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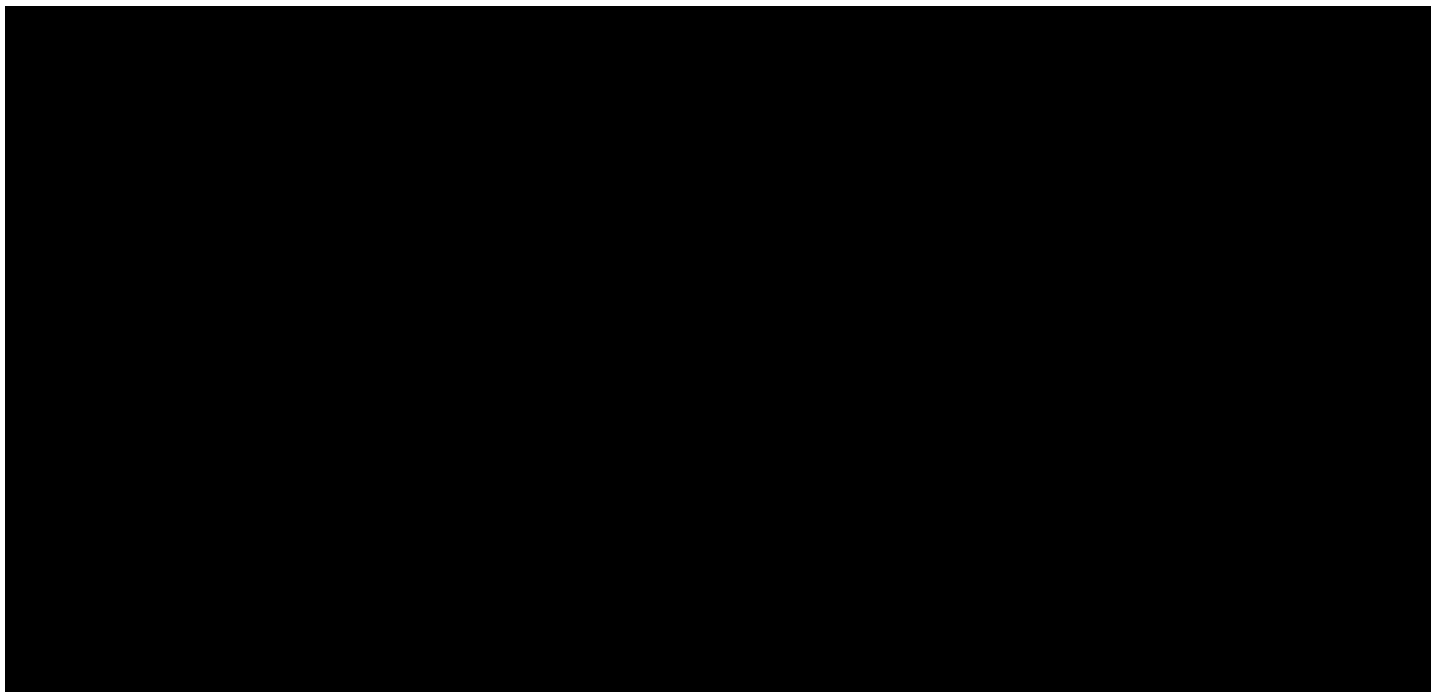


NEWS

Low-income housing in scarce supply, especially for the disabled

A shortage of low-income housing in Hawaii is one of the biggest challenges in getting people off the streets. But it's even more difficult to find a home for those who are homeless and disabled.

Tuesday, November 2nd 2021, 7:56 PM HST by Kristen Consillio



Daniel Crawford's been living on the streets of his hometown of Wahiawa for most of his life when he's not incarcerated.

After years of drugs and crime, he's now 55 and in a wheelchair -- and hoping to turn his life around.

"Incarcerated and getting homeless all the time's been really, really bad," he said. "I'm done with all that."

Outreach worker Kara England found him in deteriorating health about a year ago living outside the Wahiawa Transit Center.

She's the founder of The Radical Hale, a nonprofit aiming to end homelessness.

She's worked to get him medical attention and to apply for subsidized housing. Crawford finally received a low-income housing voucher, but is still waiting for a landlord.

"It does take a long time -- well additional time -- because we need to find a landlord that has ADA-approved units," England said.

But without enough landlords willing to rent to homeless people, the state's facing a huge obstacle in solving the growing crisis.

Even more so when it comes to people like Crawford.

"I truly believe people need a second chance. They deserve a second, sometimes three four times," she added. "We all make mistakes."

Advocates say negative stereotypes and fear of the unknown are holding back many landlords from renting to the homeless. But they're calling on landlords to take a chance on people in need, especially the most vulnerable.

"A second chance would be great," Crawford said. "I feel like I still get hope. Living the rest of my life out in a good ... normal way."

For now, a Wahiawa landlord's let Crawford temporarily stay in a roach-infested makeshift garage with no electricity and running water. He uses a wooden box as his toilet and showers outside with a hose.

He said it's still better than being out on the streets. But he'd like to step up to another level of housing, if a landlord will have him.

Produced in partnership with the Economic Hardship Reporting Project.

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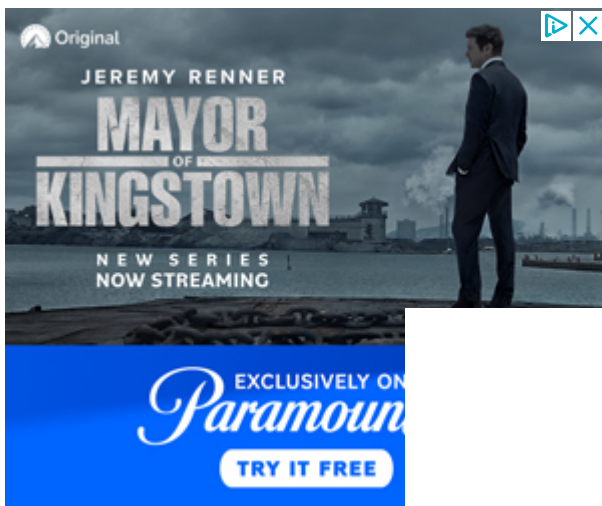
A shortage of low-income housing in Hawaii is one of the biggest challenges in getting people off the streets.

Here's a thought - if the problem is so great in Hawaii then why not simply relocate these people

there is a thought if the problem is so great in Hawaii then why not simply relocate these people to another state where low-income housing (along with the Cost of living) is much more abundant. Not only is it more practical but it's also the most Humane thing to do.

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ololuge → LavaHunter · 12 days ago

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you read my mind....LoL!!

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James Ricketts · 12 days ago · edited

I don't know how many chances he had during his criminal years to change, but he probably had so many opportunity already. What has he done so far for society besides being a burden and costing taxpayer's money to deserve another chance? We can't afford to give everyone a third chance and so forth. It's not fair to those who haven't made a single bad decision yet. A lot of these homeless people on the streets are those who don't want to change or conform to society, they have been given a lot of chances. Sad to say, but their chances are up. We can't please everyone and it's not fair to law abiding citizens either.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

DaObserver · 12 days ago

The Legislators and courts have for years ignored what landlords have been saying - make it time consuming and costly to get rid of bad tenants and you only hurt the chances of good tenants finding a place. If evicting a bad tenant were cost-effective, more landlords would be willing to take a small risks. What the State should do is create a fund from which landlords can get reimbursed for lost rent and damages caused by bad tenants. Then you might see more affordable rentals. Those in power should put down the books by Karl Marx and actually listen to those who know what works.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

Kellog B Wheaty • 12 days ago

"After years of drugs and crime, he's now 55 and in a wheelchair -- and hoping to turn his life around."

If our government would make drug crimes a more serious issue then this would not happen. Blame our lame lawmakers for accepting a drug induced Hawaii where we law abiding citizens have to deal with this. The lawmakers and progressive democrats accept drugs as if it is normal and ok. NO it is not OK and this is the usual outcome for your short sighted thinking.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

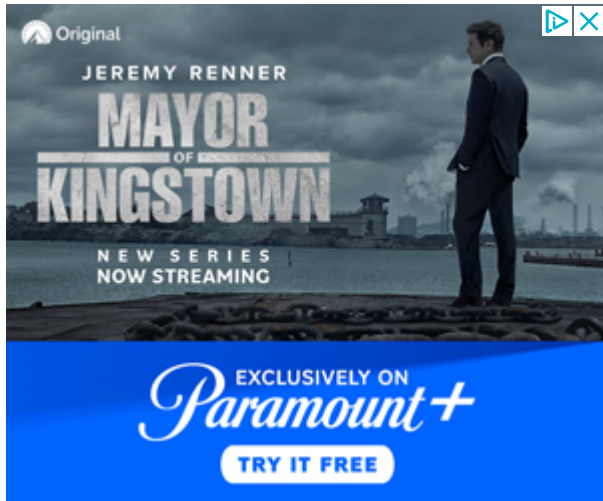
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And they hand out free drugs and needles...

