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GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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LAND  
STATE PARKS

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on  
JUDICIARY  
and  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, March 29, 2018  
10:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

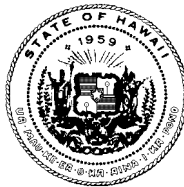
**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2014, HOUSE DRAFT 2, SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

House Bill 2014, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1 proposes, among other things, to require the Governor to identify available state lands to establish a homelessness village and to establish the Pu'u'honua Homeless Villages Program. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Department is concerned that the rapid construction of dwelling units will require the suspension of environmental and procurement laws, and while this may address the housing problem, it will cause long-term, costly impacts to Hawai'i's fragile environment and possibly to historic and cultural sites. Infrastructure costs, such as sewer, water and electricity can be very high and usually require ground disturbance. Failure to adequately plan for and address infrastructure needs will be costly to our environment, where we are already confronting widespread threats such as coral bleaching, sediment and runoff, and invasive species, impacting our natural areas, streams and reefs. Unmanaged runoff from unmanaged and hardened surfaces and water use and disposal pose further threats to our streams, reefs and groundwater. The Department urges the Legislature to consider the costs of important infrastructure, as well as the even greater indirect cost of inadequate infrastructure to the people of Hawai'i.

The Department requests that if any of its lands are identified for the purposes of a Pu'u'honua Homeless Village, it be consulted, and the land be transferred if deemed appropriate, to an agency whose mission better matches the purposes of a Pu'u'honua Village.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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

March 29, 2018

TO: The Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2014 HD2 SD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Monday, March 29, 2018, 10:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and offers the following comments. DHS acknowledges the breadth and urgency contained in this measure as reflected in the timeframe (2 years) and the magnitude (8,000 units), and appreciates the detailed conditions required for units and the intended village concept.

However, DHS currently delivers homeless services through the purchase of services provided by community based non-profit organizations statewide. DHS is not a brick and mortar agency and does not have expertise or experience with constructing homes, construction financing, community design, or infrastructure planning. DHS will require additional time to develop the administrative infrastructure to acquire the subject matter expertise and requisite administrative resources to embark on the endeavor.

DHS is acutely aware that ending homelessness is very complex, and that one part of the solution is to increase low income housing inventory that takes more time and resources than most expect. However, the state does not need additional temporary shelter space, there

is adequate supply of temporary shelter space. What is needed is community based quality low income housing, and the continued and persistent outreach efforts to encourage those in encampments to move towards permanent housing. Housing is more than a shower, cover, and a place to store personal belongings.

Stable and permanent housing provides access to education, transportation, employment, and health care. Quality, stable, and permanent housing connect people to their community and results in improved well-being and health outcomes.

Massive, but no less temporary measures aimed to concentrate, isolate, or to hide people from the larger community do not address or work toward ending homelessness. The legislature needs to continue investing in programs that work, like Housing First, Rapid Re-Housing, Rental subsidies, Outreach, and the Family Assessment Center, while prioritizing the increase of housing inventory for low income residents.

Consequently, we request that the prescribed conditions in Section 4 be amended to be guidelines instead of mandates, that DHS be allowed to work with other state entities, counties, or private entities, to improve current state structures, to work with ongoing low income housing projects to increase the inventory of community based permanent quality low income housing. DHS requests that the timeframes be extended for at least an additional year from the date of passage.

The state's framework to address homelessness through Housing First principles is based upon the notion of placement in safe and affordable permanent housing as soon as possible. DHS also recognizes for many families in Hawaii rental subsidies are required to maintain their housing. DHS supports investing in permanent housing solutions that are sustainable, safe, healthy, and near to existing transportation, education, health, and economic infrastructure; these are all significant aspects to ending homelessness for individuals and families currently experiencing it. We support investment of public funds in activities that lead to a permanent housing solution, including maintenance and renovation of existing housing inventory, as well as investment in the conversion of state property, including property currently being used as shelters, to be renovated to become permanent housing.

Further, to avoid working at cross purposes and creating additional administrative infrastructure, DHS urges the legislature to consider and reconcile this proposal with the work

being done by the Special Action Team on Affordable Rental Housing (Special Action Team), established through Act 127, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2016, as amended by Act 96, SLH 2017, section 2. Here is a link to the Special Action Team's report to the 2018 Legislature; <http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/annuals/2017/2017-op-affordable-rental-housing.pdf>.

HB2746 HD2 SD1 proposes to add the Director of the Department of Human Services and the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to serve as members of the Special Action Team.

The Director of DHS also currently serves as a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD Council), established by Act 130, SLH 2016. The TOD Council is similarly focused on "the promotion of mixed uses, affordable and rental housing, and compact, pedestrian friendly developments in designated transit areas." See the annual report of the TOD Council to the 2018 legislature, at <http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/annuals/2017/2017-hictod.pdf>.

While this measure's specific goals may not mirror the plans and recommendations of the Special Action Team and the TOD Council, these two groups are addressing the fundamental goals to increase the inventory of low income rentals which is a major investment needed to reduce homelessness, and DHS requests the legislature's continued support of the work mandated by previous statutes.

DHS is also aware of modular prefabricated mini-houses that some communities on the mainland are using, and again there are a number of work groups working on use of mini-fabricated houses or converted shipping containers in our local communities. It does appear that community investment and ongoing support are required to maintain these village environments. DHS will require time to further meet with County and community members to determine the kind of village community appropriate for the particular community.

DHS is also concerned with impact upon environmental and cultural resources if previously vacant or agricultural lands are converted to housing.

Currently, DHS is able to establish homeless assessment centers in other communities through contracted services modeled after the Family Assessment Center in Kaka'ako, assuming property and facilities are identified and available for use, and an appropriation of general funds are made for necessary renovation, maintenance, and services. These Family

Assessment Centers would link families with existing community resources and available housing. DHS would require an additional appropriation to expand the Family Assessment Center model in other communities.

DHS remains concerned that an appropriation for this measure would remove resources from on-going services and projects, and requests the legislature continue to support the Governor's supplemental budget requests to continue the successful package of on-going homeless services, as well as those budget requests that support current renovation of public housing authority properties, and other housing developments currently in progress.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill requires the Governor to identify available state land for the establishment of a homelessness village. Establishes the Puuhonua Homeless Villages program. Requires the Department of Human Services, in conjunction with the Governor, to hold a public meeting prior to the establishment of a homeless village. Requires the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Governor, to report to the legislature. Makes an appropriation. Effective 7/1/3000. (SD1)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### **COMMENTS ON HB 2014, HD2, SD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

**TO:** Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair, Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, and Members, Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means  
**FROM:** Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer  
**Hearing:** **Thursday, March 29, 2018; 10:30 AM; CR 211**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written Comments on **HB 2014, HD2, SD1**, which would establish a Puuhonua Homeless Villages Program, and fund this program. I am Terry Walsh, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 60 years. We provide a wide range of services to homeless persons, the elderly, immigrants, families and youths. We also operate the new Kakaako Family Assessment Center.

Hawai'i requires a robust, comprehensive effort to increase the pace at which our State addresses homelessness. The current network of homeless services provides a comprehensive base on which other support services can be added. This network targets specific sub-populations with services that are tailored to meet their needs. One size does not fit all when you are working with homeless people.

Based on our long-time support for homeless services and creating pathways into permanent housing, we would like to offer these comments on this bill:

- We are concerned that new solutions for homelessness not impact on funding for current ongoing services which are effectively moving people into housing.
- The state must continue a strong focus on creating permanent housing that will be sustainable in perpetuity. The need for permanent housing will not go away. We need to make sure that permanent housing is sustainable both structurally and with enduring affordability. The long-term future of Hawai'i lies in a strong commitment to funding new permanent rentals that are sustainable in perpetuity, if state land is utilized.
- Legislation should be carefully crafted to allow maximum flexibility to allow the State and Counties to find creative solutions that meet the needs of different sub-populations and needs on different Hawaiian islands.
- We urge a strong focus on housing navigation and development of supports needed to obtain and maintain permanent housing. The Ohana Nui concept (of DHS) would create the ability to bring together a wide range of providers and government services to address poverty and connect the homeless to services to stabilize their housing into the future.

If it is the Legislature's intent to fund the Puuhonua villages, we urge that these programs be added to and collaborate with the current homeless services and not be funded at the expense of ongoing proven programs now in the community. Thank you for considering our concerns. We appreciate your dedication to ending homelessness and taking a wide view of solutions.

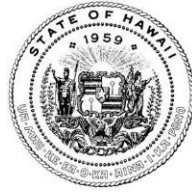
Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at [bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org), or 373-0356 for any questions.

CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eauomoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822  
Hopeline: (808) 524-4673 • [www.CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org)



Catholic  
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USA





**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

March 29, 2018

TO: The Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

SUBJECT: **HB 2014 SD1 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Thursday, March 29, 2018, 10:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure, and offers comments. In particular, the Coordinator has concerns regarding the potential adverse impact on priorities included in the Governor's supplemental budget request.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to require the Governor to make available state land for the establishment of a homelessness village, and establishes the Puuhonua homeless villages program within DHS. The bill specifies that an unspecified number of homes shall be completed within a specified timeframe, specifies that the construction cost for each home shall not exceed \$15,000, specifies the means by which individuals and families shall be charged for the cost of residing in a Puuhonua homeless village, and waives all applicable state and county permitting and construction fees. In addition, the bill appropriates an unspecified level of funding for fiscal year 2018-2019 for construction and infrastructure, and an unspecified level of funding for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the management, maintenance, and day-to-day operations of the program. The bill also requires DHS, in conjunction with the Governor, to hold a public meeting prior to the establishment of a homeless village.

The Coordinator appreciates the Legislature's efforts to adopt innovative solutions to the complex challenge of homelessness and recognizes the urgent need to implement these solutions. If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator suggests the measure be amended to include specific exemptions from chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to enable DHS to comply with the deadlines specified in this measure. In addition, the Coordinator suggests that the measure be amended to enable DHS and other relevant executive branch agencies to develop interim rules without regard to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the purposes of the Puuhonua homeless villages program.

The Coordinator notes that the Administration has been working to identify vacant state land for potential housing projects for the homeless population, however it has been challenging to identify land that has adequate infrastructure and is zoned to allow residential use. A preliminary search for vacant state lands by the Act 212 (2017) Safe Zones Working Group identified nine vacant state parcels, which included many that were not suitable for residential use due to zoning, lack of road access and other necessary infrastructure, location on a hillside, and potential ground contamination. The Act 212 (2017) Safe Zones Working Group also received public testimony from legislators and community members expressing concerns that housing projects for the homeless population should not be sited in an area without adequate dialogue with the surrounding community. It is unclear whether the required public hearing prior to the establishment of a Puuhonua homeless village will allow ample opportunity for community input on the designated location. The vacant state lands identified and the feedback received by the working group warrant closer consideration if this measure proceeds. The full report of the Act 212 (2017) Safe Zones Working Group can be found online at: <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Act-212-2017-Report-on-Safe-Zones-HCR-148-SD-1-on-Squatting.pdf>.

Due to the issues identified by the Safe Zones working group related to non-residential zoning and inadequate infrastructure, it appears that the timeframe specified in this measure is ambitious given requirements outlined in chapters 171 and 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, regarding the set aside of public lands and the environmental review process. The Coordinator notes that similar housing projects initiated by the City & County of Honolulu that were



exempted from these provisions by the Governor's emergency proclamation to address homelessness took 1.5 years or longer to complete. The Coordinator respectfully defers to DLNR on issues related to land and environmental review, such as potential impacts to historic and cultural sites, streams, reefs and coastal waters, and the potential impact that may result if Puuhonua villages are exempted from these processes or if these processes are expedited.

The two year timeframe to construct a Puuhonua homeless village also appears to be ambitious given the specific cost requirements and descriptions provided for both the central community center and individual dwelling units in a village. In particular, based on the budget for similar housing projects for vulnerable homeless populations initiated by the City & County of Honolulu and the private sector, it is unclear whether dwellings in a Puuhonua homeless village can be constructed with a budget of no more than \$15,000 per dwelling and still be able to comply with the measure's requirements that "each home shall have at least three hundred square feet of living space, electricity with lighting, and a minimum of eight standard electrical outlets." Further, the Coordinator notes that such construction appears to be beyond the current capacity of DHS. Accordingly, if this measure proceeds, the Coordinator suggests the designation of a separate executive branch agency with this specific expertise.

The ongoing operating expense for the Puuhonua homeless villages are also likely to be significant based on the measure's description of how residents are charged for operating costs (e.g. rent, utilities, and supportive services). As currently drafted, the measure requires that individuals and families who have no income shall not be charged for these costs, and that individuals and families with income shall not be charged more than twenty per cent of their aggregate monthly income, less \$100 per month for each dependent family member. The proposed subsidy model is more generous than the subsidy provided through federal, state, and county permanent supportive housing projects, even for Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units similar in size and structure. If the Puuhonua homeless villages are intended to be temporary, but not explicitly time-limited, the proposed cost structure may lead to less upward mobility in housing as most residents will not be able to find another program offering as generous of a subsidy for a permanent housing unit. In addition to ongoing costs, the budget

for the Puuhonua homeless villages will need to factor in costs for repair and maintenance for dwelling units and the community center if these are intended to be permanent structures.

It is unclear, as currently drafted, whether the measure intends for the Puuhonua homeless villages to provide subsidized permanent housing or temporary shelter for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. If the intention of the Puuhonua homeless villages is to provide long-term subsidized housing for low income individuals and families experiencing homelessness, the Coordinator notes that chapter 356D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, outlines specific processes and procedures for state low-income housing. However, if the intention of the Puuhonua homeless villages is to provide temporary homeless shelter, the Coordinator notes that chapter 346, part XVII, Hawaii Revised Statutes, outlines specific definitions and processes for homeless facilities, including program administration, time limits, and determination of eligibility and need. If this measure proceeds further, the Coordinator recommends conforming the language in this measure to the appropriate section of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to avoid unnecessary duplication.

With regard to the requirement for DHS to collaborate with appropriate state and county law enforcement agencies to provide security for the Puuhonua homeless villages, the Coordinator notes that this measure does not specifically appropriate funds for this purpose. The Coordinator defers to the Department of Public Safety in regard to the ability of the Sheriff Division to provide security without a dedicated appropriation, as well as the potential impact on regular law enforcement activities and the distinction between regular law enforcement functions and general security services.

Finally, the Coordinator recognizes that recent efforts to address homelessness through the State's framework plan are working, and that in 2017 the statewide Point-in-Time (PIT) count found that the number of homeless people in Hawaii *decreased* for the first time in eight years – a *decrease* of 701 people between 2016 and 2017. It is critical that the State continue to invest in programs that have contributed to this decrease – such as Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, homeless outreach, and the Family Assessment Center – and should this measure proceed, the Coordinator respectfully requests that it does not supplant funding for existing homeless services and related priorities in the Governor's Supplemental Budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

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**TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 2014, HOUSE DRAFT 2, SENATE DRAFT 1,  
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

**Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Hon. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Hon. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair**

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hon. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Hon. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair**

**Thursday, March 29, 2018, 10:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

Honorable Chair Taniguchi, Chair Dela Cruz, and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 400 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of House Bill 2014, HD 2, SD 1, relating to homelessness.

According to the 2017 statewide *Point In Time Count* (PITC) report, 7,220 houseless persons were counted on a single night in January last year, down 9 percent overall from 2016. Yet, O'ahu experienced a 0.4 percent *increase* from the previous year, with 4,959 people counted, up from 4,940 the year before. Hawai'i island saw the largest decrease in its homeless population, which fell 32 percent, or 441 people. Maui County had a 22 percent drop, or 249 people, while Kaua'i saw a 7 percent drop, or 30 fewer homeless people. Notably, the size of the houseless population on O'ahu is up more than 25 percent from 2009, when 3,638 homeless people were counted. Additionally, Department of Education officials have estimated that between 3,500-4,000 public school students experience homelessness at some point during the school year—last year's PITC captured just over half of them—and over 91,000 students are economically disadvantaged. We know, then, that our state's homeless population is consistently larger than the statistics show. It remains the highest per-capita homeless population in the country, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Over 30 percent of juvenile arrests in Hawai'i are for running away from home, the highest proportion in the nation. Nationally, one in seven young people between the ages of 10 and 18 will

run away. Approximately 75 percent of runaways are female, while 46 percent of runaway and homeless youth report being physically abused, 38 percent report being emotionally abused, and 17 percent report being forced into unwanted sexual activity by a family or household member, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Roughly 30 percent of runaway children will be approached for sexual exploitation within 48 hours of being on the run, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, with over 80 percent being approached for the commercial sex trade during the course of their time on streets. A federal study found that an estimated 38,600 runaway youth have been sexually assaulted, in the company of someone known to be sexually abusive, or engaged in sexual activity in exchange for money, food, or shelter. Runaways are perceived as easy targets for sex traffickers because they lack stable shelter, a supportive environment, and financial resources, placing them at greater risk of forced prostitution and sexual servitude.

Traffickers exploit our limited number of available shelter beds to lure young people into exploitation. As the homeless childcare provider Covenant House observes, traffickers tell homeless youth that shelters are full and ask, “Where are you going to go? Why don’t you come with me? I’ll take care of you.” Coupled with threats of and actual physical and sexual violence against the victims or their families, these coercive techniques compel runaway youth to remain enslaved. LGBTQ youth, who comprise an estimated 40 percent of the runaway and homeless youth population in the United States, are exponentially more likely to fall prey to human traffickers because of discrimination, family and community trauma, and a longing for comfort and acceptance (an estimated 26 percent of LGBTQ adolescents are rejected by their families and put out of their homes simply for being open and honest about who they are). In providing care for victims of human trafficking, IMUAlliance has heard their stories hundreds of times.

We must find innovative ways to fund homeless services, especially human services, health care, outreach, and rapid rehousing to our state’s unsheltered and at-risk population, many of whom are gainfully employed and contributing our economy. Moreover, we must find a balance between rampant real estate speculation and meeting the needs of our state’s most economically vulnerable residents. Just as our homeless population has soared over the past few years, so, too, has our state’s cost of housing. The median price of condominiums on O’ahu increased 6 percent in the summer of 2017 to a record \$425,000, while the median price for single-family homes increased by 3 percent to \$795,000, according to the Honolulu Board of Realtors, a number that they expect to increase by at least another 5 percent in 2018. Average fair market rent for two-bedroom apartments in *outlying* communities in the City and County of Honolulu now exceeds \$2,000, with the cost of a four-bedroom home in urban Honolulu now exceeding \$1.1 million. At least 43 percent of residences in Hawai’i are owner unoccupied, according to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, meaning that nearly 50 percent—and by some estimates over half—of Hawai’i’s homes are likely investment properties. Many of those properties, in turn, are owned by mainland and foreign buyers, whose real estate market speculation is a prime driver of Hawai’i’s highest-in-the-nation cost of housing. According to a study released in May of 2016 by the Hawai’i

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, there are “clear distinctions” between the average price of homes bought by local residents, mainlanders, and foreigners. Analyzing purchases made between 2008 and 2015, DBEDT found: “The average sale price was highest among foreign buyers. The average sale price of the total of 5,775 homes sold to foreign buyers from 2008 to 2015 was \$786,186, 28.3 percent higher than the average sale price to the mainlanders (\$612,770) and 64.7 percent higher than the average sale price to local buyers (\$477,460).”

