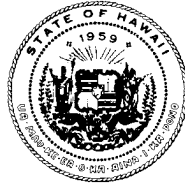


Linda Lingle  
GOVERNOR



KAREN SEDDON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM  
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
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IN REPLY REFER TO

Statement of  
**Karen Seddon**  
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE,  
AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

March 30, 2009, 1:25 p.m.  
Room 225, State Capitol

In consideration of  
**S.C.R. 81**

**REQUESTING THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION TO REVIEW THE FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING SINGLE ROOM  
OCCUPANCY DWELLINGS IN TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS,  
TO ALLEVIATE THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING SHORTAGE.**

The HHFDC supports the intent of S.C.R. 81. Single room occupancy dwellings can be an important affordable housing option for low-income individuals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**SCR 81 Requesting the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to Review the Feasibility of Developing Single Room Occupancy Dwellings in Transit Oriented Development Projects, to Alleviate the Affordable Housing Shortage**  
Senate Committee on Education and Housing  
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

March 30, 2009

1:25 pm

Room 225

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs supports the purpose and intent of SCR 81.

The growing affordable housing problem is one of the most critical issues faced by our communities, especially our Native Hawaiian communities. This issue seems to have many of our families struggling to find adequate housing near their place of employment in the urban cores in order to make ends meet.

Urban cores with mixed-use housing need the affordable units because the jobs are there and until neighborhoods are built, instead of subdivisions, families need to be where the jobs are. Transit-oriented development can be another opportunity to get our citizens living near an area that will get them to their place of employment by keeping their transportation costs to a minimum.

OHA recognizes that physical solutions by themselves will not solve social and economic problems, but neither can economic vitality, community stability, and environmental health be sustained without a coherent and supportive physical framework. Transit-oriented development will provide one of the many physical frameworks needed for Hawai'i's residents.

Third-party review and certification to expedite the process and issuance of building permits for an affordable housing project will assist to keep the cost down.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide this testimony.