



**SB1307**

**RELATING TO LAND USE**

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
Senate Committee on Housing

February 14, 2017

1:15 p.m.

Room 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee will recommend that the Board of Trustees **COMMENT** on SB1307, which may foster community-driven strategies that can effectively represent the interests local residents, in the realization of much-needed or much-desired infrastructure improvement, economic development, and other revitalization activities. **OHA believes that the benefits of this measure may be particularly needed by a number of Native Hawaiian communities, who have long-sought infrastructure and other much-needed improvements to their neighborhoods.**

OHA appreciates this measure's recognition of the potential for on-the-ground grassroots engagement, to facilitate the planning and implementation of community-appropriate improvements at the neighborhood level. The neighborhood revitalization boards proposed in this measure may serve as vehicles for neighborhoods to assemble their interests and amplify their concerns, to obtain the resources and government response needed for locally-tailored neighborhood improvements.

OHA notes that this measure does give "preference" to neighborhoods that fall under certain criteria relating to transit-oriented development and the Housing and Urban Development neighborhood revitalization strategy area program. However, OHA believes that this bill could serve a number of other neighborhoods in need of revitalization. **OHA has a vested interest in the health, safety, and well-being of Native Hawaiians, which includes the status of those neighborhoods with large populations of Native Hawaiians – like Wai'anae and Waimānalo - that could greatly benefit from revitalization.** Residents of Wai'anae and Waimānalo neighborhoods have long been concerned with deficiencies in their current neighborhood infrastructure, particularly with ever-growing population demands – traffic and traffic safety being among the most vocalized concerns. OHA believes that the neighborhood revitalization boards established through this measure could provide an effective mechanism for these neighborhoods and communities to finally get the support they need.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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February 14, 2017

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Public Safety,  
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Housing  
Hawaii State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Nishihara, Espero, and Committee Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 1307  
Relating to Land Use

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **supports** Senate Bill No. 1307, which would allow county councils to establish Neighborhood Revitalization Boards (NRB) to foster advocacy and grass roots planning and project implementation.

While the City already has well-established neighborhood boards, they are at once, both limited in their powers and very broad in their issues. The proposed NRBs would depend on local stakeholders to develop geographic boundaries based on revitalization issues and desires. The NRBs would focus on moving forward specific improvements geared towards physical and economic improvements to their neighborhoods.

We see this Bill as bringing together government, the public and members of the business community in a innovative way to help revitalize our neighborhoods. Please pass Senate Bill No. 1307.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy K. Sokugawa".

Kathy K. Sokugawa  
Acting Director

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 11, 2017 5:38 PM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** blawaiianlvr@icloud.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1307 on Feb 14, 2017 13:15PM

**SB1307**

Submitted on: 2/11/2017

Testimony for PSM/HOU on Feb 14, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments: We FULLY SUPPORT this bill, as it will greatly enhance the ability of the Wai`anae Coast to revitalize our community.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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