Researchers who authored the National Low Income Housing Coalition’s *Out of Reach 2017* report found that a full-time worker would need to earn \$35.20/hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair market value in our state, with Honolulu experiencing a 67 percent increase in fair market rent between 2005 and 2015. Average rent for a two-bedroom unit surpassed \$2,000 in recent years, with minimum wage workers needed to log 116 hours per week at their jobs to afford a modest one-bedroom apartment at fair market value and 139 hours per week to afford a two-bedroom—a number that is equivalent to working 20 hours a day with no days off year-round. In the past three years alone, Honolulu rent has increased by more than 25 percent. While 43 percent of Hawai’i residents are renters (a number that does not include individuals and families renting outside of the regulated rental market), they earn an average wage of \$15.64/hour, scarcely enough to meet their basic needs. One out of every four households in Hawai’i report that they are “doubling up” or are three paychecks or less away from being homeless, per the Hawai’i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice. Additionally, 54 percent of households are cost-burdened, meaning that they pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing costs, a number that rises to 83 percent of extremely low-income households. Put simply, homelessness is directly tied to our state’s exorbitant cost of living and penchant for catering to people who use the islands as their own private Monopoly board. We beseech you to seek innovative ways of making Hawai’i more affordable, while funding services that show aloha for our economically disadvantaged neighbors.

Chronic, unsheltered, and nomadic homelessness is a humanitarian emergency endangering public health and safety. **If there is sufficient under- or unutilized state public land suitable for the construction of homeless villages, then using such land to create communities modeled on Housing First principles (which combine the stability of a safe and permanent home with streamlined access to supportive services, including medical, financial, and rehabilitative treatment), as this bill aims to do, would be a strategic use of state resources that could significantly reduce homelessness throughout the islands.**

When you fund housing, outreach, and human services for the homeless, you are helping to end slavery in Hawai’i. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,  
Kris Coffield  
*Executive Director*  
IMUAlliance

# Foo W. Lim & Sons, Inc.

1130 Wilder Avenue, Suite 102, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Phone (808) 521-5468

Date: March 27, 2018

To: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

From: Yal M. Lim, President, Foo W. Lim & Sons, Inc.

Subject: Testimony in support of an amendment to HB2014

Dear Chair Taniguchi and members of the JDC Committee,  
Dear Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM Committee:

My name is Yal Lim and I represent Foo W. Lim & Sons, Inc. (FLS). On behalf of FLS and the local composite fabrication and manufacturing industry working in fiberglass and related composite materials, we support HB2014 and urge you to add an amendment to include local labor content for fabrication of shelters. On page 5, at line 12 - insert:

“(4) At least 50 percent of the manufacturing labor costs of each home must be in Hawaii:

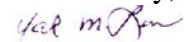
(A) Manufacturing labor in Hawaii shall be evidenced by Hawaii wages paid that are subject to Hawaii income tax withholding for each home, relative to all other labor costs for manufacturing of each home.”

Foo W. Lim & Sons, Inc. is a local leader in the fabrication and manufacture of advanced structures in fiberglass and have been supplying the Hawaii market since 1978. As a provider of high-quality high-paying jobs including skilled and unskilled trade labor in Hawaii, FLS has the capabilities to manufacture the home shelters as envisioned. The Housing First initiative is valid and can best be served with home structures manufactured in Hawaii. FLS is a generous supporter of Food Bank of Hawaii, Project Vision (including the recent mobile shower vehicle), and other needy causes. In addition, several executives at FLS support Family Promise of Hawaii at the donor and volunteer level.

The amendment is important to allow for Hawaii-made labor content to contribute to this extremely important homeless housing initiative. Our State's people will build the best housing for our State's people whatever their need and circumstance.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Yours Truly,



Yal M. Lim  
President, Foo W. Lim & Sons, Inc.



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

**NOLAN P. ESPINDA**  
DIRECTOR

**Cathy Ross**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Renee R. Sonobe Hong**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2014, HOUSE DRAFT 2, SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 29, 2018; 10:50 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) appreciates the intent of House Bill (HB) 2014, House Draft (HD) 2, Senate Draft (SD) 1, which would require the Governor to identify available state land for the establishment of a homelessness village, establish the Puuhonua Homeless Villages program, and provide a limitation on liability for government entities and volunteers providing services. PSD defers to the testimony of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and offers the following comments.

Page 7, lines 11 - 14 would require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to collaborate with appropriate state and county law enforcement agencies to provide security for the Puuhonua homeless villages program. Section 6 appropriates to DHS an unspecified sum for fiscal year 2018 – 2019 for the management, maintenance, and day-to-day operations of the Puuhonua homeless villages. It is not clear, however, if any of these funds may be transferred or reimbursed to PSD for law enforcement



services, if such services are necessary. Without additional positions, providing security at a Puuhonua homeless village would require the diversion of resources from other day-to-day functions, thereby impacting the Sheriff Division's operations at the Judiciary courthouses, State Capitol, Civic Center area, and other homeless enforcements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

## HAWAII KAI HOMELESS TASK FORCE

Mike Goodman, Director

Cell: (808) 428-9779

Fax: (949) 229-1953

Email: MikeGoodman@HawaiiKaiHomelessTaskForce.org

**Testimony for HB2014, "The Pu`uhonua Homeless Villages Act" for the WAM/JDC Hearing on Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 10:30 AM in Conference Room 211 at the State Capitol.**

---

I'm Mike Goodman, Director of the Hawai'i Kai Homeless Task Force. We're a volunteer organization, dedicated to quickly ending homelessness in Hawai'i, by researching, formulating and implementing innovative technologies and comprehensive government policies. **We want to thank the Committee Chairs and Members for the opportunity to testify in support of HB2014, also known as the "Pu`uhonua Homeless Villages Act".**

**HB2014 is the only bill before the Legislature that can literally end the homeless crisis in Hawai'i.** It works by mandating the construction of high-tech, modular dwellings, that cost less than \$15,000 each, in sufficient numbers to end homelessness. There are many innovative "off the grid" infrastructure technologies, housing materials and designs, from a variety of manufacturers, that enable us to house every homeless person in Hawai'i for under \$200 million dollars. **That's less than we're already spending on emergency medical care, law enforcement, trash removal and property damage, resulting in a net-savings to the State.**

To avoid creating "*public housing ghettos*", HB2014 also specifies incorporating dwellings into small "*pu`uhonua homeless villages*", to create cohesive communities with self-governance (*only to the extent it is practical*), similar to what Twinkle Borge was able to do in Pu`uhonua `O Waianae, and Bumpy Kanahale was able to do in Pu`uhonua `O Waimanalo.

