







February 9, 2016

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair

House Committee on Judiciary State Capitol, Room 325 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: H.B. 1561, Relating to Nuisance Abatement

HEARING: Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

I am Myoung Oh, Government Affairs Director, here to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 8,800 members. HAR **supports** H.B. 1561 which amends nuisance abatement laws to authorize civil suits to abate violations of trespass offenses that involve the unlawful occupation of real property, including an order of abatement permanently prohibiting the perpetrators from residing in or entering into the subject real property.

The truth is there are online how-tos and handbooks on how to squat. It is of course trespassing, which is illegal. What many squatters do is doctor up a lease agreement and with a forged "lease" in hand get a driver's license to match the address, have the utilities turned on, get mail delivered, and are able to basically live rent-free until someone notices and decides to take action.

The formal eviction process in Hawai'i exists as a mechanism to protect tenants from unscrupulous landlords, but the current state of the law places most of the burden on the landlord. As such, despite a formal eviction process, it could take months and cost thousands of dollars in lost rent, additional fees, and clean-up costs.

The eviction process consists of legal fees and serving notice to the person being evicted—a process which can make removing even an illegal squatter a long and expensive. However, failure to follow the eviction process could lead to criminal charges such as theft if a landlord were to disturb the property or any of the squatter's belongings inside of it.

While Hawai'i has been very fortunate in comparison to other states and communities across the country, this measure will help accelerate the process of removing these unlawful occupants.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Aloha~

I support the proposed bill to amend the laws to authorize civil suits to abate violations of trespass offenses.

I am an owner of a home in Kailua View Estates. Approximately 2 years ago after the passing of a neighbor friend, Russian trespassers have moved into her home that went into foreclosure. There are numerous families that have moved into her house.

Since then, three other homes have been squatted by related Russians along the same street in Kailua View Estates.

A robbery by one of these Russians took place at one of the homes on Hoene Street and has been indicated. A neighborhood watch has been organized to keep us safe.

I hope that this law is passed since these squatters have more rights than the actually homeowner. Squatters at one of the homes have been asked to leave by the homeowner who came to check on his house. The squatter killed one of his pets and refused to evacuate. They also created a fake lease. The owner lives in another State making it difficult to proceed.

The public utility companies also make it difficult to keep these illegal trespassers out by readily opening accounts for electricity, water, etc....

Please pass this bill, as these invaders are a detriment to our communities. Mahalo nui,

Cynthia Farley kaleifarley@hawaii.rr.com

HB 1561 (Squatter/Nuisance Abatement bill) Michael Bernard, Puna, Hawaii 96749

As a resident owner in Hawaiian Paradise Park, in the district of Puna, on Hawaii Island, I ask your support in efforts to make it more difficult for people to take over homes that they do not own, nor have any vested interest in.

This legislation is not about the homeless. This is about individuals and groups, primarily from the mainland, who come to Hawaii to live at the expense and pain of lawful State residents. There are even web sites that direct individuals to these vacant and abandoned properties. They have no respect for the Aina and invade homes that they have no right to occupy.

I have lived in HPP for over six years and for four of those years our lives have been made miserable by squatters who appear to have more rights than I do as a legitimate home owner. The police are sympathetic, but their hands are tied, the bank who owns title to the property is based in Texas and has absolutely no interest in doing anything about the issue and refuses to respond to request for assistance, and the lawyer from Honolulu who is the 'overseer" could not care less.

Meanwhile the property located several lots away has become a squatter's haven. They burn sections of the home to cook their food, and since there is no electricity to pump water, their human waste is left out in the open (on adjacent properties of course), and their open, uncovered catchment is probably one of the best Dengue mosquito breeding sites in Puna.

As another example, there are two abandoned homes on one lot, located on a main street in Hawaiian Paradise Park that have been the attention of squatters for several years. These two homes are directly across the street from a daycare center. One of the homes has a burnt out rear section because some squatters tried to 'cook' something in the bedroom.

Why do we have to put up with this? These are only several examples of numerous squatter properties. Picture these people as your neighbors, and then respond to this legislation accordingly.

