

From: Windward Ahupua`a Alliance [info@waa-hawaii.org]
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Cc:
Subject: Council Meeting/Public Hearing Testimony

**HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING**

10:15 AM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2006
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Bill 17- Buses Used for the Homeless - Exempt from motor vehicle weight tax

STRONGLY SUPPORT

The *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance*, a **501c3** non-profit corporation, actively supports public policies at all three levels of government which promote sustainability and *quality-of-life* issues. These include: Long-term waste management planning 10 to 50 years out; tightening and improving littering/illegal dumping/derelect vehicle legislation & enforcement; developing & implementing a comprehensive curbside recycling program here on O`ahu; establishing a county-level "legacy lands" fund to support affordable housing initiatives & critical land purchases to protect against development; and setting long-term watershed protection policies based upon *ahupua`a* concepts & principles using the **Ko`olau Greenbelt & Heritage Trails System** as one model.

WAA is also actively involved in homelessness & affordable housing, health, educational, sustainable economic development, and environmental justice issues.

Although this testimony is not submitted on behalf of the other organizations with which I am involved who have made addressing homelessness & affordable housing a public policy priority, I can assure you that all of them are in strong support of this initiative.

Can you imagine what happened to people over the past couple of weeks who live on the beach when the rains came? If we'd had this program already in operation even with just one bus, up to a dozen people - including children and older women - would have had some shelter.

I urge that you pass **Bill 17** out. Any reduction in cost to put the program on the road, so to speak, would be a great benefit to all.

Mahalo for your support.

Shannon Wood, (*Very*) Interim President
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