



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1742
RELATING TO HOUSING.**

REPRESENTATIVE LUKE A. EVSLIN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

REPRESENTATIVE MARK J. HASHEM, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: 02/06/2026, 8:45 am, 430

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (Department) offers comments and proposed
3 amendments.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Management Division, Wastewater Branch (EMD-
5 WWB) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

6 Section 1, pages 3-4, contains proposed definitions for “self-contained relocatable
7 housing units”. The Department has concerns about the proposed definition: “retains capability
8 for relocation without structural disassembly” and “operates independently of permanent
9 utilities using integrated or portable systems for power, water, and wastewater.”

10 Hawai'i Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 62 (HAR 11-62) section 11-62-06(e)
11 states: “(e) No holding tank, except for public facilities, and no privy shall be used. No portable
12 toilets shall be used for any permanent structure unless approved by the director.”

13 If self-contained relocatable housing units operate independently of permanent utilities
14 using integrated or portable systems for power, water, and wastewater, then the wastewater

1 system is a holding tank, which is not allowed for non-public facilities (e.g., privately-owned
2 structures) by the Department’s Wastewater Branch.

3 Section 1, pages 5-11 contains proposed statutes for self-contained relocatable housing
4 units and ministerial zoning permits. The Department would like to mention limitations in
5 wastewater disposal created by the following parts of the proposed statutes on page 8, lines
6 18-19, “(e) No building, electrical, or plumbing permit shall be required while the unit remains
7 relocatable and self-contained” and on page 8, lines 20-21 and page 9, line 6 “(f) A permit may
8 be revoked if the county finds clear and convincing evidence that the: . . . (3) Unit has been
9 affixed or connected to utilities; . . .”

10 Regardless of whether the self-contained relocatable housing unit operates
11 independently of permanent utilities using integrated or portable systems for power, water,
12 and wastewater, the wastewater effluent disposal system will be limited. In accordance with
13 the proposed statute, the self-contained relocatable housing unit is not allowed to connect to a
14 standard effluent disposal system such as an absorption bed, absorption trench, seepage pit, or
15 subsurface irrigation system because none of these standard effluent disposal systems are
16 portable. The only options for effluent disposal are:

- 17 1) Contracting continuous and frequent pumping and hauling from a registered
18 pumper-hauler service company or
- 19 2) Becoming a registered pumper-hauler with the Department’s Wastewater Branch
20 and continuously and frequently hauling the self-contained relocatable housing unit
21 to and pumping the wastewater effluent into the nearest wastewater septage
22 receiving facility.

23 **Offered Amendments:** The Department respectfully offers the following revisions to the
24 proposed measure. Amendments offered below are only for where we are making
25 recommendations for revision. We have highlighted and underlined text where we are

1 recommending replacement or addition. We have highlighted, bracketed, and struck through
2 text where we are recommending deletion. All other amendments are unchanged.

3 SECTION 3, Page 14, lines 16-18: "(c) The department of health ~~[shall]~~ may
4 ~~[promulgate]~~ adopt rules and regulations~~[,]~~ pursuant to chapter 91, necessary for the
5 administration of this section."

6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



 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 1742, 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 1742, which authorizes the construction and occupation of self-contained relocatable housing units, with certain restrictions.

Hawaii faces a severe housing shortage and self-contained relocatable housing is one option that can help to address our state's housing challenges. Self-contained relocatable housing is movable and can operate independently of utilities and can be completed faster at a lower cost than many traditional homes. Removing barriers for this type of housing can help expand housing options and increase the supply of homes across the state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



Feb. 6, 2026, 8:45 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 430 and Videoconference

To: House Committee on Housing

Rep. Luke Evslin, Chair

Rep. Tyson Miyake, Vice-Chair

House Committee on Water and Land

Rep. Mark Hashem, Chair

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice-Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1742 — RELATING TO HOUSING

Aloha chairs, vice chairs and other members of the committees,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [HB1742](#), which would establish a framework for regulating and permitting self-contained, relocatable housing — in other words, homes that can be moved without being disassembled.

