

General overview of the Department of Housing and Land Management. Testimony

MISC. COMM. 254

*HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS & PARKS (HHP)

***HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS & PARKS (HHP) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Jun 23, 2026 @ 02:30 PM

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

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Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 21, 2026 @ 12:27 PM



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June 23, 2026

Honolulu City Council
Committee on Housing, Homelessness & Parks
530 South King St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: OUR **SUPPORT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND LAND
MANAGEMENT**

Aloha Chair Tupola, Vice Chair Tulba, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i YIMBY, we would like to **share our support for the Department of Housing and Land Management** and its efforts to strategically leverage City-owned land for public benefit while undertaking the enormous task of helping address Honolulu's housing availability shortage.

Since its reorganization, **the department has wasted no time** organizing and prioritizing its efforts to fulfill its mission on behalf of the people of O'ahu. The department has demonstrated a clear commitment to identifying opportunities on City-owned lands, advancing affordable housing initiatives, and ensuring public assets are being used to deliver meaningful community benefits.

We encourage the department to maintain this momentum and continue demonstrating that the City is willing to do its part in addressing our housing challenges. By actively utilizing City-owned properties for housing and other community-serving purposes, Honolulu can set the example for how land can be thoughtfully and effectively used to meet public needs.



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Leveraging City-owned lands and maximizing their community benefit is the highest and best use of taxpayer resources. When the City sets the gold standard for responsible land stewardship and housing production, other landowners and stakeholders are more likely to follow. **Strong leadership from the public sector can help create the conditions necessary to deliver more homes for Honolulu's residents and build a more affordable future for O'ahu.**

Hawai'i YIMBY (*Yes In My Backyard*) is a volunteer-led grassroots advocacy organization dedicated to supporting bold and effective solutions for Hawai'i's devastating housing crisis. Our members are deeply concerned about Hawai'i's chronic and worsening housing shortage, which has caused home prices to rise much faster than incomes and pushes thousands of kama'āina out to the mainland or into homelessness every single year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our support of the Department of Housing and Land Management and its continued efforts to serve our community.

Mahalo,

Damien Waikoloa & Huey Kwik

Chapter Leads, Hawai'i YIMBY

