

**RES22-198
Testimony**

MISC. COMM. 364

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

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

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Venus Rosete-Medeiros	Email: venus@halekipa.org	Zip: 96706-1911
Representing: Hale Kipa, Inc.	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 2, 2022 @ 10:39 AM



September 2, 2022

The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair and Presiding Officer
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of CR-221 Resolution 22-198

Aloha Chair Waters and members of the Honolulu City Council,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Hale Kipa, Inc., in strong support of Council Resolution CR-221 Resolution 22-198. Since 2002, Hale Kipa has leased the City's Special Needs Housing site at 95-1015 Maka'aloa Street in West Loch Fairways. We seek to renew this lease with the City & County of Honolulu to continue to provide housing and a skill-building program to young men, ages 18-22, transitioning out of houselessness. We screen all potential residents and rule out those who are in psychiatric crisis. Placements are voluntary. Those who enter the program agree to abide by program rules and expectations, which include continuing their education or locating employment. Hale Kipa employs a Live-In Resident Advisor who is there evenings, overnights, and most of the weekend days. A Case Manager works with the residents on a weekly basis. Hale Kipa's Facilities Manager ensures that the home is kept in good repair.

Founded in 1970, Hale Kipa has focused on the needs of children and youth and has grown from its humble beginnings as an emergency shelter for females on Oahu to become a statewide, nationally accredited agency with 20 programs responsive to the ongoing needs of Hawaii's high-risk youth and young adults, ages 5-27, and their families. Hale Kipa's vision is that youth and families will be able to thrive at their fullest potential while being socially responsible humans; its mission is to *provide opportunities and environments that strengthen and encourage youth, their families, and communities to actualize their potential and social responsibility*. We accomplish this through a

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program continuum that includes street outreach, intensive mentoring, independent living, foster care, intensive in-home, shelter, sex trafficking prevention and others. While much of our programming responds to the needs of higher-risk youth in the juvenile justice, child welfare, and child and adolescent mental health systems, many efforts are focused on prevention of system involvement or reaching out to the 'abandoned' youth. Our purpose is to 'catch' youth whenever we meet them to assist them rediscover their strengths, realign their trajectory, identify dreams and goals, and assist them on the path to healing and success.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any further questions, comments, and/or concerns at (808) 589-1829 x100 or via email at venus@halekipa.org. We ask that you pass this resolution and sincerely appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Venus R. Medeiros". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Venus" and last name "Medeiros" clearly legible.

Venus Kau'iokawēkiu Rosete-Medeiros
Chief Executive Officer