  
operate Kauhale in various regions across the state. We respectfully ask that the Legislature

support the Kauhale approach as an additional way to address the homeless crisis in our State.

MITCHELL D. ROTH  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DALE A. ROSS  
FIRST DEPUTY  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



655 KĪLAUEA AVENUE  
HILO, HAWAII 96720  
PH: (808) 961-0466  
FAX: (808) 961-8908  
(808) 934-3403  
(808) 934-3503

WEST HAWAII UNIT  
81-980 HALEKI'I ST, SUITE 150  
KEALAKEKUA, HAWAII 96750  
PH: (808) 322-2552  
FAX: (808) 322-6584

## OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL NO. 2442

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Sen. Laura H. Thielen, Chair

Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Friday, February 4, 2020, 1:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

Honorable Chair Thielen, Honorable Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee on Government Operations. The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill No.2442.

This measure establishes the Kauhale pilot program to provide shelter and certain services to homeless individuals. Appropriates funds for the Kauhale pilot program

The Hawaii County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney supports this unique effort to address homelessness in Hawaii. Chronic homelessness is an extremely difficult problem that impacts the health and safety of our communities on the Big Island. Many chronic homeless suffering from mental illness and substance use have repeatedly refused offers for service rejecting existing resources. The Kauhale pilot project, grounded upon the unique culture and values of Hawai'i, promises to be a very attractive alternative to traditional services.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i SUPPORTS the passage of Senate Bill No. 2442. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



**SB-2442**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 10:10:40 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patrick F. Hurney	Testifying for Habitat for Humanity Hawaii Island, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB 2442 because we need more support for the overburdened homeless system.

Mahalo

Pat

**SB-2442**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 10:57:47 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Goodman	Testifying for Partners In Care & Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force	Support	Yes

Comments:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Kauhale is perhaps the single most important homeless program to ever come before the Legislature. That's because it's the only plan that has the potential to create massive amounts of housing at a realistic cost, and within a realistic time-frame.

Housing is the one essential item that is absolutely necessary to end homelessness. It's so simple it sounds patronizing; if everyone had a home we wouldn't have a homeless crisis.

The vast majority of homeless people aren't mentally ill and aren't drug addicts. Most became homeless for purely economic reasons. A comfortable place to live, where they can lock their doors and feel safe, is all many people need. And for those who are mentally ill, or facing a personal crisis and need extensive supportive services, a place to live is essential if they're to have any hope of recovery.

Service utilization is a much better way to estimate the homeless population than the Point in Time count. There are probably 15,000 homeless in Hawaii. That means we have a shortage of roughly 10,000 units of subsidized housing for the homeless. It costs a minimum of \$300,000 per unit to build high rise apartments. We can't rent our way out of this shortage either. Rents range from \$1000 to \$1500 per unit, and many landlords won't rent to homeless tenants.

Conversely, the single-story modular homes proposed for Kauhale villages would run about \$20,000 per unit. **That means you could build 10,000 Kauhale units for about twice of what it costs to treat unsheltered homeless in the Queens emergency room each year!**

Unless the Legislature is willing to spend over three billion dollars to build enough high-rise apartments, the only way out of this mess is to build low cost, single story modular housing, such as the ones proposed for Kauhale Villages.

Seattle, Austin Texas, and many other jurisdictions have begun creating homeless villages using tiny homes and other low-cost modular dwellings, at a fraction of what it costs to build high rise apartments. No, they aren't as nice as apartments, but they are reasonably comfortable and safe. Besides, no one is saying people have to live there forever. Until there's a better alternative, it's 1000 times better than a sidewalk.

Kauhale is contemplated as a pilot. At this point, it's also only intended to eliminate chronic, unsheltered homelessness. However, there's plenty of data that shows villages such as those planned for Kauhale work, not only for the chronic homeless, but as a way to stabilize the lives of those who are homeless for purely economic reasons. The only reason to have it as a pilot, is to learn how to best implement the plan in Hawaii. Once that's accomplished, it should be fully implemented without delay.

**SB-2442**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 2:45:53 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Deges	Testifying for Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation	Support	No

Comments:



# PARTNERS IN CARE

## Oahu Continuum of Care

*Partners in Care is a coalition of Oahu's homeless service providers, government representatives and community stakeholders working together in partnership to end homelessness.*

### Testimony in Support of SB2442: Relating to Homelessness

TO: House Committees on Housing and on Government Relations

FROM: Partners in Care

HEARING: Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 1:15pm, conference room 225

Dear Chair Chang and Chair Thielen and members, House Committees on Housing and on Government Relations:

