



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII**  
**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
**'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA**  
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

February 6, 2026

The Honorable Representative Luke A. Evslin, Chair  
House Committee on Housing  
The Honorable Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair  
House Committee on Water & Land  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs Evslin and Hashem, and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT:** HB1700 Relating to Housing

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB1700**, which includes housing projects for individuals with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs as eligible projects to apply for expedited permits.

Housing shortages disproportionately affect people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, many of whom rely on stable, accessible housing to live safely in the community and receive necessary supports. While funding is often the primary focus of housing policy, delays in permitting are a significant and frequently overlooked barrier that can prevent otherwise viable projects from moving forward. By allowing housing projects serving individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs to qualify for expedited permitting, this measure helps reduce unnecessary delays that can stall urgently needed housing.

This bill represents an important step in recognizing disability-inclusive housing as essential community infrastructure. Expedited permitting can help ensure that inclusive housing projects are delivered more efficiently and responsively, helping communities better meet the housing needs of people with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs.

As this measure is implemented, the Council looks forward to continued collaboration with disability stakeholders, housing agencies, developers, and permitting authorities to help

ensure that projects benefiting from expedited permitting incorporate meaningful accessibility, usability, and inclusive design. Ongoing partnership can help this policy achieve its full intent of expanding housing opportunities for people with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit **supportive testimony for HB1700.**

Sincerely,



Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator



 808-733-7060

 808-737-4977

 1259 A'ala Street, Suite 300  
Honolulu, HI 96817

February 6, 2026

**The Honorable Luke A. Evslin, Chair**

House Committee on Housing

**The Honorable Mark J. Hashem**

House Committee on Water & Land

State Capitol, Conference Room 430 & Videoconference

**RE: House Bill 1700, Relating to Housing**

**HEARING: Friday, February 6, 2026, at 8:45 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Evslin, Chair Hashem, and Members of the Joint Committees:

My name is Lyndsey Garcia, Director of Advocacy, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawaii and its over 10,000 members. HAR **supports** House Bill 1700, which includes housing projects for individuals with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs as eligible projects to apply for expedited permits. Effective 7/2/2026. Repeals on 6/30/2031.

Delays or backlogs in the permitting process can significantly increase project costs and create uncertainty for housing development. This measure would make housing projects serving individuals with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs eligible for expedited permitting. These individuals can face additional barriers to stable and accessible housing which includes the need for specialized accommodation. Allowing these projects to qualify for expedited permitting would help reduce delays and support the timely delivery of housing for some of our State's most vulnerable residents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.





**February 6, 2026**

**House Committee on Housing  
Rep. Luke Evslin, Chair  
Rep. Tyson Miyake, Vice Chair**

**RE: HB1700, Relating to Housing**

Chair Evslin, Vice Chair Miyake, and members of the committee –

Navian Hawaii is a nonprofit organization supporting the needs of Hawai'i's aging population, including through hospice, palliative care, and integrated support services. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of** HB1700, Relating to Housing. This bill would include housing projects for individuals with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs as eligible projects to apply for expedited permits.

Hawai'i is undergoing a major demographic shift, with a rapidly aging population that will have profound implications for our healthcare infrastructure. In 2023, over 21% of Hawai'i's residents were aged 65 and older – a proportion that has been increasing and is projected to reach one in four by 2035. The fastest-growing segment includes those over 80 years old, a group that will require intensive levels of care, including skilled nursing, palliative, and hospice services.

As this trend continues, Hawai'i will face a dramatic rise in demand for inpatient and residential care facilities. Yet at present, constructing such facilities is exceptionally difficult due in large part to delays in the permitting process. One of our projects, on Gulick Ave, is expected to be stuck for two years in the Department of Planning and Permitting, critically delaying up to 20 beds from servicing our kūpuna. As our industry works to significantly increase the availability of beds, the problem will only worsen.

Expedited permitting for housing projects targeting individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs is a critical first step in addressing systemic inefficiencies. This will in turn support better health outcomes, offering more beds for the most vulnerable members of our population.

Navian Hawaii is a nonprofit organization supporting the needs of Hawai'i's aging population, including through hospice, palliative care, and integrated support services. The name "Navian" blends "Navigator" and "Guardian," reflecting our mission to guide individuals and their families through the physical and emotional challenges that often accompany aging and serious illness.

**Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.**



Housing Hawai'i's Future  
PO Box 3043  
Honolulu, HI 96802-3043

February 5, 2026

TO: Chair Evslin and Members of the House Committee on Housing  
Chair Hashem and Members of the House Committee on Water & Land  
RE: HB 1700, Relating to Housing

**LATE**

Dear Chair Evslin and Committee Members,

Housing Hawai'i's Future is a nonprofit dedicated to creating opportunities for Hawai'i's next generation by ending the workforce housing shortage.

**We strongly support House Bill 1700.** This measure recognizes the urgent need for more inclusive housing by allowing projects serving individuals with disabilities and those with access and functional needs to qualify for expedited permitting processes.

Expedited permitting is a proven strategy to reduce development delays and costs, which can be particularly burdensome for projects serving vulnerable populations. By explicitly including these housing projects, this measure addresses longstanding barriers that have limited the availability of accessible units and slowed progress toward a more inclusive housing landscape. This approach aligns with best practices in other jurisdictions that have sought to streamline development for underserved communities.

Let's expand housing opportunities for everyone. **Please advance House Bill 1700.**

Thank you,

A stylized, circular signature in black ink, appearing to be the name "Lee Wang".

Lee Wang  
Executive Director  
Housing Hawai'i's Future  
[lee@hawaiisfuture.org](mailto:lee@hawaiisfuture.org)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name "Perry Arrasmith".

Perry Arrasmith  
Director of Policy  
Housing Hawai'i's Future  
[perry@hawaiisfuture.org](mailto:perry@hawaiisfuture.org)

**HB-1700**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 5:16:34 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/6/2026 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. Mahalo.

**HB-1700**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:22:07 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/6/2026 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

**HB-1700**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 11:45:23 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/6/2026 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry Support

1700 HB RELATING TO HOUSING.