**WE MUST BE CLEAR THAT THE ONLY WAY TO END THE HOMELESS CRISIS IS TO HOUSE EVERY HOMELESS PERSON.** Housing only some of the homeless gets us to where we are today: A humanitarian disaster which is the greatest crisis faced by the State since Pearl Harbor.

**Eight-thousand, fully subsidized units, would take homelessness to functional zero.** Originally this bill specified in SECTION 4.(a) that a minimum of eight-thousand units be constructed with two-years. Because of concerns about the short period of time allowed for such a large project, the amount was left blank in the latest draft.

**While concerns about the time-period need to be addressed, leaving the amount blank is problematic. It's essential that HB2014 remain a comprehensive road-map to end homelessness, or we risk turning it into just another measure that will only "reduce homelessness" but never end the homeless crisis.** We are also concerned that neighborhood opposition could significantly delay the acquisition of land. To solve both of these problems we suggest striking the third sentence of SECTION 4.(a) and replacing it with the following language:

"Within eighteen months after the effective date of this Act, the governor shall make sufficient quantities of land available to create enough housing for eight-thousand units

under the Puuhonua homeless villages program, in locations that will not unreasonably interfere with the integrity of existing residential, retail commercial and tourist areas. Construction of homes shall begin as soon as practical, as parcels of land become available. An aggregate total of eight-thousand homes shall be completed within two years after all land is acquired, provided this deadline may be extended for cause."

Before constructing all 80 villages, it would be prudent to construct one or two as a pilot, and modify the remaining villages in accord with experience. However, it would be unwise to change HB2014 into a pilot program, thus eliminating the requirement to construct 8000 units and related provisions; To reiterate, it's essential for HB2014 to remain a comprehensive solution to the homeless crisis. We also suggest allowing the residents of Pu'u'honua 'O Waianae, who're currently living near the Waianae Boat Harbor, be allowed to move into the pilot program villages. This would enable the State to take advantage of their experience with governing and managing a village comprised of formerly homeless individuals.

Accordingly, we suggest adding the following language to the end of SECTION 4.(a):

The time limits for construction under this section may be extended for eighteen months, by building at least two homeless villages as a pilot program, which fulfill all other requirements under this Act, so that the manner of constructing, maintaining and managing the remaining villages can be modified according to lessons learned from the pilot. The governor, agency or other entities so-charged with the task of establishing villages under this Act, may take advantage of existing social networks amongst individuals residing in established ad-hoc legal or illegal homeless encampments, by housing those individuals in the two pilot-program villages.

There are many arbitrary and capricious local building codes which have no impact on health and safety, but could delay construction for years. For example, many modular dwellings are virtually fire-proof, earthquake proof, can withstand hurricane force winds and have 300 square feet of living space. But these dwellings could be blocked by a county code which requires homes to have more than 300 square feet of living space. We therefore suggest the following amendment be added after SECTION 4. (f):

SECTION 4.(g) The State, in lieu of compliance with local building approval procedures pertaining to health, habitability, planning and zoning, or safety standards, procedures, and laws, may adopt reasonable standards and procedures to ensure health and safety for the design, site development, and operation of homeless dwellings and facilities as contemplated under this Act, and the structures and facilities therein, to the extent that strict compliance with local standards or laws in existence would not materially

improve health and safety but would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay construction.

Many homeless people have pets. Pets have therapeutic value. Moreover, forcing the homeless to give up their pets would add to the problems we have with stray animals. We therefore suggest the following amendment:

SECTION 3. (10) Villages should allow residents to keep and have pets if practical.

**SECTION 9. Was amended in the House to have the Act take effect of July 1, 3000,** possibly because some lawmakers and agencies objected to the two-year time-limit imposed by this Act. Since we've addressed time limits in our first suggested amendment to SECTION 4.(a), we suggest changing SECTION 9 back to:

SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

**WE RESPECTFULLY URGE ALL OF YOU TO VOTE FOR THIS BILL. THERE ARE NO OTHER MEASURES BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE WHICH COMPLETELY ADDRESS THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT REQUIRED TO END HOMELESSNESS: A PLACE TO LIVE FOR EVERY HOMELESS PERSON.**

Our communities are in chaos, because the state, counties and service providers do not have a place to live *for most of their clients*. The best they can do is house *some people*, while the majority are left to choose between shelters and "sleeping rough".

**Problems with What We're Doing Now, and How HB2014 Solves those Problems.**

Generally, the State, Counties and other service providers, house people in traditionally constructed brick and mortar apartments, which cost about \$450,000 dollars per unit to build, totaling over \$3.5 billion dollars for eight-thousand units. Rent subsidies run anywhere from \$1,000 to \$1,500 a month, and many landlords won't lease to homeless tenants. Recently, less-expensive modular dwellings have been used for projects like Kahauiki Village, which costs about \$250,000 per unit, and Kauhale Kamaile in Waianae, which costs about \$320,000 per unit. Rents for these developments range anywhere from \$700 dollars to over \$1,100 dollars a month. While this is a step in the right direction, costs are still much too high.

**THE CHEAPEST CONSTRUCTION METHOD USED BY THE FOREGOING PROGRAMS WOULD COST OVER TWO BILLION DOLLARS FOR EIGHT-THOUSAND UNITS.** The reality is we have *never*, and likely will *never*, have the resources to house everyone using these methods. Moreover, the rents are far too expensive for most homeless people. **Consequently, it's mathematically impossible to end the homeless crisis unless we radically change the way we build housing.**

Decades of research and real-world experience, shows that permanent housing, using "housing first" practices, is the most effective way to end homelessness. **However, there is nothing in the reams of data, studies and evidenced based practices showing that dwellings must be made from brick & mortar, metal, wood, or any other material in order for "Housing First" or any other housing program to be effective.** We should therefore avail ourselves of materials, designs and technology, that enable us to build exponentially more housing at an exponentially lower cost.



**HB2014 mandates the construction of high-tech, modular dwellings, that cost less than \$15,000 each.** This enables us to house every homeless person in Hawai'i for under \$200 million dollars. We're already spending well over that on emergency medical care, law enforcement, trash removal and property damage. Pu'u honua homeless villages will actually save the State money.