Partners in Care (PIC), a coalition of more than 60 non-profit homelessness providers and concerned organizations, **strongly supports this bill as part of the shared priorities of all Hawaii counties, PIC and the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH).**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2442, which establishes the Kauhale pilot program to provide shelter and accompanying services to chronically homeless individuals. The need for permanent housing for chronically homeless individuals is well documented and does not need to be reiterated here. But the Kauhale housing project is uniquely designed to be successful because:

- It provides housing in a culturally relevant village setting
- It supports self-government, modeled on the Pu'uhonua o Waianae at the Waianae Board Harbor, enabling residents to support each other, develop leadership skills and gain a sense of self-empowerment
- It is a sustainable business model in that these pilots will be located on State lands and thus there won't be major capital expenditures for land
- It is comprised of extremely cost-effective structures, estimated to be less than \$25,000 each, because substantial time and materials will be donated
- Supportive social services will be offered, such as case management, employment training, referral to substance abuse treatment, etc., thus enhancing successful outcomes for the individuals living there

Kauhale is an innovative tool in the homeless prevention toolbox. It is a type of Housing First (which is a well documented successful method of housing homeless individuals) in that it will provide permanent housing and social services to chronically homeless individuals. However, it has the important added advantage of providing a community of support and empowerment. Many people experiencing homelessness have a hard time leaving the feeling of community they have in living among other homeless folks.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Gavin Thornton, Advocacy Chair, Partners in Care at [gavin@hiappleseed.org](mailto:gavin@hiappleseed.org). We urge you to support this innovative and cost-effective approach to housing our most vulnerable chronically ill individuals.

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2442

TO: Chair Chang, Vice-Chair Kanuha, & Members of the Senate Housing Committee  
Chair Thielen, Vice-Chair Inouye, & Members of the  
Senate Government Operations Committee

FROM: Nikos Leverenz  
Grants & Development Manager

DATE: February 4, 2020 (1:15 PM)

---

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** SB 2442, which establishes the Kauhale pilot program to provide shelter and accompanying services to chronically homeless individuals.

[As noted by Lt. Governor Josh Green](#), “the Kauhale concept is a traditional, cultural model of housing consisting of tiny homes clusters and communal areas for restrooms, cooking, and gathering. Kauhale are meant to foster a sense of community and ownership among their formerly homeless residents.”

The Kauhale model will help move chronically unsheltered persons, particularly those from the Native Hawaiian community in designated geographic areas, to permanent supportive housing. It will feature ultra-low-cost units (\$25,000 est.) in a culturally relevant village setting with shared kitchen and restroom facilities on state-owned lands. The model, currently in operation at [Pu'uhonua o Wai'anae](#), supports self-government and develops leadership and empowerment skills among residents. Supportive social services, including treatment for behavioral health conditions and employment training, can be more effectively delivered in a context where participants have relatively stable shelter and nutritional access.

HHRC is a member of [Partners in Care](#) (PIC), a coalition of organizations from nonprofit homeless providers, government stakeholders, private businesses, community advocates, public housing agencies, hospitals, universities, affordable housing developers, law enforcement, and homeless and formerly homeless persons. PIC is a planning, coordinating,

and advocacy alliance that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill needs within O'ahu's Continuum of Care for homeless persons.

HHRC works with many individuals who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems related to substance use and underlying mental health conditions.

We support legislative efforts to ameliorate Hawaii's housing crisis. Affording more Kauhale-style homes will help alleviate some of the obstacles faced by Hawaii residents who are struggling to procure or maintain adequate housing in the current rental housing market.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important reform measure.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2442: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

**TO:** Senator Stanley Chang, Chair, Senator Laura H. Thielen, Chair; and Members,  
Committees on Housing and Government Operations  
**FROM:** Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
**Hearing:** **Tuesday, February 4, 2020; 1:15 PM; CR 225**

Chair Chang, Chair Thielen, and Members, Committees on Housing and Government Operations:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of SB 2660, which establishes the Kauhale Pilot Program to provide shelter and services to chronically homeless individuals. I am Rob Van Tassell, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care. **We support this bill as part of the shared priorities of all Hawaii counties, PIC and the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH).**

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 70 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless, and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Catholic Charities Hawai'i has a long history of working in the areas of affordable housing and homelessness.

**CCH supports \$20 million for the Kauhale Program, as long as this does not impact on the funding for other existing programs/services for the homeless.** Hawaii has established a range of proven services that place over 7,000 people/year back into permanent housing, increasing its percentage of people getting into permanent housing by 73% between 2016 and 2019. Yet Hawaii remains 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for per capita homeless. We need to scale up successful programs and start new innovative ones to dramatically reduce homelessness.

The Kauhale Project is a new innovative tool to end homelessness. The villages will provide cost-effective and culturally relevant permanent housing for hard to house chronic homeless people. Housing First programs have proven that this population can successfully remain housed with supportive services. Kauhale builds on the Housing First model, offering these supportive social services, but also creating a community where residents can support each other, gain skills and feel empowered. The Kauhale model has already developed much community support with businesses and construction companies willing to donate substantial labor and materials to build these permanent housing units. This makes construction extremely cost-effective, estimated to be less than \$25,000 per unit. Ending homelessness requires a community wide effort. The Kauhale model is uniquely designed to enhance this.

***Having a home is more than a house; it is being part of a neighborhood and community.*** We urge your support for the Kauhale Pilot Program.

Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 373-0356 or [bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org) if you have any questions.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone (808)373-0356 • [bettylou.larson@CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org)







**SB-2442**

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 11:46:38 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chad Parker	Testifying for Waimanalo Kauhale, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SB2442, and as a new community Non-Profit in Waimanalo who is working with the homeless in our community, we need as much help as we can get to help our people live in a traditional Kauhale style village that will provide a safe living environment with opportunity to be able to be self-sufficient, while learning traditional values from our kupuna who will be a part of this Kauhale. Waimanalo Kauhale, Inc. hope to be part of and included in any funding that this legislative body will appropriate for this pilot project. Please consider passing SB2442, we as a community have a moral obligation to help our people. Thank you!

Chad Parker

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2442: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

TO: Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members  
 FROM: Brandee Menino, CEO, Hope Services Hawaii, Inc.  
 Hearing: Tuesday 2/4/20, 1:15pm, Room 225

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of SB 2442, which would appropriate \$20 million to establish the Kauhale pilot program. The Kauhale program would create communal living spaces with shared or private tiny homes valued at no more than \$25,000 each, and provide access to social and medical services, including mental health and addiction support, thereby developing a sustainable model to take care of our low-income neighbors that the economy and housing market have left behind.

In Hawai‘i, a person working full-time at minimum wage earns \$1,616 per month, while fair market rent for a studio apartment is \$1,288. This means that a person working **full-time spends 80% of their income on housing, close to 3 times the HUD guideline for affordability, leaving only \$328 per month for food, transportation, clothing, household supplies, medical bills, retirement savings, loans, childcare, and emergency expenses.** It’s even worse for those who must rely entirely on SSI, as their income is only \$771 a month. With sky-high rents and stagnant wages, it’s no wonder our agency has seen a drastic increase in people becoming homeless for the first time, and a growing number of ALICE (Asset Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) households teetering on the brink of destitution.

Unless we take aggressive action to fight this inequality from all sides, we will continue to see our local people descend into poverty, and the ones who will suffer the most are those who are already the most vulnerable, including native Hawaiians, single moms, students, and kūpuna on fixed incomes. Establishing the Kauhale program is one such way we can work to ensure we protect our state’s most vulnerable residents.

Shannon, a Hawai‘i Island resident, shared the story of a neighbor who could have benefitted from the Kauhale program.

*“There was an elderly man sleeping near the road next to his wheelchair. I stopped to see what he needed, and found out he was 59 years old, blind, and disabled. He said he couldn’t afford his diabetes meds so the hospital had to cut his toe off (which was wrapped up in bandages) and now he was back out on the streets because there was no room to put him up anywhere. I ran home to get him some food, water, an umbrella and some medical supplies, and brought them back to him. I checked on him a couple of days later and he was in even more dire straits. His foot bandage was filthy and ragged.*

*“I went home to call someone to come help him--at least clean up his amputated toe and give him new bandages! I was on the phone for hours and couldn’t find any social service agency that could help. I finally got a hold of someone at Hope Services and insisted that something be done for this guy ASAP--before he lost his whole leg from infection.*

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



HOPE SERVICES HAWAII, INC.  
 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
 357 Waianuenue Avenue  
 Hilo, HI 96720  
 phone: (808) 935-3050  
 fax: (808) 935-3794

HALE MALUHIA  
 EMERGENCY SHELTER  
 110 Ululani Street  
 Hilo, HI 96720  
 phone: (808) 443-4717  
 fax: (808) 934-7456

KIHEI PUA  
 EMERGENCY SHELTER  
 115 Kapi‘olani Street  
 Hilo, HI 96720  
 phone: (808) 933-6053  
 fax: (808) 934-0904

VETERAN HOUSING PROGRAMS  
 21 West Ohea Street  
 Hilo, HI 96720  
 phone: (808) 934-8658  
 fax: (808) 934-8658

FRIENDLY PLACE RESOURCE CENTER  
 74-5593 Pawai Place  
 Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
 phone: (808) 933-6062  
 fax: (808) 329-6219

WEST HAWAII EMERGENCY HOUSING PROGRAM  
 74-5593 Pawai Place  
 Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
 phone: (808) 217-5560  
 fax: (808) 327-2171

