

LATE TESTIMONY

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.