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Statement of
Chad K. Taniguchi
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Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING

February 14, 2008, 9:25 a.m.
Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
H.B. 2240
RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) opposes H.B. 2240 as currently written.

Section 2 of the bill requires HPHA to allow these tenants "a reasonable time period to relocate." State subsidized public housing policy requires tenants with income levels that exceed the maximum low income limit after entering housing, to vacate their unit within six months. HPHA believes that the 6 months currently given residents to relocate is a reasonable amount of time.

Section 2 of the bill also requires HPHA to allow tenants an opportunity to open an individual development account (IDA). It is not clear what duties this provision would exact upon the HPHA. Please note that IDAs require matching funds and this bill does not provide a corresponding appropriation.

Lastly, section 2 of the bill also requires HPHA to allow tenants vacating due to excess income an opportunity to purchase their unit if approved by the authority. HPHA strongly opposes this provision since the sale of rental units would deplete the rental housing stock at the same time. We are trying to maintain or increase that inventory. HPHA opposes the removal of units from its public housing inventory in light of the State's housing crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.