

Resolution 22-2 Testimony

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 8:29 AM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony
Attachments: 20220110082832_Hon_City_Council_Res_22-2_Testimony_011022.pdf

Written Testimony

Name Trisha Kajimura
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Meeting Date 01-11-2022
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item Res 22-2
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization
Organization
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment 20220110082832_Hon_City_Council_Res_22-2_Testimony_011022.pdf
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67



Testimony in Support of Resolution 22-2 Homelessness Action Plan

TO: Council of the City and County of Honolulu
Committee on Housing and the Economy

FROM: Heather Lusk, Executive Director

DATE: January 10, 2022

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) works with many individuals who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health issues, including those relating to substance use and underlying mental health conditions. Many of our clients and participants have been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse. Some of these individuals experience homelessness and receive related services. HHRC has several programs that are part of the continuum of care for people experiencing homelessness, from street outreach and youth mobile crisis outreach to mobile medical services, case management and homelessness prevention services.

HHRC supports Resolution 22-2 and looks forward to an update of the City's Homeless Action Plan. This plan helps all stakeholders understand the totality of services being provided to address homelessness in the City, will encourage further partnership and help to increase efficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 3:37 PM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony
Attachments: 20220110153710_City-_Reso_22-2_and_22-3-Action_Plan_10_yr_Plan-Hsing-Economy_Comm_1-11-22.docx

Written Testimony

Name Rob Van Tassell
Phone
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Meeting Date 01-11-2022
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item Resolutions 22-2 and 22-3
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization
Organization Catholic Charities Hawaii
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment 20220110153710_City-_Reso_22-2_and_22-3-Action_Plan_10_yr_Plan-Hsing-Economy_Comm_1-11-22.docx
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF:

RESOLUTION 22-2: Homeless Action Plan

RESOLUTION 22-3: Affordable Rental Housing Report and Ten-Year Plan

TO: Committee on Housing and the Economy, City Council, City & County of Honolulu

FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i

Hearing: Tuesday, January 11, 2022; 10:30 AM

Chair Kia'aina, and Members, Committee on Housing and the Economy:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to support **Resolution 22-2**, which requests an update on the City Administration's Action Plan to address the needs of homeless persons on O'ahu and **Resolution 22-3**, which requests the City Administration to provide an update to the Council on the status of the City's Implementation of the recommendations from the Affordable Rental Housing Report and Ten-Year Plan and other efforts to address the affordable housing crisis. I am Rob Van Tassell, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 70 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless persons, and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i applauds the City for its many new projects developed over the last few years to address homelessness. From small housing projects for the homeless to resources like Punawai clinic, to creating new initiatives along with the State utilizing Ohana Zone projects, much has happened. Larger affordable housing projects, like the Iwilei affordable project and others in development, are critical also to increase the housing stock to prevent homelessness. After two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, it seems an appropriate time to relook at both the Homeless Action Plan and the Ten-Year Housing Plan.

It would be helpful to have an update on how the City might adapt their approaches given the disruptions caused during the pandemic. Updating the status of implementation of the Affordable Rental Housing Report and the Ten-Year Housing Plan could also serve as impetus to further collaborations on housing. These updates could identify other important and creative steps that could be taken to solve the current crisis of homelessness and affordable housing.

As a member of Partners in Care, Catholic Charities Hawai'i appreciates the ongoing collaboration that we and our Continuum of Care have with the City. We look forward to the updates from Resolutions 22-2 and 22-3 to continue to move us forward as we work together.

Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.



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From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 9:23 AM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony
Attachments: 20220111092259_Resolution_22-2_2022_Testimony.pdf

Written Testimony

Name Ashleigh Loa
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Meeting Date 01-11-2022
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item 22-2
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization
Organization Faith Action for Community Equity
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment 20220111092259_Resolution_22-2_2022_Testimony.pdf
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67



**Testimony of Faith Action for Community Equity
City Council
City & County of Honolulu
Resolution 22-2 (2022)
(Relating to the Homeless Action Plan)
Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 10:30 A.M.**

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Faith Action for Community Equity is a grassroots, interfaith 501c3 nonprofit organization driven by a deep spiritual commitment to improving the quality of life for all who live in Hawaii. Our members work together to address the root causes of systemic justice challenges facing our communities.