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Connect via email: [info@hopeserviceshawaii.org](mailto:info@hopeserviceshawaii.org)

HOPE Help Line: 808-935-3050

*"I went down the next day to see if 'John' was still there - and he was gone. I'm hoping someone figured out how to help him. It was disgusting to think a blind & disabled kūpuna could just be dumped onto the street like trash.*

Unfortunately, John's story is not uncommon. Our Outreach and Street Medicine teams frequently interact with people whose health rapidly deteriorates due to a lack of stable housing, sanitation, and access to the services they need. Instead of waiting until people like John end up on the street in the midst of medical catastrophe, it makes much more sense to avert these crises before they start. I urge you to **vote yes on SB 2442** to establish the Kauhale pilot program, and provide stable and safe homes where people like John will have access to the care they need. Let's work together to provide for the dignity of ALL people in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui for your consideration,

Brandee Menino  
Chief Executive Officer

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Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Senate Bill 2442  
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chairs Chang and Thielen, Vice Chairs Kanuha and Inouye, and Members of the Committees on Housing and Government Operations,

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i (The Party) **stands in support of SB2442** Relating to Homelessness. This bill establishes the kauhale pilot program which will provide shelter and certain services to homeless individuals. This bill also appropriates \$20,000,000 for the program at \$25,000 per tiny home. The Party supports this bill as homes, shelters, and other services are in tremendous demand and in very low supply for the homeless communities in the State of Hawai'i.

In 2019, 44.9 in every 10,000 people in Hawai'i were experiencing homelessness according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2019 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress. The national average was 17 people per 10,000.

California and Hawai'i have the highest rates of homelessness among all individuals (excluding families with children) with 68 and 63 of every 10,000 individuals experiencing homelessness. These rates are 2.5 times the national average rate of 24 per 10,000 individuals. Of Hawai'i's homeless individuals, 75% are unsheltered. Of 1,992 homeless families, 454 were unsheltered, or nearly 23%. Of 222 homeless youth, 149 were unsheltered, or 67%. Hawai'i has one of the highest rates of veteran homelessness in the nation with 39 per 10,000 people, 58% of whom are unsheltered. 36% of Hawai'i's homeless population is chronically homeless, meaning individuals with disabilities who have been homeless for a year or more, or have experienced 12 or more months of homelessness over the last three years. More than 85% of chronically homeless people in Hawai'i are unsheltered. Finally, Hawai'i's chronically homeless population has more than doubled since 2007.

Per O'ahu's 2019 point-in-time count, most of Hawai'i's homeless population lives on O'ahu: more than 4,400 people. More than half of these people are unsheltered, living on sidewalks, in parks and in other public places not meant for human habitation.

O'ahu has purportedly made great strides in reducing family and veteran homelessness: the number of homeless families decreased by 42% from 2015 to 2019 and veteran homelessness declined 18% in that time. The focus now is on the unsheltered population.

We believe SB2442 is also an environmentally sound approach, as it directs the Lieutenant Governor to coordinate with the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) and other appropriate state or county agencies to ensure that infrastructure needs for the kauhale are met while invoking minimal adverse impacts to the environment, including nearshore resources, i.e., corals, reef fish, and shorebirds. This is especially important since the expedited nature of the kauhale pilot project necessitates exemptions of the requirements of chapters 103D and 103F, HRS, and all county ordinances, rules, regulations, laws or provisions that apply to any county permitting, licensing, zoning, variance, processes, procedures, fees, or any other requirements which may hinder, delay, or impede the building of the kauhale. This is a

broad exemption which may contradict the very basis behind these ordinances, rules, regulations, laws, and provisions unless health, environmental interests and concerns are fully protected.

Building kahale pilot projects in various counties across the State, six on O'ahu, and one on Hawai'i island, Maui, and Kaua'i, designed to coordinate services and shelter facilities of public agencies and nonprofit organization to meet the homeless population may be the model to successfully alleviate homelessness on a county-by-county basis.

These smart tiny homes facilities will have common areas and shared facilities, including restrooms with toilets, showers, and other hygiene facilities, and kitchens with areas for food storage and meal preparation to effectively reduce building and maintenance cost and infrastructure needs. These facilities will also provide medical and social support services, and transportation to appointments related to medical care or supportive services that are not available at a kahale. In addition, the pilot project will accommodate individuals coping with and receiving treatment for substance abuse, a community that has been grossly underrepresented. It will also accommodate the chronically homeless, those that are the hardest to home and have remained homeless for a period in excess of one year continuously or cumulatively over a period of three years.

