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April 1, 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 470, HD1 Relating to Homelessness

Your Committee previously dealt with Ohana Zones in SB 1131, SD2, HD1 and HB 257, HD2, SD1, both of which are still alive. Now you have before you a third bill, SB 470, HD1.

We support any measure that 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 extend the pilot programs, and allow broad leeway in finding locations that are suitable for developing and managing homeless services. Increased flexibility would be a positive way of implementing the pilot projects and maximizing their potential for success.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR