LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA DIRECTOR

LEONARD HOSHIJO DEPUTY DIRECTOR



STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS 830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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February 28, 2017

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair,

The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Linda Chu Takayama, Director

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. No. 1179 HD1 Relating to Housing

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DLIR <u>supports</u> the intent of the provisions of HB1179 HD1 pertaining to prevailing wages as an initiative to draw private sector financing, development and operation of workforce rental housing, into addressing the recognized deficit in Hawaii's housing inventory. As in the current 104-2(h), HRS, relating to projects financed with the proceeds of special purpose revenue bonds, the alternative of the terms of collective bargaining agreements provides a means to protect Hawaii industry standards and laborer and mechanic standards.

DLIR support for the measure is predicated on the understanding that it is not a categorical exemption from prevailing wages, but provides one alternative for a specific form of one type of construction. DLIR notes that the thousands of units of government assisted low-income rental housing, including public housing and private nonprofit or for profit housing, have been successfully developed in compliance with chapter 104, HRS, and/or Davis-Bacon prevailing wages, and HB1179 does not seek to change that.

II. CURRENT LAW

Section 104-2, HRS, requires all public works construction in excess of \$2,000, to pay laborers and mechanics working on the construction project the prevailing wages set by the DLIR Director, although housing projects with

a cost under \$500,000, developed under chapter 201H, HRS, by a non-profit corporation are exempt from the Wages and Hours of Employees on Public Works Law, chapter 104, HRS.

III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

The Department <u>supports</u> the provisions of HB1179 HD1 pertaining to prevailing wages to assist in the building of affordable housing in Hawaii and defers to HHFDC and the Department of Taxation (DoTAX) on the provisions pertaining to the housing and tax laws.

The Department offers an amendment to §104-2(b)(2) by inserting the following at the beginning of 104(2)(b) as the provision was intended to be placed in section 104-2(b) and not as a new §104-2(h).

Except for the special prevailing wage established by section 104-2(h) and (i), [The] the prevailing wages shall be not less than the wages payable under federal law to corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on public works projects in the State that are prosecuted under contract or agreement with the government;

Should concerns be raised about the tax credits in the measure only applying to those projects with signatories to a collective bargaining agreement, DLIR offers the following replacement for the proposed (i) as a potential fix:

(i) When:

- The Hawaii housing finance and development corporation has approved and certified for exemption from general excise taxes a qualified person or firm involved with a newly constructed, or moderately or substantially rehabilitated project under section 201H-36(a)(5);
- (2) The qualified person or firm has entered into a contract
 with a general contractor or subcontractors whose workforce
 either;
 - (a) is subject to a collective bargaining agreement with a

 bona fide labor union and for which a special prevailing

 wage schedule for the laborers and mechanics employed

 for this construction project has been approved by the

 director; or

- (b) is subject to a project labor agreement with the group

 whose wages are reflected in the Hawaii prevailing wage
 schedule for which a special prevailing wage for the
 laborers and mechanics employed for this construction
 project has been approved by the director;
- (3) The qualified person or firm has received no other direct or indirect financing for this construction project from any other governmental contracting agency including the Hawaii housing finance and development corporation; and the terms of the collective bargaining agreement and

the terms of the collective bargaining agreement and associated provisions shall be deemed the prevailing wages and terms serving as the basis of compliance with this chapter for work on the project; provided that the special prevailing wage classification and the associated provisions shall be deemed the prevailing wage and terms serving as the basis of compliance with this chapter for work on this construction project; provided that this subsection does not affect the director's enforcement powers contained in subsection (g).

DLIR would consider a sunset provision as non-disruptive to operations, recognizing that for workforce rental housing financing and development, a substantial period of time would have to be provided, and allowance made for projects deemed to be in the "pipeline" at the time of sunset.



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
Craig K. Hirai
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 28, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. State Capitol, Room 308

In consideration of H.B. 1179, H.D. 1 RELATING TO HOUSING.

The HHFDC <u>supports</u> H.B. 1179, H.D. 1, which expands the General Excise Tax (GET) exemption for certified or approved housing projects pursuant to sections 201H-36 and 237-29, HRS, to include rental housing projects for households at or below 140 percent of the area median income (AMI), of which at least 20 percent of units are set-aside for households at or below 80 percent AMI, with a collective bargaining agreement described in proposed section 104-2(i)(2), HRS.

HHFDC is willing and able to expand its GET exemptions program to accommodate these types of affordable rental housing projects. We defer to the Departments of Labor and Taxation as to the bill's impact on their respective programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





David Y. Ige Governor

John Whalen Chairperson

Jesse K. Souki Executive Director

547 Queen Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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STATEMENT OF

JESSE K. SOUKI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:00 P.M. State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of HB1179, HD1 – RELATING TO HOUSING

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the committee.

The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) offers the following **comments** on HB1179, HD1.

This testimony reflects my view alone. The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) has not acted on this measure. In my capacity as the HCDA Executive Director, I respectfully offer the following **comments** on HB1179, HD1.

This bill would make rental housing projects aimed at families in the 80 to 140 percent Area Median Income (AMI) range more affordable to construct and would encourage the private sector to develop units at the lower end of the affordability market. Rental housing for families in the 80 to 140 percent AMI is in strong demand. However, few projects are targeted to those families, in large part due to the cost of construction in Hawaii.

This bill is a private sector effort by the Rental Housing Coalition (that includes labor unions) to address issues of cost-effectiveness for these projects.

The proposal supports HCDA's legislative mandate to create mixed use districts where residential development integrates a mixture of residents with varying incomes, ages, and family groups.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **comments** on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR

SHAN TSUTSUI LT. GOVERNOR



MARIA E. ZIELINSKI DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

DAMIEN A. ELEFANTE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

P.O. BOX 259 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809 PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540 FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair

and Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Maria E. Zielinski, Director

Department of Taxation

Re: H.B. 1179, H.D. 1, Relating to Housing

The Department of Taxation (Department) appreciates the intent of H.B. 1179 to increase affordable housing and defers to the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) on the merits of this bill. The Department provides the following comments regarding H.B. 1179, H.D. 1, for your consideration.

Among other things, this measure expands the types of rental housing projects that can be exempted from the general excise tax (GET) to include projects where:

- All available units are for households with incomes at or below one hundred forty
 per cent of the area median family income as determined by the United States
 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and
- At least twenty per cent of available units are reserved for households with incomes at or below eighty per cent of the area median family income as determined by the HUD.

The measure has a defective effective date which states that is effective "upon a date to be determined."

Under section 201H-36, Hawaii Revised Statutes, HHFDC certifies that a housing project is entitled to the GET exemption. Only after receiving such certification can a taxpayer claim the GET exemption. As the regulatory agreements and the determination of whether a taxpayer is eligible for the exemption remain with HHFDC, this measure will not have a substantial administrative impact on the Department.

Department of Taxation Testimony FIN HB 1179 HD1 February 28, 2017 Page 2 of 2

If the Committee wishes to advance this measure, the Department requests that it be made effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017. This will allow sufficient time for the necessary form and instruction changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

LEGISLATIVE TAX BILL SERVICE

Tax Foundation of Hawaii

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: GENERAL EXCISE, Broaden Affordable Housing Exemption

BILL NUMBER: HB 1179, HD-1

INTRODUCED BY: House Committee on Housing

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Allows another category of affordable housing project, but only where the contractor uses union labor. This bill shows where two policy initiatives may collide: the policy to encourage the construction of affordable housing, and the policy to mandate that construction workers be paid the prevailing wage on public works projects.

SYNOPSIS: Amends HRS section 104-2, part of Hawaii's "Little Davis-Bacon Act," to provide that a properly submitted collective bargaining agreement with a general contractor or subcontractors that applies to a certified affordable housing project will determine the "prevailing wages and terms" for purposes of compliance with chapter 104. If the prevailing wages and terms are not set in this manner, they shall be not less than the wages payable under federal law to corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on public works projects in the State that are prosecuted under contract or agreement with the federal government.

