#### POLICE DEPARTMENT

#### CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulupd.org

MUFI HANNEMANN

COUNTY OF

BOISSE P CORREA

PAUL D. PUTZULU MICHAEL D. TUCKER DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE MH-LE

March 11, 2008

The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair and Members
Committee on Human Services & Housing
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Shimabukuro and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 2141, Relating to Public Housing

I am Major Bart Huber of District 2 (Wahiawa) of the Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu. The Honolulu Police Department (HPD) opposes Senate Bill No. 2141, which seeks to add public sidewalks and common areas within public housing projects to the areas where consuming liquor is prohibited.

It will likely result in the HPD being tasked with responding to all state public housing areas within the county. In the Kalihi area alone, there are 16 public housing projects. Without providing additional staffing to the HPD, passage of this bill will significantly impact our ability to provide timely response. Additionally, the HPD is chronically short-staffed and is currently experiencing a 10% vacancy rate for police officers.

The HPD, being the largest law enforcement agency in the state, is constantly tasked with more and more duties that actually fall under the jurisdiction of state or private entities. While we understand that this bill is intended to control illegal drinking in public housing projects, we feel that the current housing administrative rules, if enforced, are adequate. Tasking a city agency with enforcement would not be appropriate.

We ask that you oppose the passage of Senate Bill No. 2141. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

BART HUBER, Major

ich voo Al. Clamashire

District 2

APPROVED:

BOISSE P. CORREA

Chief of Police

Serving and Protecting With Aloha

Relating to Public Housing Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:30 am

To: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair,
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on Human Services &
Housing

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Precy Valenzuela, and I am a neighbor in support of Mayor Wright Homes. I am testifying today in strong support of SB 2141. I am asking for safety for our entire community as well as the people who live in Mayor Wright Homes.

Many gangs in this area go back and forth between our city streets and Mayor Wright Homes. If we can stop the public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and common areas of Mayor Wright Homes, we can begin to stop all the gang activity by removing the places where they do it.

Please pass SB 2141 so that all the residents of this area can live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Precy Valenzuela 814 Kanoa St. Honolulu, HI 96817 Phone: 392-2741

Relating to Public Housing Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:30 am

To: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair,
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on Human Services &
Housing

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is David Soares, and I am a resident of Kukui Gardens. I am testifying today in strong support of SB 2141. I am asking for safety for my family and for this entire neighborhood.

We have elderly and Asian residents getting harassed, robbed, mugged, or beaten almost every day waiting on busses, and the gangs are always seen running back into Mayor Wright Homes. There are never any suspects, never any arrests, just police reports of these incidences that are hard for my neighbors to file due to language barriers.

We need to do everything that we can to deny a safe haven to gangs in Mayor Wright Homes. Please stop the public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and common areas of Mayor Wright Homes, to help deny the gangs safe haven there. Please pass SB 2141 so that all the residents of this area can live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

David Soares 369 N. Vineyard Honolulu, HI 96817 Phone: 306-3729

Relating to Public Housing Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:30 am

To: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair,
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on Human Services &
Housing

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rose, and I am a resident of Mayor Wright Homes. I am testifying today in strong support of SB 2141. I am asking for safety for all the families who live in Mayor Wright Homes.

I am over 70 years old, and I have to carry an oxygen tank with me. With all the loud noise, drinking, and fighting in the yard, I am not able to get any sleep at night. My sons say that I am not safe here alone, and my family has to take me out for visits to get me away from the stress. I have attempted to address this problem with management, but this leads nowhere.

Please help us to stop the public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and common areas of Mayor Wright Homes. Please pass SB 2141 so that all the residents of Mayor Wright can live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Rose Mayor Wright Homes 650 Kukui St., 32-A Honolulu, HI 96817

Relating to Public Housing Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:30 am

To: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair,
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on Human Services &
Housing

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Our names are Rina Perbera, Nancy Antonio, and Ceimomi Cho, and we are neighbors of Mayor Wright Homes. We are testifying today in strong support of SB 2141. We are asking for safety for our neighborhood and for all the Mayor Wright Homes community.

We are elderly residents who live near to Mayor Wright Homes, and we are losing our property. We have gang activity every night in front of our apartments with their drinking and fighting and loud noise. When the police come, the gangs go into Mayor Wright. When the police leave, the gangs come back to our city streets. There are never any arrests.

Please stop the public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and common areas of Mayor Wright Homes to help our entire community stop the gang behavior that comes from public drinking. Please pass SB 2141 so that all of us can live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing us to testify.

Rina Perbera 1202 Pua Lane, #1 Honolulu, HI 96817

Nancy Antonio 1202 Pua Lane, #2 Honolulu, HI 96817

Ceimomi Cho 1202 Pua Lane, #5 Honolulu, HI 96817

Relating to Public Housing Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:30 am

To: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair, Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Housing

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Awleen Paul, my husband is Francis Kerat, and we are residents of Mayor Wright Homes. We are testifying today in strong support of SB 2141. We are asking for safety for ourselves and all the people who live in Mayor Wright Homes.

I had to get a restraining order against several gang members after they repeatedly threatened my husband and me with Micronesian racial slurs, chased my husband with a sword, and attacked me with kicks and punches. I am epileptic, and I even went into shock and had a seizure after one attack. The police know who these gangs are, but they are still on the property.

We are active church members, do not believe in violence, and we have done nothing to deserve this. We are terrified and confused by this criminal activity. We do not know who to rely on.

Please stop the public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and common areas of Mayor Wright Homes to help us get rid of these gangs. Please pass SB 2141 so that all the residents of Mayor Wright can live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing us to testify.

Awleen Paul, Francis Kerat Mayor Wright Homes 1235 Pua Lane, 34-M Honolulu, HI 96817

Phone: 953-4036

Relating to Public Housing Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:30 am

To: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair,
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on Human Services &
Housing

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Randy Nicky, my wife is Aosy Helly, and we are residents of Mayor Wright Homes. We are testifying today in strong support of SB 2141. We are asking for safety for our family and for all the families who live in Mayor Wright Homes.

All the public drinking and lack of security creates a great problem here. Our nephews were beaten with baseball bats by two pickup truck loads of gang members and left lying on the ground in critical condition. Gangs use Mayor Wright as a safe haven—these criminals are still loose, there have been no arrests.

Stopping the public consumption of alcohol will help us to stop these gangs from hanging around here. Please pass SB 2141 so that all the residents of Mayor Wright can live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Randy Nicky, Aosy Helly Mayor Wright Homes 1330 Liliha St., 20-G Honolulu, HI 96817

Relating to Public Housing Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:30 am

To: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair,
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on Human Services &
Housing

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marino Ricky, my wife is Judy, and we are residents of Mayor Wright Homes. We are testifying today in strong support of SB 2141. We are asking for safety for ourselves and all the people who live in Mayor Wright Homes.

A cousin and I were attacked and punched repeatedly by two known gang members in the parking lot. My wife witnessed the whole thing from the third floor. More gang members were on the way when neighbors ran out, stopped them beating us, and called 911. We are terrified of these gangs. Everybody knows who they are, but there have been no arrests.

If we could stop the public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and common areas of Mayor Wright Homes, that would help stop the gang behavior that often comes from public drinking.

Please pass SB 2141 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

Relating to Public Housing Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:30 am

To: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair, Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Housing

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Leonard Lester, and I am a resident of Mayor Wright Homes. I am testifying today in strong support of SB 2141. I am asking for safety for myself and for all the Mayor Wright Homes community.

I was beaten on the head and arms by gang members with pipes. I was seriously injured and missed work. Now the gang members know me, and they surround me and threaten me regularly. We have public drinking, trespassing, and lots of drugs here. We have people on our property lying down and sleeping on stairways, sometimes for days from drugs.

If we could stop the public consumption of alcohol and drugs on the sidewalks and common areas of Mayor Wright Homes, this would help stop the illegal gang behavior that often comes from public drinking. Please pass SB 2141 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

Relating to Public Housing Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:30 am

To: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair,
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on Human Services &
Housing

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

I am Keoondorie Thakhambor, and I am a resident of Mayor Wright Homes. I am testifying today in strong support of SB 2141. I am asking for safety for myself, my daughter Joanna, and all the people who live in Mayor Wright Homes.

I am 65 years old with a heart condition, and I am terrified of the gangs that have taken over my stairs and front porch. They drink and smoke there, and the noise and smoke come into my apartment. They harass my daughter and other family and friends who try to visit me.

If we could stop the public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and common areas of Mayor Wright Homes, we could stop the illegal or inappropriate behavior that often comes from public drinking. Please pass SB 2141 so that all the residents of Mayor Wright can live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Keoondorie Thakhambor, Joanna Thakhambor Mayor Wright Homes 649 N. Vineyard, 35-B Honolulu HI 96817 Phone: 450-9493

Relating to Public Housing Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:30 am

To: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair, Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Housing

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Fetu Kolio, my wife is Eleanor, and we are residents of Mayor Wright Homes. We are testifying today in strong support of SB 2141. We are asking for safety for our family, for all of Mayor Wright Homes, and for the entire community surrounding Mayor Wright.

