



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 5, 2008, 8:35 a.m.
Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
Proposed H.B. 2845 HD1
RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) opposes the proposed H.B. 2845 H.D.1.

Under current HPHA policies, if a lease agreement is made with two tenants who sign on as co-Head-of-Household, the lease is upheld for only one tenant in the event of a divorce, annulment, or legal separation. It is up to the tenants of the household undergoing these types of changes to determine who shall stay on the lease as the Head-of-Household.

Given Hawaii's current housing crisis, it is not feasible for the HPHA to guarantee housing for tenants following a divorce, annulment, or legal separation. The HPHA manages approximately 5,363 Federal and 864 State-assisted rental housing properties. Comparatively, there are approximately 10,882 people on the waitlist for public housing as of February 3, 2008. The proposed bill would severely compromise the integrity of the public housing waitlist in addition to taking units away from the public housing inventory and dedicating them to a fewer number of people. Tenants that are exiting a household due to divorce, annulment, or separation are allowed to apply for public housing under a new lease, but are not given a preference that would allow them to expeditiously lease another unit before others on the waitlist. Public housing units are in such short supply that HPHA is presently not capable of implementing the provisions of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.