



STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Statement of
Chad K. Taniguchi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING

February 5, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
H.B. 1984
RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) strongly supports this measure to create a safe environment for public housing residents.

HPHA policy currently prohibits the consumption of alcohol in common areas of the public housing projects in its lease agreement with each resident. When residents and/or their guests violate this rule, project managers issue a writ of violation letter to the resident. Upon receipt of the violation letter managers may schedule a meeting with the resident to reinforce the importance of HPHA's policy. If the resident commits a second violation the manager may now refer the resident for eviction based on a violation of the lease agreement.

HPHA's policy, however, is insufficient to handle situations in which there are large numbers of residents and/or guests drinking in common areas that are shared by all residents. HPHA managers and supporting staff are only on-site during normal working hours and not during the late night and weekend time periods when parties typically take place. Security guards who are present during late nights and weekends are fearful or incapable of reprimanding a large group of intoxicated individuals, as the possibility of violence is increased with the consumption of alcohol. Unlike police officers, security guards do not carry weapons nor do they have arresting powers. This bill will enable law enforcement to enter public housing projects, which are not categorized as public land, and assist with residents who are publicly consuming alcohol.

While HPHA believes that this bill is necessary, HPHA acknowledges that project managers must improve their enforcement of existing rules prohibiting drinking in common areas. HPHA will take the necessary steps to carry out appropriate action, such as issuing violation warnings and initiating eviction proceedings, with residents who violate their lease agreement. The combined effort of HPHA staff, HPHA's privately contracted security guards, and law enforcement officers will help to create a family and community atmosphere at public housing projects.

Strong Support for HB1984

Relating to Public Housing
Tuesday, February 5, 2008

To: Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, Chair, and Members,
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

From: Keondorie Thakhambor

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members,

I am Keondorie Thakhambor, and I am a 60-year-old resident of Mayor Wright Homes. I am testifying today in strong support of HB1984. I am asking for safety for myself, my daughter, and all the people who live in Mayor Wright Homes.

We have public drinking, shootings, drugs, gangs, attacks on residents, and guns and weapons. If we could stop the public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and common areas of Mayor Wright Homes, we could stop the illegal or inappropriate behavior that often comes from public drinking.

I am an elderly resident with a heart condition, and I am terrified of the gangs that have taken over my front porch. Please pass HB1984 so that all the residents of Mayor Wright can live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Keondorie Thakhambor
Mayor Wright Homes
649 N. Vineyard, 35-B
Honolulu HI 96817
Phone: 450-9493

Strong Support for HB1984
Relating to Public Housing
Tuesday, February 5, 2008

To: Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, Chair, and Members,
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

From: Fetu Kolio & the Mayor Wright Homes Community

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members,

My name is Fetu Kolio, and I am a resident of Mayor Wright Homes. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of HB1984. We are asking for safety for our families and all the people who live in Mayor Wright Homes.

We have public drinking, shootings, drugs, gangs, attacks on residents, and guns and weapons. If we could stop the public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and common areas of Mayor Wright Homes, we could stop the illegal or inappropriate behavior that often comes from public drinking.

Please pass HB1984 so that all the residents of Mayor Wright can live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing us to testify.

Fetu Kolio
Mayor Wright Homes
1235 Pua Lane, 34-D
Honolulu, HI 96817

1) ~~KEONDORIE~~ ~~KEONDORIE~~ THAKHAMHOR ^{AGE} 68 YEARS OLD.

649 N. VINEYARD 35-B
HONOLULU, HI 96817

PHONE: 450-9493

MAYOR KIRICHT
HOMES.

