

**Harry Kim**  
*Mayor*



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March 18, 2019

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Committee on Human Services

Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair  
Committee on Housing

Dear Chairs Ruderman and Chang, Vice Chairs Rhoads and Kanuha, and Committee Members:

**RE: HB 257, HD2 Relating to Homelessness**

The County of Hawai'i fully supports HB 257, HD2, since it would extend the three- year pilot project dealing with homelessness by an extra year, and 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 more opportunities 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, HD2, and that authorization of partnerships utilizing private land be included in whatever vehicle is forwarded to WAM for action. The added flexibility would be a positive way of expanding the pilot project and maximizing its potential for success.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim  
MAYOR