



Hawai'i Homelessness & Housing Conference

NOVEMBER 3–4, 2023

Nov. 3: Homelessness Awareness, Ko'olau Ballrooms

Nov. 4: Housing Solutions, Hawai'i Convention Center



DAY 2 - PROGRAM

- 8:30 AM Registration Opens
- 9:00 AM Cultural Protocol, Oli
- Dr. Kahu Kaleo Patterson,
- Words from the Governor
- Governor Josh Green, State of Hawai'i
- Words From Our Makua Sponsor
- Keoni Kuoha, Hawai'i Community Foundation/House Maui
- Hawai'i Housing Policy, Driven By What Matters Most
- Gavin Thornton, Hawai'i Appleseed
 - Arjuna Heim, Hawai'i Appleseed
- 10:30 AM Breakout Session 1
- A. Achieving Housing Mix
 - B. Reducing Displacement through Rent Stabilization
 - C. Legislative Advocacy 101
 - D. Roadmap to Partnering with our Houseless Community
- Noon Lunch
- 1:00 PM Breakout Session 2
- A. Public Responsibility in Housing
 - B. Building a Housing Movement
 - C. County Advocacy 101
 - D. Housing + Healthcare
- 2:30 PM Plenary: "Ka Lamakū o Lahaina — The Guiding Wisdom of Lahaina"
- 3:30 PM Closing Keynote: "Nānā i ke Kumu — Look to the Source"
- Janice Ikeda, Vibrant Hawai'i
- 4:00 PM Final Mahalo
- Gavin Thornton, Hawai'i Appleseed

DAY 2 - SESSIONS

1A: Achieving Housing Mix - Room 318A

- Stanley Chang, Hawai'i State Senate
- Trey Gordner, Hawaii Zoning Atlas
- Kala Paishon, O'ahu Lived Experience Council
- Martha Ross, Homesharing Hawai'i
- Arjuna Heim, Hawai'i Appleseed (Moderator)

Hawai'i has a shortfall of around 50,000 housing units, and has seen a dramatic increase in housing prices—both for sale and rental—over the last few of years. To meet this long-standing demand, Hawai'i must increase its supply of housing. To do so successfully requires government investment in housing supply. Hawai'i needs a wide array of housing options to meet the needs of its people. Using data from the Hawai'i Housing Planning Study (2019), this panel will look at what kind of housing has been built since 2019, and how those numbers compare to the demand.

1B: Reducing Displacement through Rent Stabilization - Room 319A

- Tina Grandinetti, PolicyLink
- Nikhil Khurana, Honolulu Tenants Union
- Will White, Hawai'i Appleseed
- Abbey Seitz, Hawai'i Appleseed (Moderator)

Rapidly rising rent prices are a major contributor to evictions. This causes interrupted employment and school, negative health impacts and impaired legal records for individuals, as well immense public costs for emergency shelters and medical care. Rent stabilization policies are designed to limit how much a landlord can increase the rent. In some localities, rent stabilization has been found to reduce evictions and the impacts of gentrification. Critics argue that rent stabilization might discourage property investment. As such, the implementation of rent stabilization requires careful consideration of local housing market dynamics and the needs of both tenants and property owners.

1C: Legislative Advocacy 101 - Room 318B

- Virginia Beck, Hawai'i State Legislature Public Access Room
- Will Caron, Hawai'i Appleseed
- Troy Hashimoto, Hawai'i State House of Representatives
- Betty Lou Larson, Catholic Charities Hawai'i (Moderator)

Understanding the legislative landscape and process is essential for achieving housing affordability for all Hawai'i residents. This session is intended to demystify the legislative process, discuss effective advocacy strategies, and explore proposed priorities in the upcoming legislative session.