Kauhale services may include, but not limited to, non-emergency medical services, tests for HIV, STD and hepatitis; services for family planning, child and family services, behavioral health, substance abuse, and mental health services; dental care; referral services; shower and laundry services; clean clothing; health insurance enrollment; pharmacy services; "street medicine" for those living on the streets, in parks, along river banks, on beaches, in abandoned buildings; and other assistance services, all of which would help to satisfy very important and critical needs of our homeless populations as required by each of the counties.

For these reasons, including our rising homeless population, skyrocketing housing prices, stagnant middle-class wages, limited land space, increasing crime and threatened safety, we urge you to vote favorably on this bill to require the Lieutenant Governor to coordinate with state and county agencies and developers to develop and implement separate kahale pilot projects in each of the counties to effectively provide needed services and shelter facilities for the homeless population.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,



Josh Frost  
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee  
Democratic Party of Hawai'i



Zahava Zaidoff  
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee  
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2019/05/23/considered-low-income-one-person-honolulu-according-hud/>

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/01/hawaii-is-no-longer-no-1-for-homelessness-new-york-is-worse/>



Building new lives for Hawaii's neighbors experiencing homelessness through housing and community outreach.

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TO: Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing

Senator Laura H. Thielen, Chair  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Government Operations

FROM: Nani Medeiros, Executive Director, HomeAid Hawaii

RE: Senate Bill 2442, Testimony in Support

HRG: Joint Committees on Housing and Government Operations  
February 4, 2020  
1:15 PM, Room 225

Good afternoon Chair Chang, Chair Thielen, Vice-Chairs Kanuha and Inouye, and members of the committees. HomeAid Hawaii is a nonprofit organization founded in 2015 by Oahu's builders and developers to help address homelessness. Through our Housing Program, we provide pro-bono and deeply discounted professional building and construction services to qualified nonprofit homeless service providers. Through our Outreach Program, we provide hygiene, comfort, and work-ready kits, special events that support neighbors experiencing homelessness, community conversations, and organize volunteer events. In less than five years we have completed eight housing projects and invested over half a million dollars into our communities through our pro-bono work in the housing and outreach programs. HomeAid Hawaii strongly supports the intent of Senate Bill 2442 to establish a kauhale pilot program and offers the following comments and proposed amendments.

**HISTORY & PRECEDENT**

ACT 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, created the Ohana Zone pilot program and appropriated \$30 million for its implementation over a three-year period. It states, "There is established the **ohana zones pilot program to provide temporary housing**

**and services** to homeless individuals and families based on principles similar to the housing first program.” A December 30, 2019 Star-Advertiser article (\$30 million in ‘ohana zone’ funding leads to multiple state projects) stated, “The one thing that was clear in the legislation was ohana zone funds are meant to support people to transition out of homelessness.” How was the \$30 million spent for those transitions? According to the same Star-Advertiser article, “All of the \$30 million has since been earmarked over the next three years for a wide range of homeless-related projects ... ohana zone funding is paying for everything from roof repairs at homeless shelters to prevent them from shutting down to social service workers’ salaries to government housing vouchers to subsidize permanent housing.”

ACT 209 created a path to identify public and private lands for ohana zones, directed the Governor to designate agencies with expertise in construction development and homeless services, and authorized those designated agencies to coordinate with public or private entities to develop and implement the ohana zone pilot program. ACT 209 established a mechanism to develop housing under the ohana zone program. It appears initial efforts have focused on maintaining or expanding existing shelter programs...many worthwhile programs, at least one shelter program that HomeAid Hawaii helped build. HomeAid Hawaii believes there are many people who are doing their best to help address the homelessness crisis and we commend everyone for their part. We understand the importance of maintaining or expanding existing shelters and programs because they are the safety net for our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

The most important line in ACT 209 is found in the preamble:

“Therefore, the legislature finds that addressing homelessness requires the courage to try something new.”

We completely agree. ACT 209 provides a great foundation to build upon and continue to grasp the courage to try something new: permanent homes for neighbors experiencing homelessness.

#### SUPPORT FOR KAUAHALE

Senate Bill 2442 creates a kauhale pilot program using the same language, structure, and direction provided by the legislature in ACT 209 for the ohana zones. The main differences between an ohana zone and a kauhale are that kauhale are permanent homes not temporary, transitional, or shelters; kauhale are master planned communities; and kauhale fosters community centered living in addition to providing on-site supportive services. A kauhale is your home. A kauhale gives and receives community. A kauhale is the next step for someone ready to transition out of shelter programs or an ohana zone and into a permanent home they never have to leave. Kauhale is the new approach that incorporates community, permanent homes, and service to our neighbors experiencing persistent homelessness in a cost effective and expedient manner. It can restore purpose and dignity for us all.