I trust the Hawaii Legislature will support **HB 1561**, in an effort to allow lawful residents to enjoy the homes we worked all our lives so diligently to attain. It's time you heard our plight and provide law abiding, tax-paying residents with the tools necessary to address this very serious problem.

Respectfully,

Michael Bernard, District of Puna, Hawaii Island

Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 2:01 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: eric.bernier@sbcglobal.net

Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1561 on Feb 9, 2016 14:00PM

HB1561

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for JUD on Feb 9, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Bernier	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Greetings, There have been several unlawful occupants of residents in the Seaview Neighborhood. I fully support this bill. Thank you, Eric Bernier

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 12:55 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: avonkaenel@twc.com

Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1561 on Feb 9, 2016 14:00PM

HB1561

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for JUD on Feb 9, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arnold Von Kaenel	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: While attending a homeowners association I became aware that squatters are occupying vacant houses within our development. I support HB1561 which would allow individuals other than the property owner to enable these individuals to be removed from illegally occupied residences.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 9:46 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: lwparisfrance@hotmail.com

Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1561 on Feb 9, 2016 14:00PM

HB1561

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for JUD on Feb 9, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
linda willaby	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It needs to be easier to evict squatters and trespassers from private and public property. It also needs to be easier to contact the owner of foreclosed property in order to evict squatters. Often squatters pose a serious nuisance problem in terms of health, noise, drugs, and delinquency. The problem is island wide, but is increasing greatly in Puna.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 9:09 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: thesnovers@mac.com

Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1561 on Feb 9, 2016 14:00PM*

HB1561

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for JUD on Feb 9, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ursula Snover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

I own the property at 75-449 Hoene Street, Kailua Kona, Big Island, HI. I am writing in support of HB1561. We have an epidemic here on the Big Island of squatters occupying our homes. The Police department is unable or unwilling to curtail this problem. This is unacceptable because I pay my property taxes, my mortgage and my home owner association dues. These people are Russians from the Pacific Northwest in our location. The property is located in Kailua View Estates, and in this location alone we have 5 homes that are occupied by these squatters. Not only do they fill the house with dozens of people but destroy the property and have physically threatened fellow neighborhood home owners. We have had two break-ins directly attributed to these squatters. This bill will allow us to combat the problem directly. I expect you all to vote yay and pass this bill. We will be voting out the ones who don't. This squatter problem is extremely unfair because we are law abiding citizens and pay our debts. The property values will be destroyed if you don't help us not to mention the safety of our families. I will also be contacting the FBI and Homeland Security because the woman that was arrested at the Kona International Airport on drug smuggling a few weeks ago is one of the squatters. We fear the next problem will be these houses turning into meth labs. Do not ignore your constituent's requests. I travel to and from the mainland and fear for my wife's safety when I am off island for extended periods of time. Thank you for your prompt action on this bill.

SQUATERS IN HPP ON 10TH

We had at one time three vacant homes on our block in HPP. One home the person died and his ex-wife lived in the house and then abandoned it. The second house the owners didn't plan well and abandoned the house, moving to the mainland. The third house the owners moved to the main-land but also tried to quick sale the House.

Our neighborhood kept an eye on the properties and managed through time to have the police arrest five different people. These were either by contacting the owners by phone with the police on site. In some instances the squatters had outstanding warrants allowing the police to arrest them.

Last year some squatters took up residence in one of the homes. They consisted of at least 6 or more adults and four children. One of our neighbors had contacted the group and informed them they were living on the property illegally.

This same neighbor was walking his dog and was confronted by three late teens/early adults (living in the house) and was pushed around causing him to fall to the ground. The police were called and my neighbor was informed the police could do nothing since he was not injured. The officers allegedly talked to the squatters.

A few days later the same people plus others drove to my neighbor's house, throw rocks at his house and called him all kinds of obscene names. The police were again called. The police who showed up told my neighbor they couldn't do much since it was his word against his and he was not injured. The police did stop by and talked to the squatters, again.

Another neighbor had stopped by telling us to be careful of these squatters because some of them had a history of being violent. This same neighbor pulled up a picture on face book of one of the squatters. My neighbor identified the person's picture as one of the squatters who had accosted him. We were told that this person on face book was a felon. The recent picture of this person was smiling and holding a semi automatic pistol. I stopped the officers on the way out

and told them what I had seen and suggested they stop by this neighbor's house that was located at the end of our road and on the way out. They didn't stop by.

I spoke to several neighbors and found some had called the police about the squatters causing noise, allowing dogs to run lose, the portable generator running all night and having confrontations with them. One of my neighbors was so frightened she had a gate installed closing off her driveway.

All my neighbors were looking to me to get the problem of the squatters resolved. I pulled up the tax records to get the registered owners name. I then went on line to find out everyone's rights according to the law. I found our county reps web page regarding his involvement with solving the squatter problems in HPP. I emailed him twice (I like to keep records) and requested his help in contacts II could talk with to find out what was required to have the squatters removed. I never received a reply from Councilman Ilagan or his office.

I left three messages for Pahoa police commander Captain Jelsma requesting what he required to have the squatters removed. I never received a reply but when I called a fourth time I did get a live body rather than a recording. I requested to speak to the commander and was told he was rarely in the office. I explained why I wanted to talk with him and had already called three times leaving a recorded message with no call backs. The officer told me he would pass the information on to the commander and also to the officer in the department who was working on this type of problem. I never heard back from anyone.

One of my neighbors had called the non emergency number looking for the officer handling this type of problem. He was told he couldn't have the name or contact number. The person on the phone told my neighber the officer would be notified and would return his call. I also called the non-emergency number with the same response. Neither one of us ever received a return call.

I found the law firm handling the foreclosure (not in progress) and the property inspectors handling the second house. Neither could help stating I would need the owners OK, something I was already working on.

I was told to check with the HPP neighborhood watch who was involved with this type of problem. I spoke to The Chairperson and was told they could and would help. It was suggested I attend a Saturday watch meeting and we could go over the requirements.

I attended the next meeting and let them know I now had a letter of authorization from the property owners. It was suggested I talk to the police officer attending the meeting.

The officer agreed but instead of leaving the meeting when his part was done, he chose to stay until the meeting concluded. After the meeting I tried to speak to the chairperson who had told me she had contact numbers. However, she spent all the time with me looking up information for someone who had interrupted us and selling neighborhood watch signs to others. I was quickly told I had all I needed with the letter. I went outside to talk to the officer who was busy talking to his friend and didn't seem interested in talking with me.

By this time I was totally frustrated and decided to call the chief of police's off for some information. I explained my situation to the lady who answered the phone. The lady told me she would take care of it and have an officer stop by. I asked to have the officer stop by my house so I could explain the situation and give the officer a copy of the letter I had received.

An hour later an officer showed up followed by two other officers. I spoke to the first office, explained the situation and gave him a copy of the leter and a copy of the tax records showing the registered owner. I also gave him a list of the vehicles who were staying at the house and others who continued to show up. I was told I would need a writ of possession from the courts before they could force the squatters out. The officer called me and said he told the squatter it would be better if they moved.

I followed up the next day by calling the prosecuting attorney's office. I was told they normally handled this type of situation from a request by the police and couldn't help. I then tried to contact the courts regarding the letter of possession but after making two calls and never having either call answered, I gave up.

A week later we noticed cars leaving the house in question with items that looked like they were indeed moving out. During the second week I saw the SUV leaving the house with a mattress & springs resting on the roof that was held down by a teenage boy resting on top of the mattress. They flipped me off as they were leaving.

During the weekend one of my neighbors and I cleaned up the trash in the yard and removed more trash found in the house.

I secured the house and placed no trespassing signs on the doors. I placed blocking poles in the driveway preventing a vehicle entering the drive without moving them.

I received a call from a neighbor telling me the squatters had returned. I called several neighbors and confronted the squatters. I asked them what they were doing and they told me they had a right to go into the house. I told them they had just broken into a locked house and were going to jail. One of the squatters threatened two of my neighbors with a rock and I was verbally abused and was told they would get me. I called 911 and provided them with the information.

