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November 16, 2016

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

Subject: Amendments to the Residential Workforce Housing Policy... HHT-2

Dear Chair Crivello:

I am writing on behalf of Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) on Maui. I am sure you are aware of our continued work on homelessness and affordable housing. The passing of this bill is an additional step in reaching our goal to provide needed affordable housing on Maui. We are really excited and look forward to working with you on a proposed project for Kane/Vivau Street. This proposed bill would help us make this happen and benefit the people we work with on a daily basis!

Catholic Charities Hawaii is one of a few non-profit housing developers in Hawaii and we feel fortunate that even on Maui we have access to this Development Corporation. Our CCH Housing and Development Corporation is currently in the process of obtaining financing and approvals for our proposed Kahului Lani phased low-income master planned senior rental project located at the corner of Kane Street and Vevau Street, targeting renters at or below 60% of the Area Median Income. The project consists of two buildings with a total of 164 1-bedroom/1-bath rental units and a resident manager's unit, and a multi-purpose building. On Oahu, CCHDC is under construction with a master planned 301 unit low-income senior rental Meheula Vista project in Mililani Mauka.

I support the draft revision to Chapter 2.96 Residential Workforce Housing Policy which includes housing credits for rental units. I am hoping that you will also support this bill.

This bill will increase our chances of getting finances for this project and make this project a reality for Maui people. The proposed bill will help our Maui folks, some of which may be homeless and our clients, get into new low-income rental housing.

We really want to be part of the solution for Maui's affordable housing needs and ask you to please vote in favor of these changes.

Very truly yours,

Thelma Akita-Kealoha, Maui Community Director

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