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**Tuesday Sept. 8, 2020      Letters to the Editor**

## **Homesharing: a fresh answer to houselessness**

The lack of progress in decreasing the housing crisis requires some fresh thinking and innovative solutions. Wonderful shelters like the Institute for Human Services and Family Promise are, admittedly, temporary, while government programs have limited funds and daunting restrictions.

However, there is great potential in a local home-sharing program offered by the nonprofit HIN (Hawaii Intergenerational Network).

It addresses two community concerns: kupuna who are living alone and people who need affordable housing. Carefully matching people within these two groups and professionally monitoring each relationship, this project offers hope to those who are houseless and to kupuna who are living in vulnerable isolation.

More information can be found at [homesharinghawaii.org](http://homesharinghawaii.org).

As long as the economic gap between wages and housing costs continues, housing will be unaffordable for most Americans and houselessness an unjustifiable concern; when the basic needs of a community become a for-profit business (shelter, health, education), the quality of life for 99% of us decreases.

**John Heidel**

*Kailua*