Amends HRS section 237-29 to add a new eligible category of affordable housing project, namely one developed under a contract described above by a qualified person or firm to provide affordable rental housing where all available units are for households with incomes at or below one hundred forty per cent of the area median family income as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), of which at least twenty per cent of the available units are for households with incomes at or below eighty per cent of the area median family income as determined by HUD.

Makes a conforming amendment to HRS section 201H-36.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon a date to be determined.

STAFF COMMENTS: Currently, the HHFDC may certify affordable rental housing projects under HRS 201H-36 as qualifying for the exemption under HRS 237-29.

One of the existing categories of affordable housing projects that can be certified is an affordable rental housing project where at least 50% of the available units are for households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median family income, of which at least 20% of the available units are for households with incomes at or below 60% of the area median family income.

Re: HB 1179, HD-1

Page 2

The proposed additional category is an affordable rental housing project where all of the available units are for households with incomes at or below 140% of the area median family income, of which at least 20% of the available units are for households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median family income. However, it appears that to qualify for this category the developer would need to use a union contractor whose collective bargaining agreement was properly submitted to DLIR under Hawaii's Little Davis-Bacon Act.

If the policy goal is to build more affordable housing, we need to be wary of attaching conditions to the goal that would bog down the process. In 2015, lawmakers authorized \$10 million to cool the sweltering classrooms in our public schools, but added so many requirements that the request for proposals to the industry for school cooling looked more like a novel than a pamphlet. Schools couldn't use the money to go down to the local hardware; the work called for was a lot more complicated. As a result, the \$10 million initiative to cool the schools turned out to be a miserable failure. Nowhere near the 1000 classrooms promised were cooled by the end of 2015.

Digested 2/13/2017

Testimony of Christopher Delaunay Pacific Resource Partnership

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE **REGULAR SESSION OF 2017**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, February 28, 2017

TIMF: 3:00 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

PRP strongly supports HB 1179, HD1, Relating to Housing, which expands the types of rental housing projects that can be exempted from general excise taxes (GET). This measure also allows the terms of collective bargaining agreements and associated provisions to be deemed the prevailing wages and terms serving as the basis of compliance with chapter 104, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the construction of certain rental housing projects.

The shortage of units for working moderate-and lower-income household is at a crisis level negatively affecting families throughout the community, including many of our members in the 80-140% AMI range.

HB 1179, HD1 would expand the existing general excise tax exemptions for allowable construction, development, and financing costs for projects wherein at least 20% of available units are for households whose incomes are at or below 80% AMI, and wherein all remaining units are households whose incomes are at or below 140% AMI. GET reduction along with wage reductions will provide developers with incentives to produce critically needed affordable rental housing projects.

Thank you for allowing us to express our strong support on HB 1179, HD1 and we respectfully request your favorable consideration.

PHONE → 808.528.5557



(Continued From Page 1)

About PRP

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a not-for-profit organization that represents the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters, the largest construction union in the state, and more than 240 of Hawaii's top contractors. Through this unique partnership, PRP has become an influential voice for responsible construction and an advocate for creating a stronger, more sustainable Hawaii in a way that promotes a vibrant economy, creates jobs and enhances the quality of life for all residents.



Hawaiʻi Construction Alliance

P.O. Box 179441 Honolulu, HI 96817 (808) 348-8885

February 27, 2017

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
and members
House Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Strong Support for HB1179 HD1, Relating to Housing

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members:

The Hawai'i Construction Alliance is comprised of the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters; the Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 368; the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Union, Local 630; International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Local 1; and the Operating Engineers, Local Union No. 3. Together, the member unions of the Hawai'i Construction Alliance represent 15,000 working men and women in the basic crafts of Hawai'i's construction industry.

We **strongly support HB1179 HD1**, which would expand the types of rental housing projects that can be exempted from general excise taxes and allow the terms of collective bargaining agreements and associated provisions to be deemed the prevailing wages and terms serving as the basis of compliance with Chapter 104, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the construction of certain rental housing projects.

The Hawai'i Construction Alliance is extremely concerned about the chronic deficiency of rental apartment housing across the state. Simply put: the shortage of units for working moderate- and lower-income households is at a crisis level. Said shortage is negatively affecting families throughout the entire community, including our members, many of whom fall within the 80-140% AMI "middle income range."

