

**RES22-195
Testimony**

MISC. COMM. 361

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Sep 7, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Robert Van Tassell	Email: diane.terada@catholiccharitieshawaii.org	Zip: 96822
Representing: Catholic Charities Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 2, 2022 @ 09:45 AM



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

**RE: RESOLUTION 22-195: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF AUTHORIZING THE
LEASE OF CITY PROPERTY TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII FOR SPECIAL
NEEDS HOUSING**

TO: The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair & Presiding Officer
& Members of the City Council

FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO
Catholic Charities Hawaii

Hearing: Wednesday, September 7, 2022, 10:00 a.m., City Council Chamber

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **IN SUPPORT** of Resolution 22-195 –
Authorizing the Lease of City Property to Catholic Charities Hawaii for Special Needs Housing.

Catholic Charities Hawaii supports the provision of affordable rental housing inventory in our state. The Kunawai Small Group has operated at the City property located at **710 Kunawai Lane, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 (TMK: (1) 1-7-037:044)** since 1988 as an affordable permanent housing option for low to moderate income individuals, age 62 and older.

Our Housing Assistance Program (HAP) provides the oversight of this project, which provides a low-cost housing option for senior adults. This shared housing option provides private bedrooms for each of five (5) senior adults, with common areas for shared use and care. This is one of two City properties leased by Catholic Charities Hawaii to provide an affordable housing option for senior adults. Each tenant pays rent on a sliding scale basis and shares in the cleaning of common areas (kitchen, bathroom, etc.) used.

Sixty-five (65) percent of HAP clients have income below the Federal poverty level (currently \$15,630/year for a 1-person household). Many must wait years for housing they can afford and often must move multiple times in order to avoid homelessness before they are able to find an affordable unit that they can safely live out their remaining years. The Kunawai Small Group Home provides this type of safe and affordable housing option for senior adults.

We ask for your support to adopt this resolution to lease this property to Catholic Charities Hawaii to continue providing this low cost housing option for senior adults. Thank you for your consideration of this Resolution.