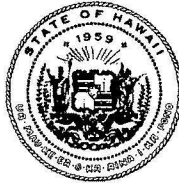


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



CHAD K. TANIGUCHI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
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Statement of
Chad K. Taniguchi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
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. 2380
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the intent of H.B. 2380, which provides funds to acquire land for temporary shelter for the homeless. While much progress has been made in accommodating the needs of the homeless on the Leeward Coasts, more needs to be done for the homeless throughout the State. Point in time data from our Homeless Management Information System data base puts the number of homeless in Hawaii on any given day at 11,514 persons, 8,395 of whom are in State homeless shelters. The vast majority of the unsheltered homeless (2,345) are on Oahu.

Please note that the Executive Supplemental Budget appropriates \$20,000,000 for a permanent shelter on Oahu. HPHA requests that any additional funding provided by this measure is in addition to that request.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Legislative Testimony

HB 2380 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

House Committee on Human Services & Housing

February 14, 2008

9:25 am

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs supports HB 2380. Our interest in this legislation is primarily based on our concern that 40% of the overall population of individuals who experience homelessness in Hawaii are Native Hawaiian. The 2003 homeless census revealed that there were 6,029 homeless individuals at any point-in-time in Hawaii and approximately 14,500 in a given year.

OHA generally agrees that there is need for near-term solutions to Hawaii's affordable housing and homeless problem, which will only escalate beyond reasonable management without immediate intervention and funding by the State. The State is the largest stakeholder and is charged with the greatest responsibility or "kuleana" to make available safe and affordable housing for all of its residents. The appropriations being recommended are necessary and a movement in a proactive direction toward resolving these critical issues.

With shelters like those built on the Leeward Coast last year already full and with waitlists, the need to make more State resources available to develop alternative shelters is essential.

OHA urges your support for this bill. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to present testimony.