



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

January 31, 2008, 9:45 a.m.
Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
H.B. 2733
RELATING TO HOUSING

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) opposes this measure.

Section 6 of the bill prohibits HPHA from denying rent supplement benefits based on the number of persons sharing a bedroom in an apartment. This provision is problematic under current HPHA rules because it would allow two or more individuals sharing one bedroom to claim two separate rent supplement benefits for the use of the same bedroom. However, if the committees can let us know the outcome desired HPHA will suggest language that could accomplish the outcome.

Section 6 also prohibits HPHA from denying rent supplement benefits to tenants in federally subsidized housing. While HPHA appreciates the intent of this provision to assist low-income individuals, the Rent Supplement Program was created to assist gap group families whose income is just above the qualifying level for low-income state and federal public housing. HPHA believes that this section is contrary to the purposes of the Rent Supplement Program.

In addition, to expand the program to include public housing tenants equates to a duplication of services by providing residents with federally subsidized housing in addition to a rent supplement. Rent in federal public housing is restricted to thirty percent of the resident's income. An additional housing subsidy is not needed since public housing is already the most affordable housing in the state. Furthermore, it does not promote self-sufficiency among public housing residents.

Lastly, Section 8 of the bill appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds to HPHA for the purposes of expanding enrollment in the program. Please note that HPHA is currently asking the Legislature for a \$10,000,000 emergency appropriation for a critical operating budget shortfall for the current fiscal year. Given the funding issues that HPHA is faced with, HPHA requests that any appropriation made in this bill is in addition to HPHA's funding priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget. Furthermore, the appropriation should include funding for positions since the HPHA branch overseeing the Rent Supplement Program is already understaffed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

To: Committee on Human Services and Housing & Committee on Health

Date: 1/31/08

Time: 11:00 AM

Measure: HB2433

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Representatives Shimabukuro, Rhoads, Green and Mizuno,

I urge you to support HB2433. My family and neighbors have their elderly parents living with them. I am not against elderly nor are our neighbors. The City's DPP and State's DOH need to be proactive and not place themselves to be reactive only. There are issues as traffic, parking, and simply a commercial business being run in a residential neighborhood. We support the requirement where a public hearing is to be held anytime there is a request for an ARCH II type facility.

Chase Masuda

Aina Haina Resident

Transmittal Cover - Saari
HSHtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Testifier's Name: James T. Saari, Resident

Committee: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING

Date/Time of Hearing: January 31, 2008, 11:00AM

Measure #: HB 2433

Number of copies committee requesting: 3

Testimony:

Chairperson Shimabukuro and Members of the Hawaii State House of Representatives, Committee on Human Services and Housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2433, Relating to Adult Residential Care Homes.

I firmly support this bill requiring public hearings before a business such as an Adult Residential Care Home is approved for a residential community.

I also support the concept of setting a limit on the impact and density of such ARCH facilities. I would point out that our neighborhood on Maunalani Circle in Kaimuki already has Maunalani Nursing and Rehabilitation Center with 101 approved beds at 5113 Maunalani Circle. This is less than 1000 feet from the proposed one or two new ARCHs.

Testifier's Name : Janice Hanley Taketa, M.S. CCC-SP, Citizen
Committee: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES& HOUSING
Date/Time of Hearing: January 31,2008, 11:00 am

MEASURE #: HB 2433

Thanks you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2433

It is critical to the welfare of elderly clients and for the mental health of the neighborhood residents, that the DOH evaluate and receive input from any neighborhood considering the opening of an ARCH I or II.

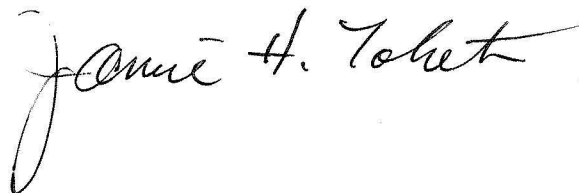
To be specific about our case, our neighborhood has no sidewalks, little parking and steep cliffs. The Maunalani Circle family attempting to convert at least 2 homes has already repeatedly violated zoning laws by having as many as 8 unrelated families living in one of their houses as recently as last year. They have never taken their neighbors into consideration with any of their activities.

My husband Kelvin and I moved into this quiet Maunalani Circle neighborhood 10 years ago believing it was a good residential neighborhood to raise our two children. This is a neighborhood for families not businesses. Presently there is a family 3 doors away from us that own 6 houses on our circle. Their intention is to convert a number of these homes into Adult Residential Care Homes. We are opposed to the approval of any business in a residential community without at least the opportunity for citizen input.

An Alzheimer Care Facility is a commercial venture. We are zoned R-10 not commercial.

Our state is in dire need of more long-term care facilities but disrupting residential neighborhoods should not be the solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice H. Taketa". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

To: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Human Services & II Housing Committee Members

Date: January 31, 2008

Re: I am against HB 2433.

My name is Sandra Shim, and I am strongly against HB 2433.

For the last 15 years I have been a Care Home Operator in Manoa Valley. What has become evident over the years that there is an ever increasing need for additional Care Home beds in our community, especially in the central Honolulu area. At present there are a great many elderly living in their homes all over Oahu and they will need professional care very soon. The families that are taking care of them now need help and support.

What I have also discovered over the years, is that it is not practical to build 5 bed Care Homes especially due to the high cost of property in town. While the requirements are much stringent for an 8 bed Care Home, the level of care is much higher. Type II Care Homes are required to have a Registered Nurse on staff overseeing the care of the Residents as well as an institutional fire sprinkler system. We have also found that the socialization is greater because there are more Residents to interact with and that it is easier to offer a much greater choice of activities. Things are more lively and festive.

At this very moment I have 20 people on my waiting list and I get calls every day from people who need immediate help and care for family members. Often many of these elderly are waiting at large Nursing Homes and Hospitals for a Care Home bed to open. In spite of this obvious need for Care Home beds, some people want to make it harder for them to be built.

If H 3 2433 is passed , I feel it would be especially discouraging for potential Care Home operators. The demanding paperwork and delay of time needed with both the Building Department and Department of Health are already horrendous. Years may go by before all permits and licenses are granted.

The resources needed to weather this process is great. To add another layer of public hearings will not solve the problems of our aging population, but careful thinking and more practical solutions to caring for our Elderly will.

This bill is remarkable for its evident shortsightedness. How can we take care of our loved ones if the policy makers make it harder and harder to do so. If anything, we should all be gathering together to help families with caring for our Elderly.

Thank you for your time and kind consideration.



Sandra Shim
Owner/Operator
Manc a Cottage
Type II Care Home
808 (943 8767)