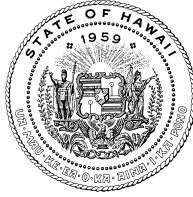


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



DEAN MINAKAMI  
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

Statement of

### DEAN MINAKAMI

Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

February 03, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Room 225

In consideration of

### SENATE BILL 2177

### RELATING TO HOUSING.

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and members of the Committee.

HHFDC **supports with comments** Senate Bill 2177, which seeks to clarify and streamline the process for housing projects seeking exemptions under section 201H-38.

This bill will help expedite affordable housing development while maintaining essential safeguards. With minor clarifications to the sections noted above, the bill can provide even greater efficiency for developers. We suggest amending the bill as follows:

1. Section 201H-38(1)(A). We recommend removing the proposed new language to provide HHFDC and the counties flexibility in administering the 201H-38 program.
2. Section 201H-38(1)(C)(iii). We recommend that no modifications be made to the original language, as there are no concerns that the proposed changes would resolve.
3. Section 201H-38(b). We recommend the following modifications to create accountability and allow applicants time to address issues that may arise while an application is being processed.

(b) The corporation or a county shall have thirty days to accept a complete application submitted pursuant to this section. Provided the application satisfies the requirements of the corporation's administrative rules, the corporation shall have one hundred twenty days from acceptance of an application to process the application and bring it before the corporation's board of directors, unless the applicant

requests additional time. A county agency processing an application shall have one hundred twenty days from acceptance of an application to transmit the application to the county legislative body, unless the applicant requests additional time.

4. Section 201H-38(c). This section is not necessary since the timeline for county legislative bodies to act upon a project is set forth in 201H-38(a)(1)(C)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.