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February 26, 2019

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

RE: HB 257, HD1 and HB 1451, HD2 Relating to Homelessness

The County of Hawai'i fully supports HB 257, HD1, and HB 1451, HD2, since each would extend the three- year pilot projects dealing with homelessness by an extra year. HB 257, HD1 is the better bill because it has the added provision that would broaden the scope of the Ohana Zones Pilot Program by allowing for partnerships on private land. This added flexibility is critical, and likely would provide an opportunity to expedite the construction of appropriate housing for individuals experiencing homelessness.

The Sacred Hearts and Hale Iki emergency housing projects on the Island of Hawai'i are a direct result of two separate government and private sector partnerships that led to the creation of thirty temporary housing solutions for survivors of the recent Kilauea eruptions.

Hawai'i County asks that you vote "Yes" on HB 257, HD1, and HB 1451, HD2, but we urge that authorization of partnerships utilizing private land be included in whatever vehicle is forwarded to the full House for action. The added flexibility would be a positive way of implementing the pilot project and maximizing its potential for success.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR