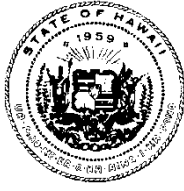


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

April 6, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

In consideration of
H.B. 2746, H.D. 2, S.D. 1
RELATING TO RENTAL HOUSING.

HHFDC **supports** H.B. 2746, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Supplemental Budget.

H.B. 2746, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 adds new members to the Act 127 Special Action Team on Affordable Rental Housing, makes the HHFDC Executive Director a co-chair, and adds an additional focus on rental housing for extremely low-income families.

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



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2746, HD2 SD1: Relating to Rental Housing

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means
FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer
Hearing: **Friday, 4/6/18; 11:00 AM; CR 211**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of **HB 2746, HD2 SD1**, which would clarify the duties of the Special Action Team and add members to focus on housing for our population with incomes below 30% AMI. I am Terry Walsh, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care. We feel this is a very important bill.

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. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Our top priority is to end homelessness. To achieve this goal, we must put a special focus on how to house those who have extremely low incomes.

Rents in Hawai'i skyrocketed over 23% in 3 years (from 2012 to 2015), leaving many at the very low end of our economy with incomes below 30% AMI struggling to stay housed. Any crisis can put these families at great risk for long-term problems like loss of housing. The situation is dire and demands a great investment to create rental units that struggling families, our kupuna, our young graduates, etc. who make under 30% AMI can afford. **These residents of Hawai'i account for almost 27% of the total need for all affordable housing, yet very few units are being built for this income range.**

Too often extremely low-income households are merged in with other low-income income groups in the discussion of affordable housing. To really address homelessness, we **MUST** find housing solutions not only for those who are currently homeless but also long-term solutions to turn off the tap of thousands of families flowing into homelessness. Our state needs clear and creative strategies to address housing for our ohana who live on extremely low incomes.

Suggested Amendment: The Special Action Team can play a critical role in developing strategies and recommendations to address this hard to house population. **We suggest one more additional member: a member from Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Hawaii.** This new member could bring a national perspective and hopefully national research on how to address this hard to house population, those with incomes below 30% AMI. We feel this new member could add significantly to the planning effort. Together, we can find solutions.

We need to act now. We thank the Legislature for focusing on this great need. This bill would be a strong step in the right direction to develop a state plan or strategies for this high risk group.

Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org, if you have any questions.



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



HB-2746-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2018 6:17:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 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 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 Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB2746 HD2 SD1** relating to the Special Action Team; Rental Housing; and an appropriation.

The OCC on Legislative Priorities is in favor of **HB2746 HD2 SD1** and supports its passage.

HB2746 HD2 SD1 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), as it amends Act 127, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016, to clarify the duties of the Special Action Team on Affordable Rental Housing and add additional members to the Special Action Team for the purpose of addressing issues related to extremely low-income household needs; and makes an appropriation, effective 1/1/2050.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "Housing is a basic human need and we believe that adequate, accessible, affordable, and safe housing should be available to all residents of Hawai'i. Affordable housing that is fair in proportion to individual income is the basis of prosperity for our citizens and stability in our economy. Recent and past real estate bubbles have fueled disproportionate rent increases, a key contributor to homelessness. Therefore, we support efforts to promote truly affordable housing for all citizens who rent. (Platform of DPH, P. 5, Lines 340-344 (2016)).

Given that **HB2746 HD2 SD1** amends Act 127, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016, to clarify the duties of the Special Action Team on Affordable Rental Housing and add additional members to the Special Action Team for the purpose of addressing issues related to extremely low-income household needs; and makes an appropriation,

effective 1/1/2050, 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-2746-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 7:42:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lawrence S Franco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe that we must have more people affected by legislative decisions affecting their lives on legislative committees. This change is a small step in that direction.