
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS BE EMPOWERED THROUGH
PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.

1 WHEREAS, public housing tenants are the "customers" of the
2 Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii, but are
3 not presently being treated as customers; and

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5 WHEREAS, public housing tenants give important information
6 to the management and staff of the Housing and Community
7 Development Corporation of Hawaii, but often the concerns are
8 not passed on to the proper authorities, leading to expenses
9 which could have been minimized if the tenants' voices were
10 heeded; and

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12 WHEREAS, termite infestation at Kau`iokalani Homes was
13 reported by tenants before the termite warranty expired, but
14 because the Housing and Community Development Corporation of
15 Hawaii did not heed tenants in a timely manner, the cost for
16 repairs increased to almost \$800,000; and

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18 WHEREAS, a report to the Twenty-First State Legislature on
19 House Concurrent Resolution No. 71, S.D. 1 (2001) recognized and
20 commended the work of Island Tenants on the Rise for their
21 continuing efforts to bring low-income people into active
22 participation in the democratic process; and

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24 WHEREAS, Island Tenants on the Rise has initiated a
25 campaign to register public housing tenants, the homeless, and
26 poor people to vote in the upcoming elections; and

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28 WHEREAS, at least one member of the Board of Directors of
29 the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii is
30 required to be a person who is directly assisted under the
31 federal low-rent public housing or Section 8 tenant-based
32 housing assistance payments program; and

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1 WHEREAS, the public housing or Section 8 position on the
2 Board of Directors tends to be vacant much of the time; and
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4 WHEREAS, the public housing or Section 8 position on the
5 Board of Directors needs to be more than window dressing; and
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7 WHEREAS, Island Tenants on the Rise has heard many
8 complaints from public housing and Section 8 tenants that
9 resident services staff are not helpful to tenants, and often
10 work against their interests; and
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12 WHEREAS, some families are paying \$1,200 to \$1,500 for
13 monthly rent in public housing, and this is not affordable
14 housing for low-income families; and
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16 WHEREAS, working families who are charged high rents often
17 end up in the eviction process because they are not informed
18 about credits available from the United States Department of
19 Housing and Urban Development, and how these credits work; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Housing and Community Development Corporation
22 of Hawaii has not requested needed funds to repair and renovate
23 all vacant public housing units; and
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25 WHEREAS, the Housing and Community Development Corporation
26 of Hawaii may not have the capacity to effectively use
27 additional funds for repair and maintenance if its full time
28 maintenance staff is unable to complete the work; and
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30 WHEREAS, Island Tenants on the Rise is the only independent
31 statewide organization of tenants; now, therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the twenty-third
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the
35 House of Representatives concurring, that the Housing and
36 Community Development Corporation of Hawaii and Island Tenants
37 on the Rise are requested to work in partnership to come up with
38 proactive recommendations to better serve public housing and
39 Section 8 tenants; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Island Tenants on the Rise is
42 requested to be allowed to address the Board of Directors of the
43 Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii at least



1 fifteen minutes prior to each lunch break of the Board, to share
2 its insights and concerns; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Housing and Community
5 Development Corporation of Hawaii is requested to send the
6 monthly Executive Director's report and the minutes of prior
7 meetings to Island Tenants on the Rise at least one week prior
8 to each regular meeting of the Board of Directors; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that tenants be given a calculation
11 of rent statement and be informed about the mandatory credits
12 available from the United States Department of Housing and Urban
13 Development, and how these credits may be applied to the rent
14 calculation; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Housing and Community
17 Development Corporation of Hawaii is requested to determine a
18 means to make the Resident Services Section more accountable to
19 public housing and Section 8 tenants; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director
23 of the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii
24 and the President of Island Tenants on the Rise.

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OFFERED BY: 
By Request