## HOMEAID HAWAII DEVELOPING KAUHALE

While we are actively engaged at various levels on 6 kauhale, HomeAid Hawaii currently holds two Right of Entry agreements with the state for kauhale pre-development: one with the Department of Land and Natural resources for three parcels identified as possible kauhale sights, and one with the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for a parcel in Kalaeloa that has been identified for a kauhale. Since last summer we have conducted extensive pre-development work for three of the parcels. Harry Saunders, President of Castle and Cooke Homes Hawaii is the builder captain for two of these parcels and Stanford Carr, President of Stanford Carr Development is the builder captain for the third parcel; currently our builder team consists of 21 companies and all the work completed to date by our team has been 100% pro-bono. The Kalaeloa kauhale, which will be for singles, utilizes tiny homes that are approximately 100 sq. ft (interiors) with a 20-40 sq. ft. lanai. The total number of units for this kauhale is 39 and we have secured sponsorship for 18 tiny homes through our network of donors and builder team members. The tiny homes cost about \$25,000 each on average. In addition to the building industry support for kauhale, the response from the general public to help and volunteer has also been tremendous. We have had requests from area schools to participate, people offering money management training, job skills training, job placement, and one couple who generously made a cash donation to build two tiny homes.

“The courage to try something new.”

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

We recommend amending the bill to provide a definition of kauhale that explicitly states these are homes are not temporary, transitional, or emergency shelters. We discourage using any existing term like “affordable housing” or “low-income housing” as that may trigger other compliance or funding issues regarding development and occupancy. We recommend changing “shall” to “may” on page 2, Section 3, line 14; alternatively a less prescriptive definition with regard to the units would be helpful i.e. not limiting kauhale to “tiny homes priced at...”; this language also conflicts with page 4, Section 3(d), lines 15-16. We recommend including “on-site jobs, micro-enterprise opportunities, micro-farm space, community events, and community centered kuleana” as part of the services that may be provided at kauhale on page 4, Section 3(d). We recommend amending page 5 line 1 to read, “Access to transportation...” rather than providing the transportation. We strongly encourage the opportunity to use private land for kauhale. We have been contacted by four private landowners, and two nonprofit service providers who are interested in placing kauhale on their property under the right circumstances. To that end, we recommend amending the bill to clarify on page 5, Section 4 that the exemptions apply to kauhale on public or private land. We recommend the provisions included in the governor’s emergency proclamations regarding homelessness be included in this measure and codified under the kauhale pilot program. This eliminates the need to repeatedly

extend the proclamations and supports the expeditious delivery of permanent homes for neighbors experiencing homelessness via the kauhale approach. We recommend allowing the \$20 million appropriation in Section 5 to also be used for infrastructure.

With the kauhale program modeled in structure after the ohana zone program created by ACT 209, we hope the legislature will **support this logical next step and allow the same process to be used for the construction of homes to build kauhale communities for our neighbors experiencing homelessness.** HomeAid Hawaii is committed to doing our part and engaging our building and development industry to kokua with kauhale projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**SB-2442**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:50:09 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Frances Sakai	Testifying for Castle & Cooke Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

## Testimony in Support of SB2442: Relating to Homelessness

TO: House Committees on Housing and on Government Relations

FROM: Marya Grambs, member, Board of Directors, **Partners in Care**; and member, Advisory Board, **PHOCUSED** (Protecting Hawaii's Ohana, Children, Under-Served, Elderly and Disabled)

HEARING: Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 1:15pm, conference room 225

Dear Chair Chang and Chair Thielen and members, House Committees on Housing and on Government Relations:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of this bill**, which establishes the Kauhale pilot program to provide permanent housing and accompanying services to chronically homeless individuals in a self-governing village – a kind of “Housing First Plus” model.

The Kauhale project offers a unique and cutting-edge option for ending homelessness – that is, a village of tiny homes for chronically homeless individuals -- individuals who have been homeless for a year or more (or several times within three years) and have at least one disabling condition, such as medical disability, mental illness, or substance use disorder; they constitute a population which is very difficult to place.

What makes this approach particularly unique is that the villages are designed for those currently residing in a particular area. For example, the Waimanalo Kauhale will be intended for the homeless on the Windward side. Individuals from the Kakaako encampment are working with the Lieutenant Governor to develop one in central Oahu. Basically, representatives from the homeless communities and from the general community at large are included in the planning, design, and rule-making for the Kauhale, thus ensuring that the resulting village will have the commitment and investment of the individuals living there and acceptance from the surrounding area.

Medical and social services will be available and the community will be designed as a self-governing one, thereby offering a setting in which residents feel a true sense of community and have opportunities for self empowerment and leadership. Moreover, because skills and materials are donated to build the tiny houses, and they will be situated on state land, the program is financially sustainable.