Along with our partners in the banking, development, landowning, contracting, architecture, and engineering communities, we have formed the "Hawai'i Rental Housing Coalition," with the aim of identifying and carrying out concrete private-sector steps to make a meaningful impact on the economics of building and operating rental housing for families in the 80-140% AMI range. Through HB1179 HD1, we are seeking the State's assistance in this effort as well.

HB1179 HD1 would expand the existing general excise tax exemptions for allowable construction, development, and financing costs for projects wherein at least twenty percent of available units are for households whose incomes are at or below 80%AMI, and wherein all remaining units are households whose incomes are at or below 140%AMI. Compliance with these affordability requirements would be governed by HHFDC through the existing regulatory agreement process found in HRS §201H-36(b).

We believe that relief from general excise tax would immediately improve the economics of constructing, developing, and financing these types of rental housing projects.

Among the many concrete steps from the private sector is a commitment from the Hawai'i Construction Alliance unions to work to negotiate a special wage rate and benefits package to build rental housing projects meeting the same qualifications as described above.

In order to ensure that the Hawai'i Construction Alliance unions – or other unions who wish to participate – can negotiate a special wage rate and benefits package to build such rental housing projects, we are seeking to amend HRS §104 as part of HB1179 HD1. Specifically, the bill would clarify that if a developer has entered into a contract with a general contractor or subcontractors whose workforce is subject to a collective bargaining agreement with a bona fide labor union for the construction of the project, then the terms of the collective bargaining agreement and associated provisions shall be deemed the prevailing wages and terms serving as the basis of compliance with this chapter for work on the project.

The bill also includes a housekeeping measure to clarify that except for the special prevailing wage that already exists in HRS §104-2(h) and the special prevailing wage proposed for HRS §104-2(i), prevailing wages shall be not less than the wages payable under federal law to corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on public works projects in the State that are prosecuted under contract or agreement with the government of the United States.

The Hawai'i Construction Alliance is excited to take a leadership role in encouraging the production of rental housing across our state. We ask your committee to join us in this effort by taking favorable action today on HB1179 HD1.

Mahalo,

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam Executive Director

Hawai'i Construction Alliance

execdir@hawaiiconstructionalliance.org

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Website: www.gcahawaii.org



Uploaded via Capitol Website

February 28, 2017

TO: HONORABLE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR, HONORABLE TY CULLEN, VICE

CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

SUBJECT: CONCERNS REGARDING H.B. 1179, HD1, RELATING TO HOUSING

Expands the types of rental housing projects that can be exempted from general excise taxes. Allows the terms of collective bargaining agreements and associated provisions to be deemed the prevailing wages and terms serving as the basis of compliance with chapter 104, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the construction of certain rental housing projects. (HB1179 HD1)

HEARING

DATE: February 28, 2017

TIME: 3:00 PM

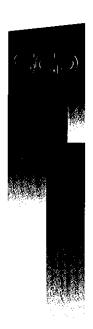
PLACE: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee,

The General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA) is an organization comprised of over five hundred general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms. The GCA was established in 1932 and is the largest construction association in the State of Hawaii. GCA's mission is to represent its members in all matters related to the construction industry, while improving the quality of construction and protecting the public interest.

GCA supports the intent of H.B. 1179, HD1, however GCA has concerns about how this bill is drafted and how it appears to be allowing one that is signatory to a collective bargaining agreement utilize a tax exemption that may not be available to a non-signatory contractor. H.B. 1179, HD1 as drafted proposes to increase the types of rental housing projects that can be exempted from general excise taxes and allows the terms of a collective bargaining agreement and other provisions be deemed the wage rate to serve in compliance with Chapter 104, HRS, if, and only if, the general contractors and subcontractors on the project are parties to a collective bargaining agreement with a bona fide labor union. GCA understands the need to increase the number of available rental housing units and supports addressing ways in which to address this dire need in our state, however the bill as drafted provides special tax exemptions to some and not to all.