Having a force of three of my male neighbors plus myself and having called 911 the squatter jumped in to the car and took off.

When the police arrived a half hour after the squatters left we discussed the options. The best option was to let it go, but with the house secure and my letter of authorization if the squatters were to return, my neighbors were to call 911 followed by a call to me. We were to try and take pictures if possible and wait for the police to arrive and catch them in the act.

They did show up about four weeks later, but took off since one of my neighbors was watching them. They left without moving the signs blocking the driveway and left flipping off my neighbor.

A lot more took place, however the above covers most of it. These people moved in with no front door, water pump, water heater, a missing electrical panel, no

water tank, missing interior doors and carpets, then told people they had an OK to stay in the house to fix it up for sale. They told others they had rented the house off the internet, paid someone \$2,000.00 rent on site and the renter was to return later with a rental agreement.

If you want more information you can call me or email me.

Thank You,

Merrill R McAlister

808 214-0558

skipnsherry@yahoo.com

USPBox-1253

15-1500 10TH Ave

Keaau, Hi 96749

FEBUARY 8, 2016

February 8, 2016

Committee on Judiciary Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair Rep. Jay A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Subject: HB 1561 Relating to Nuisance Abatement

Dear Judiciary Representatives,

I own a home in the Kaloli Point area of the Big Island and I've been very active in our neighborhood watch group since we moved here. We have a number of problems to address.. but by far, the squatter issue is foremost.

Our patrol team has created a 'Hot Sheet' of various properties that are vunerable to potential squatters after the last incident that occurred in our neighborhood, because we learned a very difficult lesson that once squatters have occupied a property.. no one seems to have any authority to remove them.

When a group of people occupied a vacant home at 15-1018 E Rd, our reports to police were futile because the absentee owner of the home did not file a complaint. Our neighborhood watch group contacted and tried to reason with the owner, but he was apathetic and uncooperative. As time went on, neighbors witnessed members of the occupied house cruising the neighborhood early in the morning.. we suspect for petty theft. The drama that ensued among neighbors was intense as we discovered some sophisticated operations were in place, sometimes through a third party posing as a realtor scouting unoccupied homes, getting electricity turned on, and collecting money from occupiers.

This particular situation came to a head when the squatters suddenly left the house for a few days leaving a viscous pit bull that had just given birth to 9 puppies, with no food and water. The puppies were able to crawl under the fence and disperse throughout our neighborhood. Some were picked up and brought to the humane society, only to be released to the squatters when they returned to the occupied home.

Many other homes in our neighborhood watch patrol area have been occupied by squatters in the past, and there are so many problems that ensue with these members of our community that have no respect for the law or private property.. drugs, crime sprees, disorderly conduct, etc.

Thank-you for passing this bill which will give us some leverage in dealing with this chronic problem.

Sincerely,

Laura Garrison Keaau, Hi



House Committee on Judiciary Chairman Karl Rhoads Vice Chairman Joy San Buenaventura

Re: HB1561

I am a homeowner in Kailua Kona living next to a home with squatters. I am writing this email to express my feelings on the situation.

It's my belief that the squatters have been there for approximately 1-1/2 to 2 years. Initially there was just one light in the house at night that led me to believe there was someone in the house. The people in there are extremely secretive and avoid contact with us. They have multiple vehicles at their house. They keep the front of the yard cleaned up but back half of the yard is a jungle. We have a gardener but it is very difficult to keep our property cleaned up with their weeds growing over.

A neighbor asked them what they were doing there and the woman angrily replied they had permission to be there. The out of state owner has said they do not.

I'll admit to being fearful. In fact I want this email to be anonymous. This is a beautiful neighborhood and suddenly I don't feel comfortable being in my own home. We had planned on putting our home up for sale but now are concerned that we need to disclose to anyone buying this home that they will be living next to squatters. It also concerns me that our property value will be going down.

I ask you to put some teeth into the law so that we can get the people out who are not paying rent or paying a mortgage.