**THIS BILL ALSO DOES NOT STOP WHAT OTHER PROGRAMS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS DO.**

The Governor's office, the head of DHS and others, testified they're concerned that money spent for HB2014, will divert funds from existing programs with "proven track records". **We agree it's important to keep these programs in place.** We can't end the homeless crisis without outreach, implementing supportive services under "Housing First", rapid re-housing, family assessment, mental health and drug treatment, vocational training and a thousand other tasks. **HOWEVER, without sufficient housing inventory, the best these programs can do is house some homeless while the majority sleeps rough. Existing programs need HB2014, because it's the only way we can create the housing inventory we need at a price we can afford.**

**What "Ending the Homeless Crisis" Means.**

Obviously, HB2014 will not end poverty, the high cost of market rate housing, drug addiction, mental illness, domestic abuse, crimes committed by a certain segment of the "housing challenged" population, and a host of other social evils.

**However, HB2014 will virtually eliminate a multitude of social ills which flourish specifically because so many people don't have a place to live:**

**When everyone has a home:** Lack of hygiene won't generate emergency medical expenses of over \$90 million dollars a year at Queens; Mentally ill and substance addicted people will have a chance at recovery they don't have when they're on the streets or forced to live in close-quarters with others in a shelter; Economically-challenged people will have a better chance of getting a job and becoming self-sufficient; Illegal homeless camps on Oahu won't generate more than 500,000 tons of trash a year; Honolulu won't spend over half a million dollars each for sweeps that only shift the homeless from one inappropriate place to another; Parents won't be afraid to bring their keiki to the Children's Discovery Center in Kaka'ako; Illegal homeless camps won't pose a fire danger; Hawai'i's image as a tropical paradise won't be marred by tent cities in parks, beaches and along highways; Outreach teams can offer ALL of their clients "Housing First", thus vastly reducing service-resistance.

**When everyone has a home, we won't have a "homeless crisis" and sanity will be restored to our communities.**

**HB2014 currently has the support of:** Hawai'i County Mayor Harry Kim; Mufi Hannemann and The Hawai'i Lodging and Tourism Association; Kona Brewing Co.; The Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Melodie Aduja, Committee on Legislative Priorities; The Imua Alliance; Maile David, Hawai'i County Council Member, District 6; Karen Eoff, Hawai'i County Council Vice-Chair; Nahelani Webster, Hawaii Association for Justice

(with amendments regarding qualified immunity from liability); Ellen Godbey Carson, Housing Now!; Faith Action for Community Equity; Community First; Judith F. Clark, MPH, Executive Director, Hawaii Youth Services Network (with amendments regarding pets and youth services); Augustus Acosta, Alea Bridge; Toni Symons, Program Director of Social Services at Na Kahua Hale O Ulu Wini and a member of the Community Alliance Partnership (West Hawai'i); Twinkle Borge of Pu'u honua `O Waianae; Kellen Smith, Member, Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board; Sylvia Dolena of Pele Lani Farm, LLC; Yal Lim, Foo W. Lim & Sons, Inc. (with an amendment to have 50% of manufacturing in Hawai'i).

MAHALO NUI LOA TO THE MEMBERS AND CHAIRS OF WAM & JDC FOR HELPING TO END HOMELESSNESS IN HAWAII.

Very truly yours;

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael J. Goodman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Goodman" clearly legible.

Mike Goodman  
Director, Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force.

Harry Kim  
Mayor



Wil Okabe  
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow  
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i  
Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

March 27, 2018

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Dela Cruz, and Committee Members:

**Re: HB 2014, HD 2, SD 1 Relating to Homelessness**  
**Hearing Date: 03-29-18 – 10:30 am; Conference Room 211**

HB 2014, HD 2, SD 1 provides a logical, evidenced-based statewide plan to address homelessness. This bill:

- Recognizes the Housing First priority of placing the most chronically homeless and vulnerable individuals and families into permanent, supportive housing as soon as possible, utilizing an effective coordinated entry system.
- Recognizes the fact that we do not have enough permanent supportive housing to meet the need, and that we will not meet this need unless we utilize alternative housing types that make permanent supportive housing affordable and available in much shorter periods of time than currently is the case.
- Takes a bold holistic approach that addresses the homeless crisis statewide rather than being County/area specific.
- Recognizes the fact that villages with proper compassionate and caring leadership, self-governance, and boundaries, will promote a sense of Ohana, ownership, pride, hope, and dignity. We think these are the necessary elements for a healthy and thriving community.

March 27, 2018

Page 2

I am confident this concept can work, because we have already successfully piloted the village concept at Camp Kikaha in Kona. HB 2014, HD 2, SD 1 would help us move further. We currently have a 35-acre site that will soon go through master planning and the environmental assessment process for a homeless village and affordable housing, similar to what is envisioned under HB 2014, HD 2, SD 1.

We realize that funding for all counties and the State is tight and limited, and HB 2014, HD 2, SD 1 will be expensive. If pilot projects are needed as an initial course of action, the bill could be pared back in conference. However, first we need to keep the bill alive.

Please help us make this vision of ending homelessness in Hawai'i a reality by approving HB 2014, HD 2, SD 1.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Harry Kim", written in a cursive style.

Harry Kim  
Mayor, County of Hawai'i





Statement of  
**Mary Rait**  
**Director of Regulatory Compliance and Government Relations**  
[Mary.Rait@craftbrew.com](mailto:Mary.Rait@craftbrew.com) / 503-802-1568  
**Kona Brewing Co.**  
before the  
**Senate Committee on Judiciary**  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**  
Thursday, March 29, 2018  
10:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of  
**HB2014 HD2 SD1**  
**RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS “The Pu’uhonua Homeless Villages Act”**

Chair Taniguchi, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Judiciary Committee and Ways and Means Committee,

Kona Brewing Co. **supports** HB2014 HD2 SD1 that would appropriate funds and require the Governor to identify available state land for the establishment of a homelessness village to establish the Pu’uhonua Homeless Villages program; and provide limitation on liability for government entity and volunteers providing services.

Kona Brewing Co. is Hawaii’s oldest and largest craft brewery, and is today a top 10 national craft beer brand. The flagship brewhouse operates in Kailua-Kona, where the company is embarking on a large expansion, with a commitment to grow in a sustainable manner. We are one of the largest employers on Hawaii island and one of the largest tourist draws in this community with over 250,000 visitors each year. Unfortunately, over the past six months there was a relocation of a homeless shelter in an adjacent property that has caused us, and local law enforcement, to deal with constant negative impacts relating to the safety of our employees, guests and homeless population. We cannot solve this alone. HB2014 HD2 SD1 offers a creative solution to end homelessness by creating permanent housing, more transitional and emergency shelters and supportive services needed to help the chronically homeless and those most vulnerable.

