

# RESOLUTION 20-270

## Testimony

**MISC. COM. 767**

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Testimony of  
Pacific Resource Partnership

Committee on Zoning, Planning and Housing  
City & County of Honolulu  
Councilmember Ron Menor, Chair  
Councilmember Tommy Waters, Vice Chair

Resolution 20-270—Bishop Place Affordable Housing Project

Thursday, October 29, 2020  
9:00 A.M.

Aloha Chair Menor, Vice Chair Waters and Members of the Committee:

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) writes in **strong support** of Resolution 20-270 authorizing exemptions from certain requirements relating to the Residences at Bishop Place Affordable Housing Project (Project) located at 1132 Bishop Street.

The City and County of Honolulu (the County) needs 22,168 new homes over the next five years (2020-2025) to satisfy its housing demand. According to the latest ALICE data (2018), when combining households living beneath the Federal Poverty Level with ALICE households, an astonishing 40% of total households in the County's population struggle to make ends meet with a budget that does not allow for savings without sacrificing other necessities, such as childcare, food, healthcare, and transportation (See: <https://www.unitedforalice.org/hawaii>). This data describes the economic reality before COVID-19.

In this COVID-19 environment, Hawaii faces an economic crisis without parallel in its history as a state. During the months of April through August 2020, Hawaii's unemployment rate far exceeded the national level. Recent forecasts by the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization (UHARO) anticipate significant shortfalls in employment numbers versus what it forecast a year ago. The declines will be steepest in 2020 and 2021, with unemployment rates well above the national level. UHARO predicts that Hawaii employment will not return to 2019 levels before 2026.

Given the economic uncertainty caused by COVID-19 and the dire need for more housing, the County needs to find ways to build more affordable housing and preserve and protect construction jobs that pay a "living wage" to mitigate the impacts that this crisis will continue to have on Oahu's residents and businesses. The Project will help the County to address its housing crisis by providing 252 affordable rental units and 241 market rate rental units. Additionally, the Project will stimulate our economy by providing good-paying jobs that will keep our local workforce employed during these trying times.

Given the above, PRP respectfully request this Committee's favorable decision on this Project.



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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 7:47 AM  
**Subject:** Zoning, Planning and Housing Speaker Registration/Testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Jennifer Kimura  
Phone 808 763-0683  
Email seastarsandseashells@gmail.com  
Meeting Date 10-28-2020  
Council/PH Committee Zoning  
Agenda Item Resolution 20-270  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization

Written Testimony Please support Resolution 20-270, as it will provide housing opportunities for young professionals and for those that choose to utilize public transportation. The Residences at Bishop Place Affordable Housing Project is a unique concept which will provide more affordable rentals in Honolulu. Thank you for your consideration.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67