



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. 2735
RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the intent of this bill to provide additional security at Mayor Wright Homes to the extent that it does not adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

Please note that HPHA currently receives \$1,500,000 for private security guard contracts for its family and elderly housing projects statewide. Under this level of funding, HPHA is only able to provide one 24-hour gate guard and two 6-hour roving shifts of two guards, at a cost of approximately \$333,074. This bill appropriates \$235,582 for the contract hiring of at least three security officers at Mayor Wright Homes. HPHA needs an additional \$1,500,000 to create an effective security force at family public housing projects across the state.

HPHA is ready to utilize any additional funding provided to improve the security of its public housing residents. HPHA is currently looking into changes to its security configuration such as the hiring of off-duty police officers and off-duty sheriffs to complement the contracted security guards. HPHA believes that security officers with arresting powers are needed to effectively address security problems at the public housing projects. Therefore, HPHA requests that additional fund be approved, but that the funds are not restricted to hiring security guards.

In regards to section 2 of the bill, requiring HPHA to submit a report to the Legislature on the security situation at Mayor Wright Homes, HPHA is currently open to discussions and sharing of information with the Legislature, public housing residents, media, and the community on how HPHA can improve security at Mayor Wright Homes. HPHA is trying to cultivate an ongoing, open dialogue on all aspects of its management of public housing projects statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Strong Support for HB2735
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. While the federal weed & seed program was in effect, we had pretty good security at Mayor Wright Homes. Since that program ended, conditions have deteriorated which is why we are testifying today. We need improved security, and we need the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to be accountable for progress in security improvements.

Please help us restore trust in the security of Mayor Wright Housing. Please pass HB2735 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

650 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 FERBERA
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 FANCA
1119 BANYON ST
HONOLULU, HI 96817
PHONE: 381-9679
KALIHI - PALAMAMA NEIGHBORHOOD
BOARD NO. 15

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

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

Strong Support for HB2735
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 HB2735. I am asking for safety for myself and all the people who live in Mayor Wright Homes.

I have been regularly surrounded and threatened by gang members. We have loitering, public drinking, shootings, drugs, gangs, attacks on residents, and guns and weapons. While the federal weed & seed program was in effect, we had pretty good security at Mayor Wright Homes. Since that program ended, conditions have deteriorated which is why I am testifying today. We need improved security, and we need the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to be accountable for progress in security improvements.

Please help us restore trust in the security of Mayor Wright Housing. Please pass HB2735 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

Strong Support for HB2735
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 & Judy Ricky, and we are residents of Mayor Wright Homes. We are testifying today in strong support of HB2735. 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. Only quick action by neighbors stopped the assault and brought the police. While the federal weed & seed program was in effect, we had pretty good security at Mayor Wright Homes. Since that program ended, conditions have deteriorated which is why we are testifying today. We need improved security, and we need the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to be accountable for progress in security improvements.

Please help us restore trust in the security of Mayor Wright Housing. Please pass HB2735 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 HB2735
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 HB2735. 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. While the federal weed & seed program was in effect, we had pretty good security at Mayor Wright Homes. Since that program ended, conditions have deteriorated which is why I am testifying today. We need improved security, and we need the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to be accountable for progress in security improvements.

I had to get a restraining order against several outsiders after they repeatedly personally and racially threatened my husband and me and attacked me with kicks and punches. I even had an epileptic seizure after one attack. I am terrified of these outsiders. Please help us restore trust in the security of Mayor Wright Housing. Please pass HB2735 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 HB2735
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.

I am an elderly resident with a heart condition, and I am terrified of the gangs that have taken over my front porch, which is why I am testifying today. We have public drinking, shootings, drugs, gangs, attacks on residents, and guns and weapons. While the federal weed & seed program was in effect, we had pretty good security at Mayor Wright Homes. Since that program ended, conditions have deteriorated. We need improved security, and we need the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to be accountable for progress in security improvements.

Please help us restore trust in the security of Mayor Wright Housing. Please pass HB2735 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 HB2735
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 HB2735. I am asking for safety for my family and all the people who live in Mayor Wright Homes.

I have problems sleeping, and I am terrified in my own home. We have public drinking, shootings, drugs, gangs, attacks on residents, and guns and weapons. While the federal weed & seed program was in effect, we had pretty good security at Mayor Wright Homes. Since that program ended, conditions have deteriorated which is why I am testifying today. We need improved security, and we need the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to be accountable for progress in security improvements.

Please help us restore trust in the security of Mayor Wright Housing. Please pass HB2735 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**