



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

March 20, 2008, 9:30 a.m.
Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
HCR 172

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) appreciates the intent of HCR 172, requesting the auditor to conduct a management and financial audit of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority's Punchbowl Homes Facility, however believes that an audit is unnecessary.

HPHA is required by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) to annually conduct a financial audit. A private CPA firm hired by HPHA is close to completing an audit of FY07. The audit includes, for example, HPHA's basic financial statements, determinations on whether HPHA has complied with state and federal laws and regulations, and assessments on the sufficiency of HPHA's internal controls to properly manage its programs, including the State Elderly Housing Program which oversees Punchbowl Homes. The audit proposed by this resolution would be a duplication of efforts already undertaken by HPHA.

While HPHA invites public housing residents, the community, and Legislature to scrutinize its management of public housing, an audit would not be an effective tool to expedite facility repairs at Punchbowl Homes. Problems indicated in the resolution are being addressed in the following ways:

- (1) The broken and unsecured back door leading to the parking lot has been repeatedly damaged due to abuse by individuals rather than a defect in the door itself. HPHA notes that this vandalism reoccurs as frequently as once a month and has paid as much as \$800 - \$1,000 for a single repair. HPHA's on-site manager has requested a security camera be set up near the door to prevent vandalism; however there is no funding available.
- (2) Currently, elevator modernization is taking place at Punchbowl Homes through funding made available from the Legislature last session. Note that HPHA currently has a request for \$6,410,000 in the FY09 supplemental budget bill for remaining elevator needs at public housing projects statewide. Elevator repair and modernization is a top priority for HPHA.
- (3) HPHA's Construction Management Branch has already scheduled the replacement of the broken trash compactor.

- (4) The front entrance of Punchbowl Homes, which is not accessible according to federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, consists of a set of stairs which will need to be replaced. The conversion of the stairs to ADA requirements is very costly, however HPHA has plans in the near future to address ADA issues at all of its public housing projects, including Punchbowl Homes. The existing ADA accessible entrance to the building is the same door being vandalized as mentioned in item (1) above.

Please note that the Executive Supplemental Budget included a request for \$20,000,000 in general obligation bonds for public housing capital improvement projects (CIP). This CIP request was cut to \$10,000,000 in the House Draft 1 of H.B. 2500, Relating to the State Budget. HPHA's housing inventory is made up of 5,363 federal public housing units and 864 state public housing units. The backlog of HPHA capital needs to repair public housing is \$298 million. This backlog will increase at a rate of \$19.5 million per year. CIP funding reductions make it extremely difficult for HPHA to address all of the repair and maintenance needs identified at public housing projects statewide.

HPHA remains committed, however, to providing residents with safe and decent living facilities. HPHA cannot do it alone and requires the support and cooperation of public housing residents, the community, and the Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



H.C.R. NO. 172

Requesting The Auditor To Conduct A Management And Financial
Audit Of The Hawaii Public Housing Authority's Punchbowl Homes
Facility
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

March 20, 2008

9:30 am

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs supports the purpose and intent of HCR 172.

Once the intent of HCR 172 is met to provide an audited management and financial report for Hawaii Public Housing Authority and the legislature to address Punchbowl Homes facility's needs, this facility will need be included in any public/private partnership formed to renovate the State's public housing inventory as outlined in HCR NO. 149.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to provide testimony.

From: IRA CALKINS [mailto:inner.governmental.research@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 4:56 PM
To: HSHtestimony
Subject: HCR 172

House of Representatives
The Twenty Fourth Legislature
Regular Session of 2008

Members of the Committee on Human Services & Housing

I am Ira Calkins of Punchbowl Homes 9 months

below is a letter sent to The Executive Director Department Of Human Services
Hawaii Public Housing Authority and Manager Mrs Gail Lee Hawaii Public
Housing Authority Kalanihuia Management Unit 5
Dated Dated 10 March 2008

This is to inform you that there are spaces in the front and back doors of this apartment allowing Spiders, Black Water Bugs, Small Rocks, and Large Rocks to walk in to the apartment, the gap/space on the bottom of the back door is 1/2" wide. I checked other apartments on my floor and all have this 1/2" gap/space that insects can walk in, this means every apartment in this building has this same problem a 1/2" space under the kitchen-patio door.

On March 5 2008 in an HUD RE AC Inspection the inspector found a small black Water Bug under the kitchen sink drain stopper, then Mrs Gail Lee Issued to me, Mr. Ira F. Calkins a Notice of Rental Agreement, House keeping Violation i.e. Failing to take reasonable housekeeping steps to eliminate and prevent Rock infestation.

Immediately after the inspection I went to City Mill Hardware Store and purchased The necessary chalk, spray, and Bate to eliminate the infestation of the insects, it did the job, killing 5 Spiders 4 Large Rocks 6 Small Rocks and 23 Small Black Water Bugs. I treated the effect of the large crack/space under and a long side both doors of this apartment.

The State of Hawaii required me to Violate the 6Th Commandment of God 38 times in order to live in this apartment, i.e. The Holy Bible King James Version Exodus Chapter 20, 13 Thou shall not kill, all because of a crack/space in the doors of this apartment insects coming in.

My Question to all of you, is it my requirement to fix the cause of the problem of the insect infestation, i.e. Cracks/Spaces in the doors of this apartment? Or is the requirement of the State of Hawaii Public Housing Authority?

I, called the Director HPHA Mr. Chad Tamiguchi and explain the insect conditions due to the spaces in the doors and informed me he will call Gail Lee

this was in the morning, I was delivering the letter to Mrs Gail Lee and met Mrs Clarissa Hosino out side of the management office and showed the letter to Mrs Hosino and she asked that i delay sending the letter to the Governor 2 weeks she would take care of this and she did, mintenance came and fixed the spaces on the doors in 2 days of my apartment only.

There is only one problem may apartment is one of 150 apartments in the is building as stated in the letter all apartments have the same problem.

On the 1st floor of this building on wing 3 that is the south end of the building the Fire Exit has 2 steps leading out of the building and a curb that Mr Yamasiro can not get out of the Fire Exit in case of a fire, Mr Yamasiro uses a electric wheel chair. Mr Yamasire would be cough if there was a fire up the hall from him.

As for the upper level management of the HPHA it has steadily increased while the lower levels has stayed the same from the 60's the direct management and workers Level 1, 2, 3 has not increased in numbers to keep up with this old building call Punchbowl Homes this building was built in the 60's The major problems have been put off so long the cost of fixing them has increased to the point the the funds necessary to repair the building.

Mr Derrick Kamora the supervisor of Mrs Gail Lee has never been to Punchbowl Homes. he has been with HPHA 6 Months.

St. Paul Minnesota Public Housing Authory has told upper level management to increase the number of employees at the lower end at HPHA. nothing has changed.

No upper level management has ever attended an Eviction Hearing for Punchbowl Homes.

The Public Housing Authority has lost 4 Million Dollars due to non collection of rent from tenets not paying across the HPHA this was 5 months ago there is no telling what it is up to now?

It is unfortunate that we as tenets have to hound the management at Unit 5 for they are in our chain of command. and Upper Level management don't get the message

Tenet Dweller
Punchbowl Homes
Ira Calkins