

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



CHAD K. TANIGUCHI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 17907  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

LATE TESTIMONY

Statement of  
**Chad K. Taniguchi**  
Hawaii Public Housing Authority  
Before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING**

March 11, 2008, 8:30 a.m.  
Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of  
**S.B. 2141**  
**RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING**

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Rhoads and members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) strongly supports this measure to create a safe environment for public housing residents.

HPHA policy currently prohibits the consumption of alcohol in common areas of the public housing projects in its lease agreement with each resident. When residents and/or their guests violate this rule, project managers issue a writ of violation letter to the resident. Upon receipt of the violation letter managers may schedule a meeting with the resident to reinforce the importance of HPHA's policy. If the resident commits a second violation the manager may now refer the resident for eviction based on a violation of the lease agreement.

HPHA's policy, however, is insufficient to handle situations in which there are large numbers of residents and/or guests drinking in common areas that are shared by all residents. HPHA managers and supporting staff are only on-site during normal working hours and not during the late night and weekend time periods when parties typically take place. Security guards who are present during late nights and weekends are fearful or incapable of reprimanding a large group of intoxicated individuals, as the possibility of violence is increased with the consumption of alcohol. Unlike police officers, security guards do not carry weapons nor do they have arresting powers. This bill will enable law enforcement to enter public housing projects, which are not categorized as public land, and assist with residents who are publicly consuming alcohol.

While HPHA believes that this bill is necessary, HPHA acknowledges that project managers must improve their enforcement of existing rules prohibiting drinking in common areas. HPHA will take the necessary steps to carry out appropriate action, such as issuing violation warnings and initiating eviction proceedings, with residents who violate their lease agreement. The combined effort of HPHA staff, HPHA's privately contracted security guards, and law enforcement officers will help to create a family and community atmosphere at public housing projects.