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March 25, 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: SB 1131, SD2, HD1 Relating to Ohana Zones**

Two bills dealing with Ohana Zones are still alive this legislative session. SB 1131, SD2, HD1 is the one before you today. The other is a bill passed by the House earlier, HB 257, HD2.

SB 1131, SD2, HD1 is positive in that it broadens the scope of the Ohana Zones Pilot Program by potentially including "private property owned by non-profit organizations."

But HB 257, HD2 had a broader provision that would allow for partnerships on any private land, which enhances flexibility and, therefore, is most likely to 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.

Unless there is strong reason to narrow the scope, I hope you will expand on SB 1131, HD1 by adding the best features of HB 257, HD2. Increased flexibility would be a positive way of implementing the pilot project and maximizing its potential for success.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim  
MAYOR