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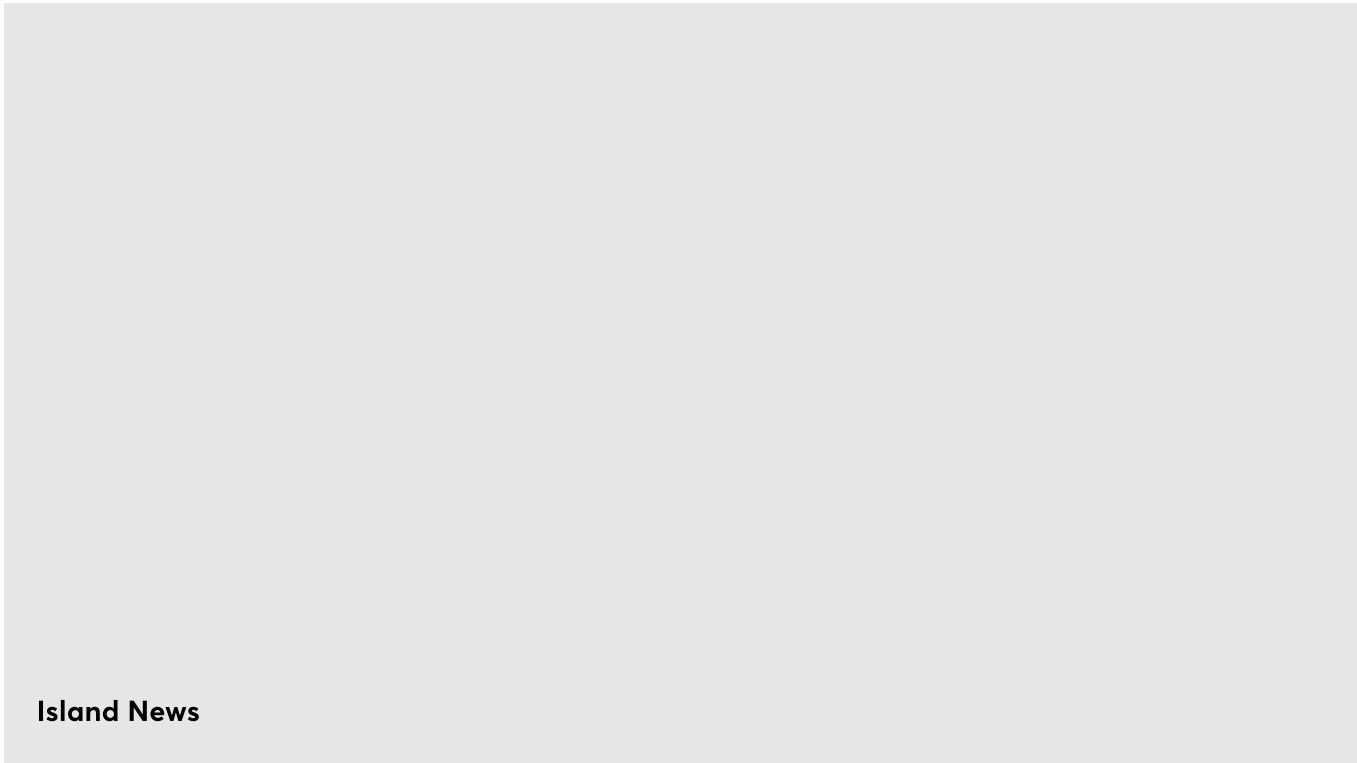
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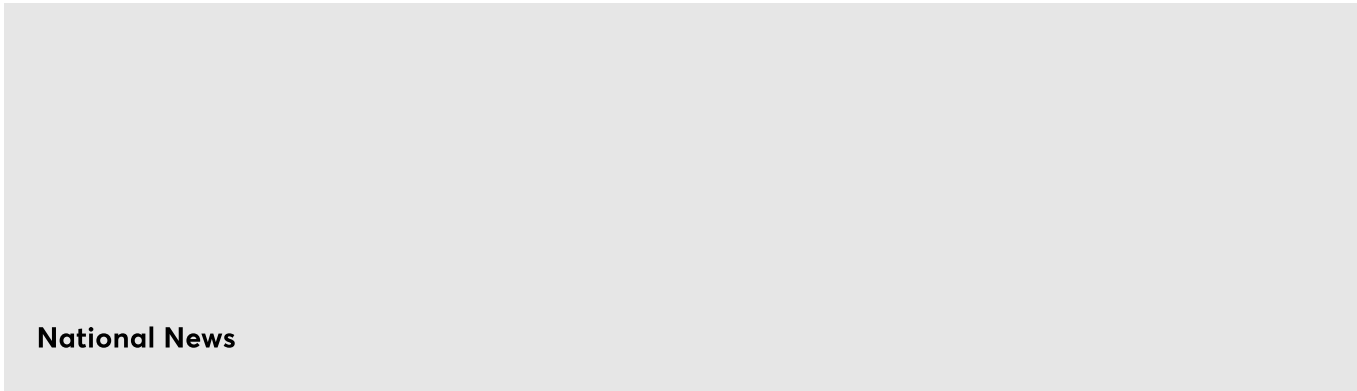


Good Morning Hawaii

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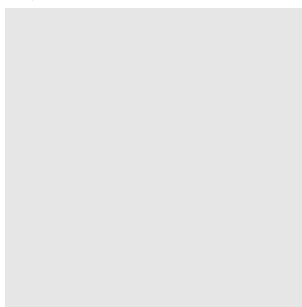
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