Many of the homeless issues we deal with relate to chronic mental health. This vulnerable homeless population roams freely throughout this community which has created numerous safety



issues. The following examples illustrate this. Many of our guests are first time visitors to the island and drive down Pawai Place soon after they arrive. We have witnessed some of mentally ill individuals jump into the road in front of cars or throw things at cars passing by. This road near our brewery and pub has very high traffic, combine that with construction, streets with no sidewalks, rampant drug activity, crime and mental illness, all of which creates a situation that has a very high risk for serious injury. For the safety of our staff we have security on site for the property. Even with this presence, we routinely have homeless people harassing our staff and guests. To ease the concerns of our staff, we have instituted a buddy system after hours for all staff walking to/from the restaurant or going to storage areas, but we continue to face struggles of harassment on an almost daily basis.

As a responsible business, we are doing our part to improve safety by adding lighting, security, training, awareness, locks, buddy policy, and other programs. We recently had a cookout and provided free sandwiches to all police in the city who stopped by to maintain positive relations and show our appreciation. However, people will not truly feel safe until the crime and mentally ill elements that have been brought into this community are addressed. HB2014 HD2 SD1 allows for a coordinated entry system that will make sure the most chronically homeless, and vulnerable people are housed first, but there will be enough permanent housing for the scope of homeless along this continuum of need. This bill will provide enough housing for every homeless person in the state in two-acre villages very economically.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Sincerely,

Mary Rait  
Kona Brewing Company

**HB-2014-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 10:16:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel	Testifying for First Assembly of God	Support	No

**Comments:**

Chairmen and members of the committees, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of HB2014.

First Assembly of God believes that homelessness is such a complex problem that it requires a collaboration of multiple organizations - including the faith-based community. Our church is spearheading THE SHELTER project, a transitional shelter project in Kahaluu that will provide housing for nine families of single mothers and their children.

THE SHELTER is comprised of 12 fiberglass domes of which 9 will house families, 2 will have partitions for 3 showers, toilets and sinks in each, and the 1 dome will be set aside for a resident manager. THE SHELTER is located at the First Assembly of God Windward Region church property on the corner of Ahuimanu Road and Kahekili Hwy.

THE SHELTER is a collaboration of multiple Christian churches from various denominations with the one goal of bringing a God-centered solution to homelessness. These participating churches come from all over the island to share in this solution on the windward side. The most important point is that the project is entirely self funded through church donations! If given access to State land and the exemption to do our faith-based program, we could save the state great expense in a public/private partnership!

The Intershelter dome, one of the options in HB2014, was selected for our housing unit because of its cost value, portability, and extreme weather durability from rains and high winds. We have progressed through the building permit process for the past two years and worked diligently with Group 70 and DPP to approve this structure for use in homeless housing. It was a new structural concept for DPP but we were able to create new thinking to address the lingering homeless issues. We are awaiting final approval this week and our project will begin.

THE SHELTER is based on a faith-zone concept which is designed as God being the core in the transformation of a person's life. In addition to providing shelter from the weather elements, our program will connect participants to social services thru IHS, as well as provide training on personal growth and social integration, job skills and placement and parenting and finance education.

Our support for HB2014 is based on the fact that the extremely costly sweeps are not working. We need to provide areas where the people can gather without the fear of displacement while they plan next steps in their integration back into society. We believe that internal governance of these Ohana zones are critical in maintaining order and safety for the residents.

A strong faith-based partnership with these Ohana zones will also serve to transform lives from their hearts with the hope that only God can bring. We are open to discuss active participation in this objective.

Klayton Ko, Sr Pastor

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Daniel Kaneshiro, Pastor and Director

THE SHELTER

**HB-2014-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 9:47:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shirley David	Testifying for St. Michael the Archangel Church Kailua Kona	Support	No

Comments:

St. Michael's social justice ministries have work to end family homelessness. We need family assessment center in Kona. This bill would provide much needed funds to move our Village 9 toward fruition. A vehicle is no place for a family to live.

**HB-2014-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 9:40:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

## Comments:

To the Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; the Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House **HB2014 HD2 SD1** regarding the Puuhonua Homeless Villages Program; Appropriation; Homelessness; Department of Human Services; Report; and Public Meeting.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB2014 HD2 SD1** and support its passage.

**HB2014 HD2 SD1** is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the Governor to identify available state land for the establishment of a homelessness village; establishes the Puuhonua Homeless Villages program; requires the Department of Human Services, in conjunction with the Governor, to hold a public meeting prior to the establishment of a homeless village; requires the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Governor, to report to the legislature; and makes an appropriation, effective 7/1/3000.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that we "believe in the concept of "Housing First" to develop affordable, stable housing and support services to break the cycle of homelessness for people with the fewest housing options.

We support dedicated social services and housing opportunities for Hawaii's homeless population to get them off the streets and reintegrated into society, with specific devoted services for disenfranchised groups including but not limited to, the Hawaiian community, aged-out foster kids, youth, returning veterans, the aged, and

lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender homeless." (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 352-358 (2016)).

Given that **HB2014 HD2 SD1** requires the Governor to identify available state land for the establishment of a homelessness village; establishes the Puuhonua Homeless Villages program; requires the Department of Human Services, in conjunction with the Governor, to hold a public meeting prior to the establishment of a homeless village; requires the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Governor, to report to the legislature; and makes an appropriation, effective 7/1/3000, it is the position of the OCC on Legislative Priorities to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

**HB-2014-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 9:48:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Sayama, PhD	Testifying for Community First	Support	No

## Comments:

Community First supports HB2014, The Pu'uhonua Homeless Villages Act. Homelessness is not a problem which can be solved just by giving someone a place to live. Homeless people have to be part of a community and this Act recognizes that. Also the larger community of Hawaii Island has already secured land to create such a village. We also believe that the Legislature should empower communities to find solutions which make the most sense at the local level. For these reasons, we hope you will pass this Act.



**HB-2014-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2018 4:34:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kalawai'a Goo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2014-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2018 3:24:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
I. Robert Nehmad	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2014

**HB-2014-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2018 8:53:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deborah G. Nehmad	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I stronly support HB 2014

thank you

Deb Nehmad

**HB-2014-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2018 6:27:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2014-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2018 7:55:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lance Niimi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Dear Chairs Taniguchi and Dela Cruz, and Committee Members:

Re: HB 2014, HD2, SD1 Homelessness

My name is Lance Nimi. I have been a Social Worker for 37 years and currently work for the County of Hawaii.

