

DATE: August 5, 2020

TO: Hawaii County Council

RE: Testimony on Bill 179 SUPPORT

As a supporter of the Community Alliance Partners, I have been studying options to house homeless families and increase affordable housing for Hawaii Island's families. Many families are only one paycheck away from losing their homes due to the high cost of housing, illness or job loss. The COVID-19 pandemic has further complicated the situation.

I am expressing my support for Bill 179 as written, because it will increase the options, production and speed of the permitting process of housing for all families, but especially for low-income families needing affordable housing in our community. As stated in the County of Hawaii, Office of Housing and Community Development's Consolidated Plan for 2020-2024, the need for housing in Hawaii County is approximately 13,300 housing units.

As proposed, Bill 179 will provide alternatives and options for housing solutions to include Appendix L, Factory-Built Housing and Appendix Y, Tiny Homes. Both of these appendices demonstrate a recognition of, and appreciation for progressive options to our Island's housing crisis. Given the current lack of inventory of affordable housing, it is imperative that we identify and employ a multitude of viable housing solutions. Stable housing lowers adverse childhood experiences and increases the health of the next generation.

We applaud the County of Hawaii and Department of Public Works for their hard work over the last 18 months to revamp the code. It is time to adopt it.

I strongly urge you to adopt Bill 179 including both Appendix L and Appendix Y as written.

Sincerely,