



AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DATE: **December 7, 2023** (anticipated continuation on December 8, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.)

TIME: **9:00 a.m.**

PLACE: **DLNR Boardroom**, Kalanimoku Bldg. 1151 Punchbowl Street, 1st Floor / &

Online via Zoom Meeting ID: 883 8062 9451

ZOOM LINK: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88380629451>

Agenda Item M#27:

- Request Authorization to the State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation (HDOT) to Issue a Revocable Permit to HomeAid Hawaii to Construct a Housing Project to provide Medical Respite and/or Behavioral Health Support Services on a parcel currently used by (HDOT), Oahu District Kaneohe Baseyard, Keaahala, Kaneohe, Koolaupoko, Oahu, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (1) 4-5-023:002

GOOD MORNING CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS:

- *My name is Alan Johnson. I am the President and CEO of Hina Mauka, a recovery center providing treatment for chronic conditions of substance abuse and mental health, with co-morbidity physical health chronic illnesses: serving about 1,700 adults and 600-700 adolescents per year.*

Hina Mauka recommends changes to the housing use of the project:

Given that this area has large numbers of people in recovery going through healing oriented programs, we recommend that the HomeAid project be developed for Transitional Housing that is so desperately needed for these patients with multiple chronic conditions.

The area has strong recovery behavioral health treatments for people in need. People come from Hina Mauka (homeless from the street, homeless offenders and homeless veterans) and from the HSH (offenders with serious mental illness) and nearby Windward Community Mental Health Center (mental illness not offenders).

What is missing is temporary “intensive” supportive services in a transitional (temporary) housing that provides significant programming to develop life skills, vocational counseling, case management all the while staying connected to nearby recovery support for substance use, mental health, and medical treatment.

Too often people with serious impairments need some “step down” yet “short term” help after completing institutional living or temporary intensive treatment from Hina Mauka pertaining to their substance abuse, mental health and physical illness. They need help with social skills development, family connections, and vocational support development.

After significant investment of expert help and substantial state resources into starting their recovery, people need help with learning how to live more independently with less intensive support services, otherwise they could fail to adjust and suffer relapse, which starts another cycle of needing more state resources.

Moreover, people with such investment into recovery, can be the “seed” for bringing forth recovery attitudes into permanent housing. They bring their community life skills that they learned in a temporary transitional living housing forward with them when they transition to a permanent housing with supportive services environment. Recovery can be persuasive and an influencing factor as they exert recovery principles with a newly developed social/community skillset into their shared Kauhale community.

A transitional housing program would focus on the most chronic conditions to bring about the highest possible outcome for people who have serious impairments. Also, they would learn skills to live more independently and would need less of supportive service support over time.

Transitional Housing (TH) provides temporary housing with supportive services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness with the **goal of interim stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing.** TH projects can cover housing costs and accompanying supportive services for program participants for up to 24 months.¹

Participants in a TH project must have a signed lease, sublease, or occupancy agreement with the following requirements:

- An initial term of **at least one month**
- Automatically renewable upon expiration, except by prior notice by either party
- A **maximum term of 24 months**
- To facilitate the movement of program participants into permanent housing, transitional housing projects should provide a wide range of **supportive services** to participants while they reside in the program that meets the needs of their program participants. Recipients can require program participants to take part in supportive services as a condition of participation in the program. For example, projects may require participants to take part in some form of substance abuse treatment services or mental health care, which can establish patterns of behavior for remaining in connection to appropriate care within the medical network.

¹ HUD Exchange: Housing for Homeless Transitional Housing <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/coc-esg-virtual-binders/coc-program-components/transitional-housing/>

- Permanent projects can then provide services to former residents of TH projects for a more limited time such as up to six months after exiting TH to assist in the household's transition to independent living.

Transitional housing before permanent housing will significantly reduce the amount of ongoing supportive resources needed in permanent housing after they transition into their permanent housing.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for further discussion.