HB 2014, HD2, SD1 provides a logical, evidenced-based statewide plan to address homelessness. This bill:

- Recognizes the Housing First priority of placing the most chronically homeless and vulnerable individuals and families into permanent, supportive housing as soon as possible, utilizing an effective coordinated entry system.
  - Recognizes the fact that we do not have enough permanent supportive housing to meet the need, and that we will not meet this need unless we utilize alternative housing types that make permanent supportive housing affordable and available in much shorter periods of time than currently is the case. These affordable housing types could be used for emergency shelters, transitional shelters as well as permanent housing.
  - Takes a bold holistic approach that addresses the homeless crisis statewide rather than being County/area specific.
- \* If paired with the evidence based project of Assessment Centers, would designate the most appropriate placement of individuals in Permanent Housing, Transitional Shelters and or Emergency Shelters.

- Recognizes the fact that villages with proper compassionate and caring leadership, self-governance, and boundaries, will promote a sense of Ohana, ownership, pride, hope, and dignity. We think these are the necessary elements for a healthy and thriving community.

We are confident this concept can work, because we have already successfully piloted the village concept at Camp Kikaha in Kona. HB 2014, HD2, SD1 would help us move further. We currently have a 35-acre site that will soon go through master planning and the environmental assessment process for a homeless village and affordable housing, similar to what is envisioned under HB2014, HD2, SD1.

We realize that funding for all counties and the State is tight and limited, and HB2014, HD2, SD1 will be expensive. If pilot projects are needed as an initial course of action, the bill could be pared back in conference. But first we need to keep the bill alive.

Please help us make this vision of ending homelessness in Hawai'i a reality by approving HB 2014, HD2, SD1.

Respectfully submitted,

Lance Niimi

**HB-2014-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2018 9:01:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**HB-2014-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 3:48:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Homeless situation in the State of Hawaii cannot be ignored and intervention is desperately needed to sustain our people and create healthier sustainable communities. Therefore, I support HB2014, To be known as the Puuhonua Homeless Villages Act.



**HB-2014-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 9:18:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexis Williams-Jenkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Committee on Judiciary

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Committee on Ways and Means

RE: HB 2014 Relating to Homelessness

Hello,

My name is Alexis Williams-Jenkins and I am a social work student from Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at University of Hawaii at Manoa. **I support HB2014** in establishing a homeless village. I currently work with the homeless population and many of them face challenges of finding affordable housing. There are long waitlists to get affordable housing and there are also landlords who are resistant to accept people who are homeless as tenants. Having a homeless village could give individuals a sense of community. Although the homeless issue is complex, I believe this can be a positive approach in getting people off the streets and get reintegrated with society.

Thank you,

Alexis Williams-Jenkins



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

**MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.***

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, March 29, 2018 10:30AM Conference Room 211

**In SUPPORT of HB 2014 HD2 SD1** Relating to Homelessness

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Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Joint Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **offers comments on HB 2014 HD2 SD1**, which would establish pu'uhonua villages for those experiencing homelessness.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, which started as an outdoors and hiking club, has been active in nature conservation in the islands for 50 years. We are committed to supporting efforts that not only allow people to explore and enjoy these beautiful islands we call home, but also protect and preserve them from the various man-made environmental threats (e.g., increasing impacts from tourism, damaging agricultural practices, climate change).

As an organization, we recognize homelessness as a epidemic undermining basic human dignity and quality of life for thousands of residents in Hawai'i. This crisis needs to be solved. We want to be part of the solution.

To this end, we offer the following amendments to HB2014:

- 1) **Size matters.** Amend HB2014 to restrict the scale of each village. Doing this limits cumulative impacts of the pu'uhonua on surrounding areas, and makes it possible for every community to host a pu'uhonua. Our experience with massive housing projects has taught us that scale and location are significant indicators of success for these projects.
- 2) **Location matters.** Amend HB2014 to require that the locations chosen for the pu'uhonua have easy access to supportive services, public transportation, and

employment opportunities for residents. This type of place-based planning will help ensure future pu‘uhonua are successful communities.

- 3) **Protect the environment.** Amend HB2014 to direct the agency to consider only lands that already designated for the proposed use at both the state and county levels. Doing this will expedite implementation of HB2014’s goals. It will also protect sensitive environments well into the future.
- 4) **Ensure compliance with all existing laws.** We are concerned that the expedited timeline may result in attempts to short-cut existing state laws related to the environment and land use. Laws requiring the evaluation of environmental impacts, planning, and protection serve the public’s health as well as the environment. With our history of industrial agriculture, we need to be concerned about soil contamination around housing areas -- environmental reviews are the way to assess these risks. Minimum infrastructure requirements ensure drinking water resources are not contaminated with human waste water -- community plans are the way to direct investment in infrastructure where it is needed. We recognize that immediate action is necessary, but we also want to ensure we do not make short-terms decisions with long-term impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.



**LATE**

Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann

President & CEO

Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

before the

Committee on Judiciary

Committee on Ways and Means

March 28, 2018

House Bill 2014, H.D. 2, S.D. 1: Relating to Homelessness

Chair Taniguchi, Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committees:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private-sector tourism organization with nearly 700 members, thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding House Bill 2014 HD2 SD1, which sets forth the foundation for the establishment of homeless villages.

The visitor industry has been front-and-center in addressing the challenge of homelessness in our islands. The hospitality industry, through our association and others, has donated more than \$2 million during the last four years to social service agencies on our largest islands, specifically for homelessness outreach and services. We also support these services and related charities through our annual Visitor Industry Charity Walk. But much more needs to be done.

We support the establishment of this Pu'uhonua Homeless Villages initiative. There are many approaches to dealing with homelessness, and we believe this proposal represents an effective and expedient means of providing housing for those in need. In fact, the use of modular homes for homeless housing is gaining attention across the nation, including Honolulu. This measure would serve as an important first step for the state government to identify suitable public lands and then promptly construct low-cost housing to accommodate the homeless.

We also back the notion of wrap-around support services for these types of villages. This would greatly improve the attention and care that our homeless need to improve their situation.

We support House Bill 2014 HD2 SD1, and thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**HB-2014-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2018 7:57:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 10:30:00 AM

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Deges	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to put an end to this growing problem so I fully support this.

Mahalo