
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOUSING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. In 1995, the state historic preservation
2 officer, city and county of Honolulu, Farmer's Home
3 Administration, now known as the Rural Development
4 Administration, and the Advisory Council on Historic
5 Preservation, an independent federal agency that promotes the
6 preservation and productive use of national historic resources,
7 entered into a memorandum of agreement that, in part, called for
8 the rehabilitation of approximately seventy plantation camp
9 homes at Varona village. A city Ewa villages master plan called
10 for the development of adjacent lands with market rate housing
11 to help finance the proposed rehabilitation of the homes that
12 would then be offered to residents at several low cost options,
13 including rent-to-own homes, new rentals for one-third of their
14 income, and rehabilitated housing, with the Rural Development
15 Administration providing low interest mortgage loans for
16 individual buyers.

17 However, with a depressed local economy, the market rate
18 houses that were to be built and sold to help finance the



1 rehabilitation of the camp houses were not developed. While
2 some residents were able to exercise the option of buying their
3 homes, many were not given that option or could not afford to
4 exercise that option at the time.

5 The purpose of this Act is to direct the state historic
6 preservation officer to make all efforts to reimplement the plan
7 called for in the 1995 memorandum of agreement, giving existing
8 residents of Varona village the option of purchasing their
9 residences at affordable prices and interest rates.

10 SECTION 2. (a) The state historic preservation officer is
11 directed to enter into discussions with representatives of the:

- 12 (1) City and county of Honolulu;
13 (2) Rural Development Administration;
14 (3) Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; and
15 (4) Ewa Villages Non-Profit Development Corporation;

16 to determine the viability of reimplementing the 1995 memorandum
17 of agreement to provide assistance to residents and former
18 residents of Varona village who are desirous of purchasing the
19 residences in which they presently reside or previously resided.

20 (b) The state historic preservation officer is directed to
21 report back to the legislature as soon as practicable but no
22 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular



1 session of 2008 on the officer's findings, along with any
2 recommendations to reimplement the 1995 memorandum of agreement
3 or any other measures to assist the residents of Varona village.

4 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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INTRODUCED BY: *Juan J. Custonilla*

JAN 22 2007



Report Title:

Housing; Ewa Villages

Description:

Directs city and county of Honolulu to reopen discussion with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Rural Development Administration for the rehabilitation and sale of residences at Varona village to the present residents.

