

A JOINT LEGISLATIVE EFFORT

E-Mail to: testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Regarding: Senate WAM hearing
Hearing on: February 22, 2008 @ 11:00 a.m. in room 221

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Date: February 20, 2008

To: Senate Committee on Ways & Means
The Honorable Roslyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

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

Re: Support for SB 2225 SD 2 Relating to Housing

Honorable Chair and members of the Senate Ways & Means 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.

We support SB 2225 SD1, which appropriates funding for various homeless and housing programs and projects. The bill also repeals the sunset date for allocation of conveyance tax to the Rental Housing Trust Fund and provides funding for various public housing and homeless programs. There is a great need for consistency of funding for affordable rentals.

There is also a need for adequate funds to create a much larger number of affordable rental units. 50% of the conveyance tax is currently targeted to the Rental Housing Trust Fund. We urge that the Committee amend SD1 to allocate 65% of the conveyance tax to the Rental Housing Trust Fund. These changes will ensure development into the future.

In addition, along with our community partner, Catholic Charities, we suggest this amendment: Under Section 7, to clarify the intent, we suggest a change in wording, replacing "on the islands of Oahu and Hawaii" with the wording: "including \$20 million for an urban shelter on Oahu, and \$12 million for the Kaloko project on the island of Hawaii."

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.