

Resolution 22-3 Testimony

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 8:31 AM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony
Attachments: 20220110083104_Hon_City_Council_Res_22-3_Testimony_011022.pdf

Written Testimony

Name Trisha Kajimura
Phone
Email tkajimura@hhhrc.org
Meeting Date 01-11-2022
Council/PH Committee Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item Res 22-3
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization
Organization
Written Testimony
Testimony Attachment 20220110083104_Hon_City_Council_Res_22-3_Testimony_011022.pdf
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

Testimony in Support of Resolution 22-3 Ten Year Housing 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 (HHHRC) 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. HHHRC 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.

Lack of affordable housing is an ongoing barrier to the stabilization of our clients. [As noted by the Corporation for Supportive Housing](#), "Access to safe, quality, affordable housing – and the supports necessary to maintain that housing – constitute one of the most basic and powerful social determinants of health. ***[For] individuals and families trapped in a cycle of crisis and housing instability due to extreme poverty, trauma, violence, mental illness, addiction or other chronic health conditions, housing can entirely dictate their health and health trajectory. For these populations, housing is a necessary precursor of health.***" (emphasis added)

HHHRC supports Resolution 22-3 and looks forward to an update on the status of the implementation of the recommendations from the affordable rental housing report and ten-year plan and other efforts to address the affordable housing crisis.

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	
Email	bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org
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 9:24 AM
Subject: Housing and the Economy Testimony
Attachments: 20220111092333_Resolution_22-3_2022_Testimony.pdf

Written Testimony

Name	Ashleigh Loa
Phone	
Email	aloa@faithactionhawaii.org
Meeting Date	01-11-2022
Council/PH Committee	Housing and the Economy
Agenda Item	22-3
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing	Organization
Organization	Faith Action for Community Equity
Written Testimony	
Testimony Attachment	20220111092333_Resolution_22-3_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 22-3 (2022)

(Affordable Rental Housing Report and Ten-Year 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 22-3, which requests for the City Administration to provide an update on the status of the City's implementation of the Affordable Rental Housing Report, the Ten-Year Plan, and other efforts passed by the Hawai'i State Legislature.

The lack of affordable housing in our City and County has become one of Honolulu's most significant and challenging problems. Every day, the destructive effects of this shortage are becoming more prevalent. Housing prices have skyrocketed, the homeless population has increased alarmingly, and a growing number of young people and their families have been forced to leave their communities behind. This must change. Our City and Council must take a comprehensive, focused approach to address this crisis.

We thank the City for working hard to address the affordable housing crisis in the past decade, but we need to do more. An update would increase government collaboration, streamline further development, and bring us closer to solving this crisis. We need your help to make it a reality.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Resolution 22-3

AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING REPORT AND TEN-YEAR PLAN. Requesting 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
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 22-3, which requests the City Administration to provide an update to the Council on the status of the City's implementation of the Affordable Rental Housing Report and Ten-Year Plan and several associated ordinances.

The Native Hawaiian community suffers the most disproportionate impact as a result of Hawai'i's housing crisis. According to the Aloha United Way's 2020 ALICE: A Study of Financial Hardship In Hawai'i report, Native Hawaiian households were the most disproportionately represented with 54% below the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed ("ALICE") threshold. In a follow-up ALICE 2021 COVID Report, Native Hawaiians (in addition to Other Pacific Islanders, Native American, and Alaskan Native) "experienced the highest percentage of job loss among all reporting ethnic groups" and "the highest presence of significant health issues by race and ethnicity."

In addition to the sheer prominence of the very high economic hurdle to living in the State of Hawai'i, the Native Hawaiian population uniquely struggles with historic injustices in these islands, which have resulted in the loss of ancestral lands, land ownership, financial security and stability, in addition to the establishment of systemic oppression and institutionalized racism, which continue work against a great many Native Hawaiians, especially in terms of upward social mobility in this State.

The State of Hawai'i is a place that often celebrates its diversity, while at the same time, turning a blind eye to the meticulous attention needed to effectively satisfy that diversity. Very

generalized and blanket solutions are often employed to address incredibly complicated issues that have obviously resulted in no effective impact on our numerous crises: housing, homeless, economic, environmental.

Strategies employed by the State and its counties to address the housing crisis has often left Native Hawaiians by the wayside, creating a major equity issue that is almost always ignored and has yet to be addressed to any meaningful degree. To emphasize, the rehabilitative benefit to the restoration of ancestral lands and the significance of property as a cultural resource/asset are core elements of home-ownership that carry great weight with Native Hawaiians that may also be of little significance to other resident-communities in this State, yet, these elements should be considered as a fundamental need with no less regard than the need, itself, for affordable housing. These core elements, themselves, are integral pieces to developing community-specific affordable housing models that require significant detraction from cookie-cutter developments in order to circumvent existing hurdles, like costs (or zoning), that have often disenfranchised Native Hawaiians. Hawai'i needs fresh, progressive, incredibly creative, new ideas to tackle these long-standing problems.

CNHA respectfully requests that the City Council create opportunities for community-oriented service organizations to meaningfully and effectively participate in developing affordable housing strategies and solutions for the communities that we are positioned to serve, for the greater benefit of all in this State.

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

Respectfully,

J. Kūhiō Lewis, CEO
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement