

A JOINT LEGISLATIVE EFFORT

E-Mail to: FINtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Regarding: House FIN hearing

Hearing on: February 20, 2008 @ 2:30 p.m.. in room 308

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Date: February 18, 2008

To: House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

From: Kelly M. Rosati, JD
Executive Director, Hawaii Family Forum
Lobbyist, Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii

Re: **Support for HB 2514 Relating to the Conveyance Tax**

Honorable Chair and members of the House Finance Committee, I am Kelly Rosati, representing both the Hawaii Family Forum and the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii. Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents over 210,000 Catholics in Hawaii.

I am testifying in support of HB 2514 which provides funding to create solutions for affordable housing as well as for homelessness.

Along with our community partner, Catholic Charities Hawaii, we suggest an amendment to delete the sunset date of June 30, 2013, which would then establish a **permanent allocation**. We also support increasing the percentage of the conveyance tax allocated to the Rental Housing Trust Fund (RHTF) to 65% to provide consistent funding which is critical for developers to bring greater numbers of affordable rental projects forward. Increasing the share of the conveyance tax to the Rental Housing Trust Fund and making it permanent is a direct avenue for the development of low-income rental housing. The working poor need this housing. Currently there are too many residents of Hawaii who are currently homeless or living in substandard or crowded conditions. The development of low cost rental housing must be a priority. This funding needs to be permanent to address ongoing housing needs.

With the state's commitment to reducing homelessness, we are excited about the possibilities to come. The passage of HB 2514 would help provide the resources to create low income rentals and provide the supportive services that are needed to help individuals and families who are homeless.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.