Anonymous

My name is Marie Morin and I own and occupy a home in Kailua View Estates in Kailua-Kona on the Big Island. At our recent Homeowner Association meeting I became aware that there are squatters in at least two homes in our subdivision. My husband and I worked very hard to be able to afford to buy our home, and we are pretty angry that the squatters cannot be immediately arrested and removed from the houses in which they are squatting. As far as I am concerned, if the persons squatting in the house cannot prove that they own the home by deed or mortgage statements, or have a lease to rent it, or are the guests of the homeowner, then they are trespassing and should be immediately removed. Legislation should be passed that allows police to arrest squatters if the house is in foreclosure and the bank or previous owner refuses to complain or press charges. Not only are squatters trespassing, but they are also guilty of breaking and entering, and also are almost certainly stealing water or electricity, that someone else is paying for. So if I go on an extended vacation, and return to find my home occupied by a complete stranger, do I understand that the police will not be able to arrest that person????? Or that my neighbors reporting the squatter will not be able to get the police to arrest and remove the person? This totally flies in the face of reason and common sense. I empathize with homelessness, but allowing the theft of other peoples' homes is not the solution. In many cases, the squatters are engaged in illegal activities, and are taking advantage of the property owners due to their absence. Lastly, it severely damages the property values of the surrounding properties if one of the homes is occupied by a squatter. Perhaps the property owners surrounding a home occupied by squatters should sue some entity for the theft of their combined reduced property values? Laws exist to protect the common citizen, and we property owners would like some protection. Mahalo for your time and attention to solving this problem.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 2:28 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: hannahb@boluroga.com

Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1561 on Feb 9, 2016 14:00PM

HB1561

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for JUD on Feb 9, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hannah Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am giving testimony in favor of passing H.B. No 1561. I am a law abiding citizen and have worked hard in my life to create value and while I am sympathetic to those who have a harder time "squatting" is not something that should be easy for those who apparently are taking advantage in my neighborhood. We have 4 squatter families, 3 of them from a Russian network where someone in their group robbed another in our neighborhood. One of the people who are squatting rang my doorbell to ask if I wanted limes. I have a lime tree and believed the woman was actually checking out my home. If people are taking advantage of properties that have been foreclosed on, and those who want the squatters out can't locate the Bank. This is a problem. The police can't do much about the problem if they are not contacted by the owners and there should be another remedy to remove squatters legally either through the Homeowner's Association. I am often living alone for stretches of time when my husband is away on business and having people in the neighborhood who have caused problems creates a feeling of unsafety in my own home. I also have a concern that if I travel myself I might get back home, and have a squatter in it and I would be burdened with trying to get the person out. This is wrong and the laws should be changed to prevent this. I am on the neighborhood watch and receive constant reports and these people who have taken advantage of the neighborhood and the neighbors is unfair and unsafe and can only lead to further problems. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 3:51 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: hulagirl8@hotmail.com

Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1561 on Feb 9, 2016 14:00PM

HB1561

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for JUD on Feb 9, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Oswald	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We have at least 4 houses in our neighborhood with squatters. The owners have contacted the police saying no one should be in the houses. Police have given at least one eviction notice without any movement by the squatters. All 4 of these homes are squatted by relatives of each other and they go to the same church. This is not just one family squatting it is an organized group searching for empty homes. We as homeowners need a way to get these squatters out of the houses and our neighborhoods. Teresa Oswald

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 4:31 PM

To: JUDtestimony
Cc: tkroz@yahoo.com

Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1561 on Feb 9, 2016 14:00PM*

HB1561

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for JUD on Feb 9, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robert oswald	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To Representative San Buenaventura

It was nice talking to you today.

As we discuss, I would like your support to upload this for the testimony.

We would like to support this bill based on our experience.

Our house was burglarized last year and we have found out that everything leads to Squatters.

Our community is being targeted by squatters and we as a whole community are suffering because of them, including our safety.

Even on our one street, there are squatters illegally occupying multiple houses.

All of these houses have owners who cannot be found or live on the mainland resulting in delayed actions and squatters continuing to live in the houses as if they are legally living there. Since there is no strict law towards squatting, squatters are growing in numbers and they have no respect to the other residents nor towards the law.