Aloha Chair Kia'āina, and Members of the Council Committee on Housing and the Economy:

Faith Action for Community Equity writes in **SUPPORT** of Resolution 22-2, which requests the City Administration to provide an update on the City's Homeless Action Plan. An updated plan would reflect on past city efforts, set new goals and actions, and streamline the identification and acquisition of property for temporary housing. It would help these individuals and families get off the street and into homes.

The City and County of Honolulu have long had some of the highest rates of homelessness in the nation, largely due to a lack of affordable housing. In fact – in 2020 – the O'ahu Point in Time Count estimated that there were nearly 4,500 homeless individuals in Honolulu. The COVID-19 pandemic has only made matters worse. We must reverse this trend now.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Resolution 22-2

**HOMELESS ACTION PLAN. Requesting an update on the status of the City Administration's
Action Plan to address the needs of homeless persons on O'ahu
Committee on Housing and the Economy**

January 11, 2022

10:30 AM

Room 205

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), a member-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to enhance the cultural, economic, political, and community development of Native Hawaiians, **SUPPORTS** Resolution 22-2, which requests a number of updates from the City's Administration regarding initiatives to address homeless that stem from and are connected to the City's 2013 "Action Plan to Address the Public Health and Safety Issues Associated with Concentrations of Homelessness Persons in the City and County of Honolulu" (Resolution 13-55, CD1).

CNHA is deeply concerned with homelessness/houselessness in the State of Hawai'i, with a strong emphasis on the narrative that the Native Hawaiian population is overrepresented among houseless households and individuals in their own ancestral homeland. According to the 2021 Shelter Point in Time Count (PIT), of the 1,555 homeless individuals identified, 638 were Native Hawaiian, comprising approximately 41% of the total PIT population. It is CNHA's understanding that a more accurate account of the actual homeless population is likely far-greater than the numbers accounted for during the PIT, however, the same disproportionality, or worst, persists. CNHA would also like to emphasize that this impression of homelessness is even further exacerbated by taking into consideration the State's "hidden homeless;" individuals temporarily residing with family or friends and who have no guarantee of long-term housing and no immediate prospects for acquiring it.

Homelessness has been a crisis in this State for decades. CNHA has had the privilege of partnering with the City to provide over 10,000 families with rental and utilities assistance during the pandemic. However, the pandemic has and continues to worsen the economic hardship experienced by so many Hawai'i residents, who have long-struggled with the kind of financial fragility that places them a single paycheck away from homelessness. This is a clear

indicator that the homeless crisis, as it is interconnected with the many other crises endured by Hawai'i residents, from economic to environmental, will only worsen in the years to come. For this very reason, CNHA supports this resolution to convene an update on the City's Homeless Action Plan.

CNHA also requests that the City Council considers that in the decade since the establishment of this Homeless Action Plan, it has become evident that previously employed strategies to effectively mitigate and solve the homeless crisis have fallen short. This is not to say that the many gracious efforts to serve one of our most vulnerable populations have not succeeded, but rather, that far more – including 'outside-the-box' strategies – needs to be endeavored in order to bring an end to homelessness in Hawai'i.

Notably, Native Hawaiians suffer from trans-generational trauma and distrust that is rooted in a history of injustice, systemic oppression, and institutionalized racism. This trauma is connected to current socio-economic and health hardships for Native Hawaiians, such as poverty and homelessness. Addressing the Native Hawaiian homeless population with blanket strategies employed to assist all may lack the necessary socially-culturally appropriate solutions and sensitivity needed to make meaningful progress with ending homelessness. With that said, CNHA urges the City Council to create opportunities where non-profit organizations may play a far-more effective role in developing solutions to the homeless crisis.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Respectfully,

J. Kūhiō Lewis, CEO
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement