

April 2, 2023

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance
Tuesday, April 4, 2023
3:00 pm
Via Videoconference



RE: **SB898 HD1** Relating to Kupuna Housing (**Support with Amendments**)

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa & Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce (CSC) testifies with conditional support of SB898 HD1, which temporarily expands the State Rent Supplement Program specifically for qualified persons who are sixty-two years of age or older and are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless, requires the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority to submit annual reports to the Legislature and appropriates funds.

As business owners who strive for a triple bottom line and know we can strengthen our economy without hurting workers, consumers, or the environment, we urge this committee to **pass SB898 HD1 and amend the bill to make the expanded subsidy permanent - kupuna need housing security, not year to year uncertainty.**

The entire Section 1 rationale for this bill references ongoing, permanent challenges that kupuna face with affordable housing. None of the factors will get better, only worse. Kupuna need to know that when they finally get help, they do not need to worry about being pushed back onto the streets or be worried that the assistance they receive will be taken away.