



House Committee on Finance

Board of Directors:

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action strongly supports: SB 99

Gary L. Hooser

President

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Cullen and members of the Committee,

Andrea N. Brower

Joshua D. I. Mori

Co-Vice Presidents

My name is Anne Frederick and I am the Executive Director for the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA). HAPA is a statewide environmental, social and economic justice organization. HAPA engages over 10,000 local residents annually through our work.

Ikaika M. Hussey

Treasurer

From October through December of 2016 HAPA and several of our partners held a series of input gathering forums across the islands called the People's Congress. Over 800 people attended forums on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui and Hawai'i Island to discuss the most pressing issues facing their communities. The lack of affordable housing was one of the top concerns and priorities raised by residents across the state.

Paul Achitoff

Malia K. Chun

Bart E. Dame

Laura Harrelson

Kim Coco Iwamoto

Katie McMillan

Walter Ritte Jr.

Karen Shishido

Leslie Malu Shizue Miki

Kekaulike Prosper Tomich

Cade Watanabe

I am writing in strong support of SB 99 which aims to increase the availability of Sec. 8 units, by prohibiting any county from disqualifying a legal nonconforming dwelling unit from the housing choice voucher program if the unit meets zoning and building code requirements and other program standards such as health and safety standards.

SB99 is an important measure for the housing voucher program. I urge you to support SB99. Thank you kindly for considering HAPA's testimony in strong support of the measure.

Respectfully,

Anne Frederick, Executive Director
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2017 5:21 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: maxinekla@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB99 on Apr 4, 2017 15:00PM*

SB99

Submitted on: 4/2/2017

Testimony for FIN on Apr 4, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Maxine Anderson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2017 11:40 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rezentesc@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB99 on Apr 4, 2017 15:00PM

SB99

Submitted on: 4/3/2017

Testimony for FIN on Apr 4, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cynthia K.L. Rezentes | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Aloha, I support the intent of this bill but am concerned with the language in the bill not being clear enough to discern that multiple "units" may be allowed under an approved nonconforming unit. Could this mean the one unit (a house for example even though there are multiple "apartments/units" within the house) or is it legally understood that a unit is defined as a self-contained dwelling that includes, a kitchen, shower, etc. to be considered a unit? Some clarification might make this a better bill so as not be confused with various definitions of unit. Mahalo, Cynthia K.L. Rezentes

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
 Sent: Monday, April 3, 2017 3:50 PM
 To: FINTestimony
 Cc: maileshimabukuro@yahoo.com
 Subject: Submitted testimony for SB99 on Apr 4, 2017 15:00PM

SB99

Submitted on: 4/3/2017

Testimony for FIN on Apr 4, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Boyd Akase | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Testimony in Support of SB 99. My name is Boyd Akase. I am a landlord that rents privately owned housing units to Section 8 tenants, and I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 99. The bill helps to eliminate artificial impediments to a landlord renting out multiple units to multiple Section 8 tenants if those units are on one lot, i.e., duplexes and triplexes. My situation is probably one that is fairly common. I recently inherited a parcel of land where the structure is "legal nonconforming (grandfathered)". This is a situation where an additional structure or enclosure was built, most likely years ago, but not properly permitted. Rather than call for the destruction of the unit or enclosure, the respective county sometimes classifies the structure as "legal nonconforming" for permitting purposes and taxes the improvement accordingly. Thus, if you physically enter the property, you would see two or three livable units that would individually pass a Section 8 quality inspection. However, if you were to check real property tax records, the records would show only one unit, albeit, a legal nonconforming one. Because the law allows that a landlord can only rent a "unit" to one Section 8 tenant, the legal nonconforming units can only be occupied by one Section 8 tenant. Put another way, the legal nonconforming structure can only house one Section 8 renter despite the fact that there may be two or three units on the lot that would otherwise pass a Section 8 inspection. This legal fiction prevents private landlords, like myself, from renting to multiple section 8 tenants. If landlords are inclined to do so, we should be allowed to do so. If any of you have further questions, I can be reached at the email address below. Thank you for your time and support of this measure. ~ Sincerely, Boyd Akase boydakase@hawaiiantel.net

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
 Sent: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 7:47 AM
 To: FINTestimony
 Cc: dkapua@gmail.com
 Subject: Submitted testimony for SB99 on Apr 4, 2017 15:00PM

SB99

Submitted on: 4/4/2017

Testimony for FIN on Apr 4, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: I SUPPORT SB 99 - RELATING TO THE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM. Prohibits any county from disqualifying a legal nonconforming dwelling unit from the Housing Choice Voucher Program if the unit meets zoning and building code requirements and other program standards such as health and safety standards. this measure is to prohibit any county from disqualifying a legal nonconforming dwelling unit from the Housing Choice Voucher Program if the unit meets zoning and building code requirements and other program standards such as health and safety standards. Today's financial environment requires government to be more flexible and adaptable to assist people's housing options. Yesterday's limitations are outdated, especially now, when there are more multiple housing units on single TMKS. PASSAGE OF SB 99 is beneficial to all Hawaii. Mahalo for allowing my testimony.

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