DAY 2 - SESSIONS

1D: Roadmap to Partnering with our Houseless Community - Room 319B

- Alani Apio, Hui Aloha
- Kimo Carvalho, HomeAid Hawaii
- Laura Mae Duclayan, Sand Island
- Darrah Kauhane, Project Vision Hawai'i
- Heather Lusk, Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center
- Aura Reyes, Ka Po'e O Kaka'ako/Hawai'i Appleseed (Moderator)

Hawai'i needs policy solutions capable of addressing the housing needs of all people. With more residents displaced from their homes each year, homelessness is on the rise. Join us as we explore how we can partner with houseless individuals to identify the barriers that make healing and reintegration back into society as a contributing community member challenging, with the end goal of creating the stability needed to sustain permanent housing independently.

2A: Public Responsibility in Housing - Room 318A

- Denise Obrero, City & County of Honolulu
- Representative, Hawai'i State Public Housing Authority
- Adam Roversi, Kaua'i County Housing Agency
- Kali Watson, Hawai'i State Department of Hawaiian Homelands
- Arjuna Heim, Hawai'i Appleseed (Moderator)

What is public investment and why do we need it? This session explores the vital role of the government in providing housing, and how historical government interventions have shaped housing development and stability. This session includes a panel discussion with housing authorities in Hawai'i about current and needed government investments to achieve housing justice in our state.

2B: Building a Housing Movement - Room 319A

- Representative, Honolulu Tenants Union
- Aura Reyes, Ka Po'e O Kaka'ako/Hawai'i Appleseed
- Evan Weber, Our Hawai'i/Sunrise Movement
- Keith Webster, Housing Now
- Christy MacPherson, Hawai'i Appleseed (Moderator)

Many of the policy tools available to create a new affordable housing paradigm have been around for years; yet we struggle to implement these policies. What our leaders lack is the political will to implement the kind of system-wide changes we need. This session will include stories, lessons and insights from community mobilizers who have been doing the work to build public support and political pressure to move these policies forward. Learn what they have been doing to help change the narrative for both public officials and private interests. We hope to inspire participants to join us in the work that is necessary to organize and build our collective power.

2C: County Advocacy 101 - Room 318B

- Jeff Gilbreath, Hawaiian Community Assets/Hawaiian Community Lending
- Makani Maeva, Āhē Group
- Rowena Pangan, Ho‘omana Thrift Store
- Kino Shigekane, Ho‘omana Thrift Store
- Gavin Thornton, Hawai‘i Appleseed (Moderator)

For housing, what happens at the county councils is arguably more important than what happens in the state legislature. The counties control zoning, permitting, property taxes and important infrastructure investments. Learn about the process, recent and ongoing housing issues at the county level, and how to get involved.

2D: Housing + Health - Room 319B

- Lina Burgess
- Dr. Daniel Cheng, The Queens Medical Center
- Amber Coiley, Ka Po‘e O Kaka‘ako
- Pearl Sheck, Kokua Kalihi Valley
- Beth Giesting, Hawai‘i Appleseed (Moderator)

Housing is the foundation for human dignity and individual and community wellbeing. People who cannot afford decent housing may be harmed in many ways, including suffering poor physical and mental health. We all pay for policy choices that don’t prioritize housing availability and affordability for people of all incomes, and one area where the price tag is especially high is healthcare.

Plenary: “Ka Lamakū o Lahaina — The Guiding Wisdom of Lahaina”

The wisdom of the Lahaina community response in the face of tragedy, which include the traditional Hawaiian cultural values of sustainable stewardship, collaborative social responsibility, and housing for all provide guiding principles for Hawai‘i in moving towards a more equitable future. This plenary aims to begin a broad conversation across sectors of the Maui response efforts, delving into the complexities of housing solutions where our speakers will shed light on the multifaceted aspects of this issue.

Closing Keynote: “Nānā i ke Kumu — Look to the Source”

- Janice Ikeda, Vibrant Hawai‘i

Throughout Hawai‘i’s history, housing, education and economic prosperity have been cherished as vital components of community well-being. These values resonate deeply with Hawai‘i’s cultural commitment to social responsibility. Our keynote speaker will delve into the importance of rekindling this spirit of social responsibility, which prioritizes collective well-being over individual gain, to move towards a more equitable future.