We urge you to pass SB2442, and enable Hawaii to embark on this - a truly innovative approach which is being designed carefully, thoughtfully, and is benefiting from what we have learned here through trial and error over many years of addressing homelessness – as well as borrowing a successful model from Austin, Texas.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

**SB-2442**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 7:06:23 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wendi M Okazaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the Kauhale program.

**SB-2442**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 8:11:01 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2442**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 8:46:35 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2442**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 11:37:34 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:



**SB-2442**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 10:51:16 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
james koshiba	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

From: James Koshiba

Re: Support for SB2442

Aloha Chair Chang, Chair Thielen, Vice Chairs Kanuha and Inouye and Committee Members. My names is James Koshiba and I am an organizer of Hui Aloha - a volunteer group that works to build community with houseless (aka homeless) residents in different areas of Oahu, including Waimanalo, Kakaako-Ala Moana, and Waianae. I am also a public policy researcher and consultant. In that capacity I have consulted on housing and homelessness policies, and have helped to form the Hawaii Housing Affordability Coalition. I am testifying as an individual, but wanted to share these affiliations so that the Members know the kinds of knowledge and experiences that inform my testimony.

I support SB2442 because it has the potential to provide a new form of affordable housing, built and operated at lower cost than other affordable housing or shelter options.

Several recently-built affordable housing projects are charging rent ranging from \$700 to \$1200 per month in order to recoup development costs (more than \$300,000 per unit to build, on average) and cover ongoing operating expenses like security, maintenance, grounds-keeping, and on-site programs. While these rents are below market rate, they are still unaffordable to many lower-income residents, and certainly unaffordable to those experiencing homelessness.

The communal living proposed in Kauhale offers an alternative. It reduces development costs because expensive items like bathrooms, kitchens, and related infrastructure are consolidated and shared. Communal living can also lower operating costs because a sense of community fosters participation in activities such as neighborhood watches, neighborhood cleanups, and neighborhood gardening/grounds-keeping – reducing the need for paid services. These cost savings make it possible to charge lower rents to residents.

The unique advantage and potential offered by the Kauhale model therefore depends upon its ability to foster a sense of community. Shared kitchens, restrooms, and

gathering space (all currently promoted in the bill) are important physical conditions for community-building. But, physical conditions are not enough. People also need to be in a place long enough to form relationships, and need to be offered opportunities to take responsibility for their community.

In order to maximize the community-building potential of Kauhale, I recommend the bill make it explicit that the legislature's intent is for Kauhale to be designed and operated in ways that foster community among residents. Specifically, I suggest the following amendments:

#### SECTION 1, Paragraphs 3 & 4

The legislature also finds that the kauhale model has the potential to serve homeless individuals in a way that existing programs are currently unable to, **by using communal living to make housing more affordable and to improve** ~~with the goal of improving~~ the health and well-being of homeless individuals. **The legislature intends that Kauhale be designed and operated in ways that foster community among residents.**

The purpose of this Act is to establish the kauhale pilot program to provide ~~shelter~~ **long-term housing** and other services to homeless individuals.

#### SECTION 3 (a) There is established the kauhale pilot program to

provide ~~shelter~~ **long term housing** and certain services to homeless individuals. A kauhale shall:

- (1) Consist of tiny homes priced at no more than \$25,000 per unit;
- (2) Have common areas that are designed to encourage community engagement with residents;
- (3) Have shared facilities, including restrooms and kitchens, to **promote shared responsibility** and reduce cost and infrastructure needs;
- (4) Accept residents coping with substance abuse who are receiving treatment for substance abuse; and
- (5) House residents that are chronically homeless, as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- (6) Allow residents to form community associations to share responsibility for management and improvements of the kauhale**

Mahalo for your consideration.

James Koshiba

[james.koshiba@gmail.com](mailto:james.koshiba@gmail.com)

**SB-2442**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 5:45:51 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tony Petty	Testifying for Aina O Ke Akua	Support	Yes

Comments:

My name is Tony Petty and I am a member of Aina O Ke Akua – a group of houseless (aka homeless) and formerly houseless residents of Waimanalo.

For more than a year, our group of houseless individuals has been working to build community among houseless people in our area, and with the wider community of Waimanalo. We have organized weekly park cleanups, have helped clear and remove invasive species from cultural and environmental sites near us, attended Neighborhood Board meetings, and did our best to establish rules of conduct for houseless people living along the highway fronting Waimanalo Beach Park.

I am writing to support SB2442 and HB2112. We have been hoping to find a place to move our people to and have been looking forward to the creation of a Kauhale since the idea was first announced last year. I believe a Kauhale is an especially good fit for the houseless people who are part of Aina O Ke Akua because we have built a sense of community with each other, and because most houseless people in Waimanalo are from Waimanalo. We have family in Waimanalo and go to church, work, or schools nearby; our support system is in and around Waimanalo. I encourage the State to work with HomeAid Hawaii and other private nonprofit organizations to make Kauhale a reality.