The police do not seem to have enough power to take proactive actions towards the squatters. So, this bill must be approved in order to fight back against those who take advantage of the Judicial system's weakness.

If someone drives off with a vehicle without owners permission, it is a crime. How come, someone who enters home without owners permission is not penalized???

The owners of the house suffer from issues that arise with squatters, but it is the neighbors who live in the community everyday that suffer and experience the worst of the squatters.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Best Regards

Kenny

Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 12:29 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: ccarriefficher@gmail.com

Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1561 on Feb 9, 2016 14:00PM

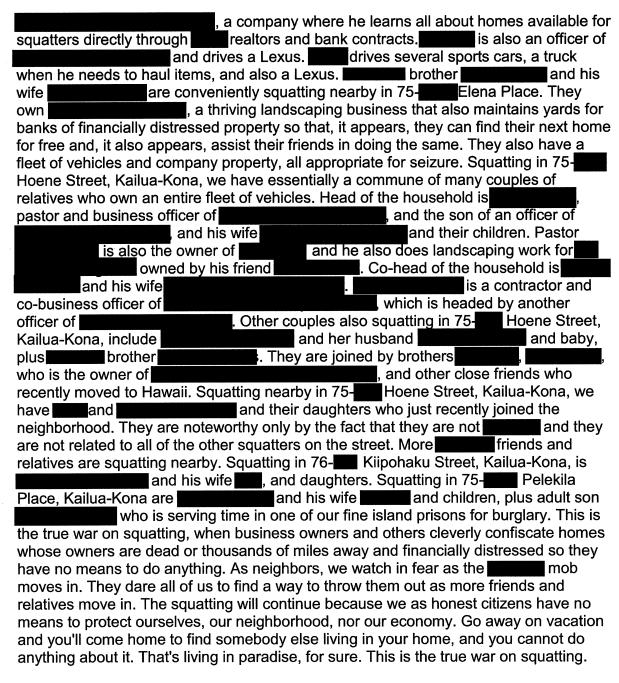
HB1561

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for JUD on Feb 9, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carrie Ficher	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill, and any others that address this problem, because we need an arsenal of tools to fight the cancer of squatters that is growing rapidly. We've probably already lost the war, and only now is our State waking up to this terrible reality, like the morning-after the real-estate party and excessive mortgaging of homes. Squatting must be a felony. Squatting must be acknowledged as being reportable and recognizable by anybody who is a local witness to the property after the owners have declined to respond within 30 days. Just as anybody can recognize a fire burning, not just the building owners, so too the assessment of squatting must be considered a public health and safety hazard as they flaunt free living in "paradise" while honest families work, pay mortgages or rents, and contribute to the economy of the island. Through my homeowners' association I learned that I have several neighbors who are squatters. Most are related as a family of recent immigrants from to Washington and then to Hawaii. They are also business owners and church leaders. Yes, church leaders. They are a related family and they act like the mafia. They laugh at the authorities and the rest of us who dutifully pay rents and mortgages. They laugh all the way to their adopted beautiful home and then slam the door. If you want to talk, you'd better get a warrant. This is the true war on squatting. Shut down their businesses. Deport those who are not citizens. Take away their contractor's licenses. Close and confiscate their bank accounts. Confiscate their vehicles just as they have confiscated homes that never belonged to them, whose owners happened to die or moved out-ofstate. They were asked very nicely to leave, but they declined that kind suggestion and decided to stay. So clearly they'd like to be introduced to you so that you can see the real magnitude of this problem. Squatting in 75-Med Hoene Street, Kailua-Kona, we , and their frequent family members who come for extended stays, including but not limited to of Wasilla, Alaska. works on many construction jobs, and sometimes his 2 pit bulls get out and run around the neighborhood. Their cousins live in the next few homes. Squatting in 75-Man Hoene Street, Kailua-Kona, we have adult daughter and boyfriend. works in a local bank, and and she even owns a home in Kealakekua, but it is a little small and it is where her mom, nana, and younger brothers live. Her friend works in landscaping and owns



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