These units would give Hawaii residents more housing options and could help families more easily attain homeownership, perhaps through buying a self-contained, movable home and a small plot of land while saving money for a site-built home.

This bill would require these homes to meet various federal rules for prefabricated homes and comply with local building codes. These homes would also have to be able to operate with independent power, sewer and water systems, which would make them perfect for rural or off-grid living.

Last, the bill would establish a permitting process for self-contained housing and require that the counties issue ministerial zoning permits for such housing within 30 days of receiving a complete application.

Hawaii's slow permitting process discourages innovative housing options such as the ones mentioned in this bill. According to the Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawai'i, the average permitting wait time across the state for single-family homes was 188 days over the past five years.¹

The state also suffers from a shortage of skilled tradespeople, which causes projects to take longer and cost more.²

Creating a streamlined permitting process for homes such as these would especially help Lahaina residents who were affected by the August 2023 wildfires.

People displaced by the fires could live in one of these units while waiting for building permits and rent it out once their permanent homes are complete.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

¹ Daniela Bond-Smith, Trey Gordner and Rachel Inafuku et al., "[The Hawaii Housing Factbook 2025](#)," Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawai'i, May 14, 2025, p. 27.

² "[Hawai'i Skilled Trades Workforce Analysis](#)," Hawaii Chamber of Commerce, May 2023.



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 1742, Relating to Housing

LATE

Dear Chairs Evslin, Hashem, 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 1742. This measure will enable a new form of housing that can provide immediate, flexible, and cost-effective options to meet urgent housing needs.

By authorizing the construction and occupation of these units under clear restrictions, the bill introduces a practical tool to increase housing inventory without requiring long-term land or infrastructure commitments. Allowing self-contained relocatable housing also supports the state's goals of resilience and adaptability. These units can be deployed quickly, relocated as community needs change, and may reduce barriers for individuals and families who are otherwise unable to access traditional housing.

Hawai'i presently enjoys the lowest rate of homeownership in the United States among young adults, specifically those under the age of 35. We need to expand housing opportunities for our young residents, especially those members of our workforce who want to stay in Hawai'i for decades to come.

Please advance House Bill 1742.

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

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

Perry Arrasmith
Director of Policy
Housing Hawai'i's Future
perry@hawaiisfuture.org



LATE

Modular Building Institute
285 Hydraulic Ridge Road, Suite 6
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901 USA

Esteemed chairs, vice chairs, and members of the committees,

As the voice of the modular building industry, the Modular Building Institute (MBI) represents over 700 modular building industry participants across the United States and the world.

We wanted to express our support, and thank you, for taking up consideration of HB1742. We believe that by allowing for the approval, fabrication, and siting of self-contained relocatable housing units using an off-site construction program will help alleviate Hawai'i's housing crisis.

As co-authors of the ICC/MBI 1200 standards for Off-site Construction: Planning, Design, Fabrication and Assembly and the ICC/MBI 1205 standards for Off-site Construction: Inspection and Regulatory Compliance, we are encouraged by the legislature's efforts to begin scaling up a regulatory framework for the modular building industry. One of the biggest barriers to our members' full participation in the Hawai'ian market is the patchwork of local regulations designed for the traditional, on-site construction industry.

Final adoption of HB1742 would be a meaningful first step in unleashing the full potential of the modular building industry's capacities to affordably and safely house Hawai'ians in structures built in Hawai'i by Hawai'ians. It also opens the door for our industry to support infrastructure development across critical sectors, including education and healthcare.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to future collaboration.

Sincerely,

Alex Carmack, Government Affairs Director
Email: alex@modular.org
Phone: 434-296-3288 x156

Andrew Muchnick, Government Affairs Manager
Email: andrew@modular.org
Phone: 434-296-3288 x164

HB-1742

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:21:15 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

HB-1742

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 11:35:01 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Comment include DHHL Johnnie-Mae L. Perry

1742 HB RELATING TO HOUSING.