I also ask that you to take steps to ensure that Kauhale funding be used only for permanent housing and not for temporary shelters or transitional housing. There are many options for temporary help, and not enough permanent homes for houseless people.

Mahalo.

**SB-2442**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 5:55:58 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Roz Sorgent	Testifying for Aina O Ke Akua	Support	Yes

Comments:

My name is Roz Sorgent. I am a member of Aina O Ke Akua – a group of houseless (aka homeless) and formerly houseless residents of Waimanalo.

We have been working to build community among houseless people in our area for over a year. We have organized weekly park cleanups, have helped clear and remove invasive species from cultural and environmental sites near us, regularly attend Neighborhood Board Meetings, and have done our best to establish rules of conduct for houseless people living along the highway fronting Waimanalo Beach Park.

I am writing to support SB2442 and HB2112. We have been hoping to find a place to move our people to and have been looking forward to the creation of a Kauhale since the idea was first announced last year. I believe a Kauhale is an especially good fit for the houseless people who are part of our group because we have built a sense of community with each other, and because most houseless people in Waimanalo are from Waimanalo. We have family in Waimanalo and go to church, work, or schools nearby; our support system is in and around Waimanalo. I encourage the State to work with HomeAid Hawaii and other private nonprofit organizations to make Kauhale a reality.

I ask you to take steps to ensure that the bill makes clear that Kauhale funding cannot be used for temporary shelters or transitional housing. Any spending on Kauhale should be to provide a village of truly affordable, permanent homes for people.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-2442**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 6:10:59 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Weji Kahawai	Testifying for Aina O Ke Akua	Support	Yes

Comments:

My name is Louise Weji Kahawai and I am a member of Aina O Ke Akua – a group of houseless (aka homeless) and formerly houseless residents of Waimanalo.

We have been working to build community among houseless people in our area for over a year. We have organized weekly park cleanups, have helped clear and remove invasive species from cultural and environmental sites near us, attended Neighborhood Board meetings, and done our best to establish rules of conduct for houseless people living along the highway fronting Waimanalo Beach Park. This work continues today.

I am writing to support SB2442 and HB2112. We have been hoping to find a place to move our people to and have been looking forward to the creation of a Kauhale since the idea was first announced last year. A Kauhale is an especially good fit for the houseless people who are part of our group because we have built a sense of community with each other, and because most houseless people in Waimanalo are from Waimanalo -- with family, work, church, school, and a support system in and around Waimanalo. I encourage the State to work with HomeAid Hawaii and other private nonprofit organizations to make Kauhale a reality.

I ask you to take steps to ensure that the bill makes clear that Kauhale funding cannot be used for temporary shelters or transitional housing, but only for permanent housing. There are plenty of transitional or emergency options for our people. What is lacking is permanent homes.

Mahalo

**SB-2442**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 7:39:09 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
LUCIEN WONG	Testifying for HomeAid Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Homelessness is a growing problem that needs to be addressed.

**SB-2442**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:28:50 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Kawano-Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

From: Cathy Kawano-Ching

SUPPORT for SB2442

Aloha Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha and Members of the Senate Housing Committee  
Aloha Chair Thielen, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Senate Government Operations Committee,

My name is Cathy Kawano-Ching and I am a member of Hui Aloha - a volunteer group that works to build connections between people in our communities. Much of our learning and work is with houseless (aka homeless) residents in different areas of Oahu, including Waimanalo, Kakaako-Ala Moana, Kapahulu and Waianae

I support SB2442, because it has the potential to provide a new form of affordable housing, built and operated at lower cost than other affordable housing or shelter options.

Many affordable housing projects charge rents that are below market rate and are still unaffordable to many lower-income residents, and certainly unaffordable to those experiencing homelessness.

The unique advantage and potential offered by the Kauhale model depends upon its ability to foster a sense of community. Shared kitchens, restrooms, and gathering space (all currently promoted in the bill) are important physical conditions for community-building. But physical conditions are not enough. People also need to be in a place long enough to form relationships and need opportunities to take responsibility for their community.

In order to maximize the community-building potential of Kauhale, I recommend the bill include the legislature's intent for Kauhale to be designed and operated in ways that foster community among residents, including creating permanent homes for people.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Cathy Kawano-Ching



ckawanoching@gmail.com

**SB-2442**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:45:16 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lynn Robinson-Onderko	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-2442**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 7:23:59 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kevin Carney	Testifying for HomeAid Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

As a member of the Board of HomeAid Hawaii I strongly support SB2442 as a step in helping to provide housing and services to our homeless population.

Kevin Carney

**LATE**