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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL 47: RELATING TO ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

TO: Chair Ron Menor; and Members, Honolulu City Council
FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer
Hearing: **Wednesday, April 26, 2017; 10:00 AM**

Chair Menor, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Honolulu City Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of Bill 47, which would extend the repeal date in Ordinance 16-19 for ADU fees, until June 20, 2020. I am Terry Walsh, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. Creating affordable rental housing is one of our top priorities.

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. CCH has programs serving elders, children, developmentally disabled, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Ending homelessness is a top priority for 2017. We see the creation of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) as significant resource to provide many rental units on Oahu at a fairly minimal cost to the City.

The State of Hawaii will produce under 200 units of new rental housing with the \$25,000,000 just allocated to the Rental Housing Revolving Fund for FY 18. The City can encourage hundreds of rental units to be built as ADUs at a very low cost to the City compared with State subsidized housing projects. This bill would provide incentives to private homeowners to consider building a small rental unit next to their existing home. Models for ADUs are now becoming available which can streamline the process for homeowners uncertain of how to proceed. The ADU build as a model on the State Capitol lawn received much interest.

We believe that if the city continues to promote ADUs, this will result in significantly more rental units being built. We urge you to extend the ADU sunset date as a very practical way to provide support to homeowners to consider this needed option. Extending the sunset would provide time for homeowners to look at the various ADU models which are coming on the market and select one that best suits their property.

We know we have a crisis in affordable housing. We know we are #1 rate in the nation for homelessness per capita. We need to support initiatives like ADUs and give them the flexibility to be successful.

We urge you to support this bill to work towards our goal of creating more rental housing on Oahu and ending homelessness in Hawaii. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at 373-0356, or at bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org, if you have any questions.

MISC. COM. 2238

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