2) GENEVIVE CAONETTE
~~CAONETTE~~

80 YEARS OLD.

649 N. VINEYARD 35-A
HONOLULU, HI 96817

3) JOANNA THAKHAMHOR

649 N. VINEYARD 35-B
HONOLULU, HI 96817

PHONE: 450-9493

4) ROSE I

50 KUKUI ST. 32-A
HONOLULU, HI 96817

5) AWILEEN PAUL

1235 PUA LANE 34-M
HONOLULU, HI 96817

PHONE: 953-4034

6) RANDY NICKY

1330 LILIIA ST 20-C
HONOLULU, HI 96817

7) AOSY HELLY

~~1330~~ 1330 LILIIA ST 20-C
HONOLULU, HI 96817

8) FRANCIS KERAT
1235 PUA LANE 34-M
HONOLULU, HI 96817
PHONE: 953-4036

9) MARINO RICKY
1235 PUA LANE 34-L
HONOLULU, HI 96817

10) JUDY RICKY
1235 PUA LANE 34-L
HONOLULU, HI 96817

11) FIA
1211 PUA LANE 33-A
HONOLULU, HI 96817

12) LEONARD LESTER
1235 PUA LANE # 34-J
HONOLULU, HI 96817

13) FETU KOLIO
1235 PUA LANE 34-D
HONOLULU, HI 96817

14) ELEANOR KOLIO
1235 PUA LANE 34-D
HONOLULU, HI 96817

15) BINASITA ERAM
25-E 566 KUKUI ST
HONOLULU, HI 96817

1) SHIRLEEN CORDEIRO: BAAUPA GARDENS
1118 PUA LANE #305
HONOLULU, HI ~~PHONE:~~

2) RINA PERBERA
1202 PUA LANE #1
HONOLULU, HI 96817

3) NANCY ANTONIO
1202 PUA LANE #2
HONOLULU, HI 96817

4) CEIMOMI CHO
1202 PUA LANE #5
HONOLULU, HI 96817

5) DANIEL L. DUDDEN
1120 PUA LANE #302
HONOLULU, HI 96817
PHONE: 262-8282

6) CAROLY FRANCA
1119 BANYON ST
HONOLULU, HI 96817
PHONE: 381-9679
KALIHI - PALAMAMA NEIGHBORHOOD
BOARD NO. 15

7) PRECY VALENZUELA
814 KANOA ST
HONOLULU, HI 96817
PHONE: 392-2741

8) DAVID SOARES
369 N. VINEYARD BLVD.
HONOLULU, HI 96817
PHONE: 306-3729

Strong Support for HB1984
Relating to Public Housing
Tuesday, February 5, 2008

To: Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, Chair, and Members,
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

From: Marino & Judy Ricky

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members,

We are Marino and Judy Ricky, and we are residents of Mayor Wright Homes. We are testifying today in strong support of HB1984. We are asking for safety for ourselves and all the people who live in Mayor Wright Homes.

Ricky and another male relative were racially threatened and punched repeatedly by three known gang members in the parking lot. Neighbors had to call the police. We have loitering, public drinking, shootings, drugs, gangs, attacks on residents, and guns and weapons. If we could stop the public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and common areas of Mayor Wright Homes, we could stop the illegal or inappropriate behavior that often comes from public drinking.

Please pass HB1984 so that all the residents of Mayor Wright can live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing us to testify.

Marino & Judy Ricky
Mayor Wright Homes
1235 Pua Lane, 34-L
Honolulu, HI 96817

Strong Support for HB1984
Relating to Public Housing
Tuesday, February 5, 2008

To: Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, Chair, and Members,
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

From: Awleen Paul

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Rhoads, and
Members,

My name is Awleen Paul, and I am a resident of
Mayor Wright Homes. I am testifying today in
strong support of HB1984. I am asking for safety
for myself and all the people who live in Mayor
Wright Homes.

I had to get a restraining order against
several visitors after they repeatedly personally
and racially threatened my husband and me and
attacked me with kicks and punches. I am
epileptic, and I even went into shock and had a
seizure after one attack. If we could stop the
public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and
common areas of Mayor Wright Homes, we could stop
the illegal or inappropriate behavior that often
comes from public drinking.

Please pass HB1984 so that all the residents
of Mayor Wright can live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Awleen Paul
Mayor Wright Homes
1235 Pua Lane, 34-M
Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: 953-4036

**Strong Support for HB1984
Relating to Public Housing
Tuesday, February 5, 2008**

**To: Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, Chair, and Members,
House Committee on Human Services and Housing**

From: Eleanor Kolio

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members,

My name is Eleanor Kolio, and I am a resident of Mayor Wright Homes. I am testifying today in strong support of HB1984. I am asking for safety for my family and all the people who live in Mayor Wright Homes.

We have public drinking, shootings, drugs, gangs, attacks on residents, and guns and weapons. If we could stop the public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and common areas of Mayor Wright Homes, we could stop the illegal or inappropriate behavior that often comes from public drinking.

I have problems sleeping, and I am terrified in my own home. Please pass HB1984 so that all the residents of Mayor Wright can live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

**Eleanor Kolio
Mayor Wright Homes
1235 Pua Lane, 34-D
Honolulu, HI 96817**

Strong Support for HB1984

Relating to Public Housing

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

To: Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, Chair, and Members,
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

From: Leonard Lester

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members,

My name is Leonard Lester, and I am a resident of Mayor Wright Homes. I am testifying today in strong support of HB1984. I am asking for safety for myself and all the people who live in Mayor Wright Homes.

We have public drinking, shootings, drugs, gangs, attacks on residents, and guns and weapons. If we could stop the public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and common areas of Mayor Wright Homes, we could stop the illegal or inappropriate behavior that often comes from public drinking.

I have been regularly surrounded and threatened by gang members. Please pass HB1984 so that all the residents of Mayor Wright can live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Leonard Lester
Mayor Wright Homes
1235 Pua Lane, 34-J
Honolulu, HI 96817