The bill as drafted will not encourage a competitive bidding environment for all interested in increasing the stock of affordable housing rentals for Hawaii's citizens in need, instead it would reserve a tax exemption for only those associated with a collective bargaining agreement. For these reasons, we respectfully raise grave concerns about the language as drafted.



.February 27, 2017



Hawaii State Legislature
House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

RE: H.B. No. 1179, H.D. 1 – Relating to Housing

The Honorable Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen, and members of the Committee:

Stanford Carr Development supports House Bill No. 1179 and commends the legislature in their efforts to facilitate the production of greater numbers of rental housing units for low to moderate income households. We are all too aware of the State's current housing crisis and this bill aims to alleviate some of the costs associated with the development of rental housing units by expanding the types of rental housing projects exempted from general excise taxes as well as allowing the terms of collective bargaining agreements and associated provisions to be deemed the prevailing wages in satisfaction of Chapter 104, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the construction of certain rental housing projects.

This bill acknowledges the efforts by the private sector "to improve the economics of building and operating rental housing in the State" and helps address dire shortage of rental housing units serving local families earning 80 to 140 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI).

One of the existing categories of affordable housing projects eligible for certification as a rental housing project requires that at least 50 percent of available units be reserved for households with incomes at or below 80 percent AMI of which at least 20 percent of available units are reserved for households with incomes at or below 60 percent AMI. The proposed bill provides for an additional category of affordable rental housing where all of the available units are reserved for households earning at or below 140 percent of AMI of which at least 20 percent are reserved for families earning 80 percent AMI.

As a private developer of workforce rental housing serving households earning at or below 60 percent AMI, we rely heavily on governmental subsidies to help finance a project's construction. In 2014, we completed Halekauwila Place, a 204-unit workforce rental project in Kakaako serving families earning 60 percent AMI and below, using Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, Tax-Exempt Private Activity Bonds, and exemptions from the payment of general excise taxes. No such subsidies are

currently available for the development of rental housing units serving low and moderate households making their construction difficult if not impossible to underwrite and finance. This bill, however, will serve as a positive economic development tool by helping reduce construction costs making production of rental housing units a financial feasibility.

In closing, we at Stanford Carr Development appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in full support of this bill as it expands the types of rental housing projects eligible for general excise tax exemption and allows the terms of collective bargaining agreements to satisfy prevailing wage requirements per Chapter 104, HRS. We look forward to passage of this bill and most importantly working with other members of the private sector to construct and develop sorely needed rental housing.

Sincerely,

Stanford S. Carr

HAWAII RENTAL HOUSING COALITION

February 27, 2017

LATE

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
and Members
House Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Strong Support for HB1179 HD1 (GET/Wages)

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members:

The Hawaii Rental Housing Coalition (HRHC) is a non-profit citizens group comprised of landowners and developers, real estate industry professionals, Union representatives, segments of the non-profit community, and members of the banking industry who are committed to stimulating and supporting the private sector development of rental housing in the State of Hawaii. The HRHC's goal is to make it possible for the private sector to build rental housing for the workforce members of the community who earn less than 140% of the average median income (AMI) for their area.

It has long been recognized that affordable housing, and particularly rental housing in Hawaii, has become economically unfeasible for the private sector to develop. As such only subsidized projects utilizing government funding have been constructed.

A recent study by the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) shows that by 2020 approximately 64,000+ rental units will be needed State-wide and more than 31,000 will be needed on Oahu. Government alone cannot address that need.

It is this need that the Hawaii Rental Housing Coalition is seeking to address. In order to do that the fundamental economics of building rental housing in Hawaii must be altered. We seek to do that in a collaborative manner through the contributions of key players in the private sector who have committed to making a meaningful contribution to expand the supply of rental housing, the most important of which is the construction trade which has committed to wage reductions through negotiated contracts as allowed by HB 1179 HD1 in conjunction with GET exemptions applicable to affordable housing projects. It is for this reason that the Hawaii Rental Housing Coalition strongly supports the measures proposed by HB 1179 HD1.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Christine Nakashima-Heise

Christine Nakashima-Heise Project Coordinator