



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
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September 18, 2024

Grant Review Board
Department of Community Services
925 Dillingham Blvd., Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96817

RE: Temporary Living Communities Grant Application for The Shelter

Dear Grant Review Board:

I am pleased to submit this letter of reference for The Shelter in support of their Temporary Living Communities Grant Application. Given the critical need for innovative solutions to address homelessness in Hawaii, I believe that The Shelter's model offers a promising approach that aligns with the City & County of Honolulu's vision for Temporary Living Communities (TLCs).

Hawaii's homelessness crisis, as highlighted by HUD's recent ranking of our state as #2 in the U.S. per capita rate of homelessness, highlights the need for effective interventions. The Shelter's unique approach—combining faith-based support with innovative, dome-like structures—has proven to be a transformative model for providing transitional housing.

The Shelter has a proven model in managing this pathway to housing success. Their site in Kahalu'u has been instrumental in assisting homeless mothers and their children to stabilize their lives, attain jobs and obtain housing vouchers with which to qualify for permanent affordable rental housing. Additionally, participants are grounded with a spiritual foundation and self-confidence to be a more productive member of our community.

I look forward to options for a new location on the Waianae coast and hope you will assist in their mission by helping with funding available through grants. Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information or have further questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Tupola". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Andria Tupola, Ph.D.
Honolulu City Councilmember