



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
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STATEMENT ON THE STATE'S KAUHALE INITIATIVE IN WA'IANAE

I was happy to have a productive collaboration meeting with the State Homeless Coordinator and the area State House Representative to bring ideas on Westside Kauhale into alignment. In my council district, various communal housing projects run by churches and nonprofits have a "kauhale" type concept. I support four (4) specific projects and their leaders:

- Pu'uhonua O Wai'anae: Dynamic Community Solutions by Twinkles Borges
- Cedar Church: Hawai'i Good Samaritan Foundation by Pastor Miyeo Yoo
- Assembly of God: The Shelter by Pastor Daniel Ko
- U.S. VETS: Kama'okū by Kim Cook

We all agreed that the current sites need improved infrastructure, more service providers, and guidance to achieve efficiency and effectiveness. If we could assist, expand, and maximize each of the existing projects, this would greatly increase the possible housing inventory for families seeking to transition into housing. I am very involved in the success of many homeless initiatives in my community and have personally met with and helped all four existing projects in one way or another.

Running a grassroots communal housing project similar to a village with shared resources is not easy, and the leaders who take on these initiatives are truly amazing people. It requires infrastructure, leadership, property management, resources, and conflict resolution. I look forward to working closely with the state to ensure that the community's voice is heard, the families in need are served, and homelessness is decreased on the Wai'anae Coast.