

February 6, 2008

Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation;  
Transportation and International Affairs; & Human Services and Housing  
Wednesday February 6, 2008 2:45 pm  
CR 224

## **SB 3165 Strong Support**

Dear Joint Committee Members:

The Hawaii Alliance for Community Based Economic Development (HACBED) is proud to support and offer testimony for **SB 3165**.

For more than a year, HACBED has been involved in the Transit Oriented Community Based Development (TOCBD) project. TOCBD is funded by the Honolulu City Council and administered by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Hawaii at Manoa. HACBED's involvement has been to ensure that when we talk about opportunity for growth in our communities, whatever the reason or stimulus may be, that we lead with community participation. To this end, HACBED convened the three participating communities individually for several months to establish priorities for community development. The three communities are; Ala Moana- Sheridan- Kaheka - (AMSK); Kakaako-Mauka (KM); and McCully- Moiliili (MM). Each of these communities participated in a series of facilitated meetings, events, and projects to establish goals that not only meet the needs of the community but contemplate the opportunities that may and can arise from the proposed new High Occupancy Transit routes.

On November 15, 2007, the three communities convened a joint community outreach presentation program. The purpose of this program was to share with the public and decision makers the findings of the work. While the communities shared many priorities and values they did differ in specifics.

SB 3165 addresses the needs, concerns and hopes of these three communities. It carefully identifies the individual needs of the these three communities. Specifically, the AMSK community boasts a large aging population with the hope to remain in their homes for the rest of their lives. In order to reach this goal, we must provide opportunities for health care and medical services to be placed inside this community.

In MM, most residents are renters and population of seniors is split in their desire to remain in the community for the rest of their lives. SB 3165 offers developers the opportunity to construct new and retrofitted low income housing that will benefit and improve the community.

Finally, the high occupancy transit system has allowed these three communities to search for answers on how they can improve their neighborhoods, invest in their future and improve their safety. **SB 3165 is a direct response to the wishes and needs established by the TOCBD process and is needed.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Justin Fanslau  
Associate Director