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Statement of  
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Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC HOUSING**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

April 1, 2008, 1:15 p.m.  
Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of  
**HCR 111 HD1**

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) strongly supports HCR 111 HD1, urging Hawaii's Congressional Delegation to support legislation supporting incentives for public housing tenants to transition into permanent housing.

Currently, the HPHA cannot meet the needs of all of the applicants who qualify for its public housing programs. 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 limitations of HPHA's resources are magnified by the fact that Hawaii is presently in the throes of a homeless crisis.

The HPHA believes that public housing is not a long-term solution, but rather a resource to be used by individuals until they are able to develop their own resources to the point of self-sufficiency. HPHA recognizes that certain residents, such as seniors living on a fixed income, do not have the capacity to expand their earning potential and transition out of subsidized housing. Many others, however, may benefit greatly from having incentives and supporting programs to specifically help them transition to the private rental market or achieve homeownership.

HPHA appreciates the efforts of the State Legislature to help public housing residents strive for and attain self-sufficiency. This will not only improve residents' lives, but it will also enable HPHA to assist a larger number of individuals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.