



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

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC HOUSING

January 29, 2008, 1:30 p.m.
Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

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

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the intent of this measure to create a safe environment for public housing residents. Current HPHA policy already prohibits the consumption of alcohol in common areas of the public housing projects.

Sidewalks within the public housing projects are considered part of the common area. Only the immediate space outside a resident's unit is not part of the common area. HPHA's rental agreement states under a list of tenant obligations:

"Tenant shall, at all times under this Rental Agreement...conduct himself and cause other persons who are on the premises with Tenant consent to conduct themselves in a manner which will not disturb Tenant neighbors' peaceful enjoyment of their accommodations and will be conducive to maintaining the Project in a decent, safe, and sanitary condition, and not loiter or drink alcoholic beverages in the project's common areas..."

When residents and/or their guests violate this prohibition, 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 explain the violation and emphasize the importance of HPHA's policy against consuming alcoholic beverages in common areas. If the resident commits a second violation, the manager may now refer the resident for eviction on the basis of a violation of the lease agreement.

HPHA acknowledges that increased enforcement of existing rules by HPHA management staff, with the help of its privately contracted security guards and other public housing residents, is needed to make the public housing projects a safer place to live. HPHA has the policies already in place for the safety and well-being of the family housing projects, rendering this bill unnecessary.