
SENATE 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 Resolution No. 71, S.D. 1 (2001) recognized and commended
20 the work of Island Tenants on the Rise for their continuing
21 efforts to bring low-income people into active participation in
22 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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34 WHEREAS, the public housing or Section 8 position on the
35 Board of Directors tends to be vacant much of the time; and



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WHEREAS, the public housing or Section 8 position on the Board of Directors needs to be more than window dressing; and

WHEREAS, Island Tenants on the Rise has heard many complaints from public housing and Section 8 tenants that resident services staff are not helpful to tenants, and often work against their interests; and

WHEREAS, some families are paying \$1,200 to \$1,500 for monthly rent in public housing, and this is not affordable housing for low-income families; and

WHEREAS, working families who are charged high rents often end up in the eviction process because they are not informed about credits available from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, and how these credits work; and

WHEREAS, the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii has not requested needed funds to repair and renovate all vacant public housing units; and

WHEREAS, the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii may not have the capacity to effectively use additional funds for repair and maintenance if its full time maintenance staff is unable to complete the work; and

WHEREAS, Island Tenants on the Rise is the only independent statewide organization of tenants; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, that the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii and Island Tenants on the Rise are requested to work in partnership to come up with proactive recommendations to better serve public housing and Section 8 tenants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Island Tenants on the Rise is requested to be allowed to address the Board of Directors of the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii at least fifteen minutes prior to each lunch break of the Board, to share its insights and concerns; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Housing and Community
2 Development Corporation of Hawaii is requested to send the
3 monthly Executive Director's report and the minutes of prior
4 meetings to Island Tenants on the Rise at least one week prior
5 to each regular meeting of the Board of Directors; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that tenants be given a calculation
8 of rent statement and be informed about the mandatory credits
9 available from the United States Department of Housing and Urban
10 Development, and how these credits may be applied to the rent
11 calculation; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Housing and Community
14 Development Corporation of Hawaii is requested to determine a
15 means to make the Resident Services Section more accountable to
16 public housing and Section 8 tenants; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director
20 of the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii
21 and the President of Island Tenants on the Rise.
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OFFERED BY: 
By Request

