

Sovereign Councils
of the



Hawaiian Homelands
Assembly

PO Box 2881
Waianae, HI 96792
Ph: 808.620.9070
Fax: 1.877.651.8177

Executive Leadership

Kamaki Kanahele
Chair, O'ahu
Kammy Purdy
Vice-Chair, Molokai
Lorraine Rapozo
Secretary, Kauai
Mike Hodson
Treasurer, Hawaii'i
Jared Aiwohi
Executive Officer, Maui
Mike Kahikina
Legislative Affairs, Chair
Robin Danner
Public Policy, Chair
Uilani Hew Len
Finance Officer
Kalena. Hew Len
Kahu

Committee Chairs

Kali Watson
Economic Develop & Housing
Myron Brumaghim
Dr. Margie Maaka
Education
Helen O'Connor
Health
Puni Kekauoha
Youth Leadership
Al Harrington
Tourism & Visitor Industry
Ivan Lui Kwan
Renewable Energy
Vacant
Farming & Ranching
Branscom Richmond
Film & Media Industry

Administration

Annie Au Hoon
Administrator

August 19, 2015

**To: Chair Ikaika Anderson & Members
Committee on Zoning & Planning
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

**From: Kali Watson
Chairman of Statewide Economic/Housing Development
SCHHA
Honolulu, Hawaii 96792**

**Re: Hearing on Bill 20, (2014) on ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS
August 20, 2015 at 9:00 am
Committee Meeting Room**

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK
C & C OF HONOLULU
2015 AUG 19 AM 10:57

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Dear Chair Anderson and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Bill 20 (2015) concerning the creation of alternate housing using Accessory Dwelling Units.

With over 10,566 native Hawaiians on the DHHL residential waiting list for Oahu and 22,450 statewide as of December 31, 2014, affordable housing is a critical priority. One estimate has more than 4,093 homeless people living on Oahu's streets and beaches with a large number of them being native Hawaiians. Many suffer severe social, health and economic problems. Many are children. Hawaiians are the largest population of homeless and most live on the Waianae coast.

The primary housing developer for Hawaiians is DHHL. However, with its \$600 million settlement money coming to an end, fewer and fewer people being able to qualify for large mortgages needed for the new residential housing being built by the Department's contractors, it's time to look at ways to help its beneficiaries in other effective ways, especially those not in a position to buy a home because of social/economic problems that plaque so many of our beneficiaries. They makeup many of the homeless Hawaiians. A combination of rental housing and resource centers used to better position them through counseling and access to employment and education are steps in the right direction. This is where the City's proposed Accessory Dwelling Units bill can help, when combined with these other sources.

There are presently 3,921 residential homestead lots in Kapole, Nanakuli m town, Waianae and Waimanlo. These all could possibly qualify for the installation of an ADU. Theoretically, of the 5,000 homeless, with probably 34% being Hawaiians, these units would easily provide immediate relief in the form of permanent rental housing. Additionally, the homesteaders or homeowners would receive rental income to assist on their mortgage payments and other household expenses. The mutual benefits are obvious and clearly a practical and less costly approach to address the homeless situation. This is a viable and probably more acceptable approach rather than putting up a collection of concentrated homeless shelters. Individual members in the communities or owners of these ADUs become part of the solution with a vested interest in the success of having rent paying tenants who lead more socially acceptable and productive lives. These new tenants become less financially burdensome to our taxpayers and are more likely positioned to be transformed into productive members of our communities.

Doing it this way will result in success and eliminate blight or eyesores in the community. Social programs and access to ideally located service/education facilities also make sense. The various homestead communities existing on Oahu are ideally located, close to where most of the homeless are situated. Ideally, community learning centers and charter schools already exist in these areas. Social agencies with their various resources and programs are located in or close to these homestead areas, especially on the leeward coast where the homeless problem is the worst – Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, Kamehameha Schools, QLCC, the Waianae Maritime Academy, Na Mea, Charter Schools such as Ka Waihona, Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association (NaHHA), Native Hawaiian Homestead Associations, CNHA, Hawaiian Community Assets, UHWO, OHA, and UH's Ho'okulaiwi teachers program.

A good example is the Nanakuli Village Center. The Nanakuli Hawaiian Homestead Community Association is working with the private sector, Hawaiian Community Development Board, Kamehameha Schools, Waianae Comp., Ho'okulaiwi and UHWO to fulfill their dream of a place where it's people can find social services, health clinics, commercial enterprise and a large learning/community center. The City must work with communities like Nanakuli if it hopes to solve or lessen the homeless problem by facilitating the installation of ADU. Nanakuli, has 1,049 existing, large homestead lots.

Such an initiative requires significant planning, some financial and personnel commitments on the part of the City. The first step is to have this Council pass Bill 20, and then the mayor sign it into law.

The Sovereign Councils of the Hawaiian Homelands Assembly, formerly the State Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations was founded more than 25

August 19, 2015

years ago to unite homestead communities and to advocate for the beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1921. The SCHHA is the oldest statewide advocacy organization representing the interests of more than 30,000 beneficiaries and families residing in the communities of the Hawaiian Home Land Trust. Its mission is to promote the self determination of native Hawaiians and the well-being of homestead communities. As Chairman of Economic/Housing /Committee, I can appreciate the importance of building affordable rental housing. Bill 20 (2015) is a step in the right direction. This would be extremely helpful in addressing the lack of affordable housing for our homeless population.

I respectfully urge you to pass Bill 20 (2015).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kali Watson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kali Watson

Chairman of Housing/Economic Development