



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

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The Honorable Stacy Crivello, Chair
Housing, Human Services, and Transportation Committee
200 S. High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Subject: Proposed Bill Amending 2.96 Relating to Rental Housing Credits... HHT-2(1)

Aloha Chair Crivello and County Council Members,

I am here on representing Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) on Maui and our CCH Housing Development Corporation (HDC).

I am in favor of this Bill Amending 2.96 Relating to Rental Housing Credits. Housing credits help build affordable housing, whether that's homeownership or rentals. We are in desperate need of affordable housing and are not building enough to fill the needs of our community because right now there is a rental shortage. You know that saying, "build it and they will come," well they did come but we haven't built it, we haven't gotten close to building the amount of affordable housing our community needs.

These housing credits will help CCH build 164 affordable and low-income rental units. As you know affordable can mean many things but to the seniors of this housing it means that those seniors at 60% AMI and below have a place to rent that includes electricity, water and refuse. This in turn will help increase the rental inventory and help the people in our community, some of which may be homeless get into low-income rental housing.

The passing of this bill is an additional step in providing needed affordable housing on Maui. I hope you will support the amendment changes to Chapter 2.96 Relating to Rental Housing Credits.

Thank you so much for your commitment to Maui's housing needs!

Thelma Akita-Kealoha

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