Gang drinking, fighting, late-night noise, and intimidation make it impossible to sleep at night and make our community unsafe to live in. My neighbors are terrorized, and my wife has nightmares and asthma attacks at night. Police say this is public housing on private property, so it is a matter for security, then security does nothing. Even if police stop the gang activity one night, they just move outside to city streets, and they come back in the next night. My neighbors are terrified of gang retribution, so that people are afraid to speak out.

We need the standards and the tools to rid our entire community of this gang violence. We need the police to be able to do their job on Mayor Wright property, and we need real and accountable security. We need SB 2141. Please help us to stop the public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and common areas of Mayor Wright Homes, so we can begin to stop gang activity throughout our entire community, both inside and outside Mayor Wright. Please pass SB 2141 so that our entire community can live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing us to testify.

Fetu & Eleanor Kolio Mayor Wright Homes 1235 Pua Lane, 34-D Honolulu, HI 96817

Relating to Public Housing Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:30 am

To: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair,
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on Human Services &
Housing

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Fia, and I am a resident of Mayor Wright Homes. I am testifying today in strong support of SB 2141. I am asking for safety for myself and all the Mayor Wright Homes community.

A crowd of gang members gathers here every night. They sit and climb on cars and leave bottles, cigarettes, and graffiti. We have no protection from their noise, drinking, and vandalizing our vehicles. Please stop the public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and common areas of Mayor Wright Homes, so we can stop the gang behavior.

Please pass SB 2141 so that all the residents of Mayor Wright can live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Fia Mayor Wright Homes 1211 Pua Lane, 33-A Honolulu, HI 96817

Relating to Public Housing Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:30 am

To: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair,
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on Human Services &
Housing

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cardy Fang, I am a member of the Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board and a neighbor of Mayor Wright Homes. I am testifying today in strong support of SB 2141. I am asking for safety for our entire community as well for all the people who live in Mayor Wright Homes.

Gang activity is a tremendous problem in this area. Gang drinking, drugging, and fighting moves from corner to corner, going all the way down to Banyon Street. I strongly support stopping the public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and common areas of Mayor Wright Homes as a good beginning to stopping the gang activity that uses Mayor Wright property as a safe haven.

Please pass SB 2141 so that our entire community can begin to live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Cardy Fang 1119 Banyon St. Honolulu, HI 96817 Phone: 381-9679

Relating to Public Housing Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:30 am

To: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair, Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Housing

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Binasita Eram, and I am a resident of Mayor Wright Homes. I am testifying today in strong support of SB 2141. I am asking for safety for my family and all the people who live in Mayor Wright Homes.

I have a paraplegic son, and gang members beat him one day with his own crutches. They left fractures and even punched me when I tried to intervene, then they broke my windows. These same gang members also beat my 9 year old nephew bad with a baseball bat, and they have beaten other of my neighbors as well. I have a restraining order, but these gang members are still on the property.

Please help us to stop the public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and common areas of Mayor Wright Homes, so we can stop the gangs from terrorizing our community. Please pass SB 2141 so that all the residents of Mayor Wright can live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Binasita Eram Mayor Wright Homes 566 Kukui St., 25-E Honolulu, HI 96817

Relating to Public Housing Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:30 am

To: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair, Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Housing

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Daniel L. Dudden, and I live near to Mayor Wright Homes. I am testifying today in strong support of SB 2141. I am asking for safety for myself and all the people who in or near in Mayor Wright Homes.

When we call the police, the gangs run into Mayor Wright, but when the police go to Mayor Wright, the gangs just leave and use the outside streets again. We have public drinking, visible drug use, and gangs that take over our streets and parking structures. We need to stop public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and common areas so we can take back our streets from these gangs.

Please pass SB 2141 so that we can all begin to live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Daniel L. Dudden 1120 Pua Lane, #302 Honolulu, HI 96817 Phone: 262-8282

Relating to Public Housing Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:30 am

To: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair, Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Housing

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shirleen Cordiero, and I am a neighbor from outside of Mayor Wright Homes. I am testifying today in strong support of SB 2141. I am asking for safety for myself and for the community surrounding Mayor Wright Homes.

We have gangs that go both inside and outside Mayor Wright. When they are outside, their drinking, fighting, and loud disturbance goes into the early morning hours. They take everything from our yards, and they rob our cars. Please help the residents of Mayor Wright Homes and the surrounding community. Please stop the public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and common areas of Mayor Wright Homes and the illegal gang behavior that goes with it.

Please pass SB 2141 so that the entire Mayor Wright neighborhood can live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Shirleen Cordiero 1118 Pua Lane, #305 Honolulu, HI 96817

Relating to Public Housing Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:30 am

To: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair, Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Housing

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Genevive Cadnette, and I am a resident of Mayor Wright Homes. I am testifying today in strong support of SB 2141. I am asking for safety for my family and all the people who live in Mayor Wright Homes.

I am 80 years old with a disabled son. Gangs have taken over my son's wheelchair ramp with their public drinking. They occupy the ramp every night and all day on weekends when we have no management, and I am terrified to confront them. Why should I have to say Excuse me, please, to gangs who do not belong here so my son can use his wheelchair ramp?

Please help stop the public consumption of alcohol on the sidewalks and common areas of Mayor Wright Homes. Please pass SB 2141 so that all the residents of Mayor Wright can live in safety and peace.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Genevive Cadnette Mayor Wright Homes 649 N. Vineyard, 35-A Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, Chair Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair Sen. Less Ihara Jr, Vice-Chair Committee on Human Services & Housing (HSH)

Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan Kanaka Maoli, Private Citizen, Ex-Tenant to Public Housing

March 11, 2008 8:30am Rm: 329 (Representative)
March 11, 2008 2:30pm Rm: 01 (Senate)

#### HB 1984 / SB 2141: Relating to Public Housing; intoxicating liquor

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Rhoads and members of the committee: Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara Jr. and members of the committee:

My name is Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan. I'm a Kanaka Maoli, a Private Citizen and an ex-tenant to public housing. I'm here testifying in <u>SUPPORT OF THE INTENT</u> to HB1984 and SB2141 relating to Public Housing, Intoxicating Liquor, allowing law enforcement to enter into public housing property and enforcing violations of law that affect safety and wellness of the community and neighborhoods.

My testimony provides experiences as I've introduced who I am. First, as a Kanaka Maoli or what you would call a private citizen, I'm concerned and appalled to accept the fact that up until now the laws in place which addresses public intoxication would not apply or be limited to enforce in public housing communities. How can this be if we accept that public (subsidized) housing is responsible for housing qualified public citizens, the communities would not be defined as "Public Property"?

Second as my experience when I lived in Mayor Wright Housing back in 1958-1980, the community was monitored and aided by law enforcement for any and all violations of law whether the incident was during "business" or "non-business" hours. I recall many times officers of the law came into units and in "common areas" to enforce violations of noise, violence, intoxication, and general neighbor

nuances. What has changed since that time? When did the acceptance and awareness of living in public housing was a semi-private community? In recap, if public housing is considered for the betterment of its qualified citizens and should be given safe, decent and healthy housing why isn't that the priority and enforcement an issue? Earlier testimonies offered by the Attorney General, the director of Public Housing and a major of the Police Department all indicate that there was confusion in existing laws which relate to definition of boundaries and enforcement of law. The measure should address this. The concern and primary responsibility is for the management of Public Housing to enforce follow-up meetings and issuance of violations to the extent of evictions. Once this action and enforcement is demonstrated, the tenants will reconsider their actions and take more responsibility to assurance the community is safe and healthy.

Maybe this measure should be amended to include a process in which the law

Maybe this measure should be amended to include a process in which the law management authority for follow ups and possibilities of eviction.

Our community has many needs and challenges. The bill identifies the concerns and solutions in addressing the barriers to assuring we have a healthier community and thereby reducing the need for continued government interventions. The management of Public Housing needs to assure they are able to follow up and enforce measures that can lead to evictions as well as get reports of violations of the law.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony and request your favor to SUPPORT THE INTENT of this measure. For more information I can be contacted at 783-9302.

Mahalo,

Relating to Public Housing Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:30 am

To: Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair,
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on Human Services &
Housing

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alyn L.A. Vasquez, and I am a resident of Mayor Wright Housing for twelve years. I raised my three children in the project. A soldier with the Stryker Brigade, stationed in Iraq on his third deployment. An HPD Police Officer who is also in the Air National Guard deploying this week and a daughter whom is a Legislative Aide here at the Capitol.

As a resident of Mayor Wright I see people the common areas drinking and it often leads to fighting and other problems. HB 1984, HD1 would prohibit the consumption of liquor on public sidewalks and common areas within public housing projects. This bill will help to make our homes safer.

I come before you today as I have in the past to lobby for Mayor Wright Housing in support for SB 2141.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Alyn L.A. Vasquez Mayor Wright Homes Resident Neighborhood Board Member 15 Kalihi/Palama