



**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

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR**

February 25, 2008, 10:00 a.m.  
Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of  
**S.B. 3060 SD1**

**RELATING TO HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY EVICTIONS BOARDS**

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) strongly supports S.B. 3060 SD1, an Administration bill, which would allow HPHA evictions boards to hold an eviction hearing without the public housing tenant member of the eviction board present, so long as a quorum is met.

Section 356D-93 (b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, states that the tenant member of the eviction board must be in attendance at every eviction hearing. If the tenant member is absent and all other eviction board members are present, the hearing cannot proceed.

Currently, it is difficult to find public housing tenants who are willing to serve on the evictions boards. This reluctance stems from fear of potential repercussions, such as retaliation, acted out by fellow public housing tenants who appear before the board. This has been the case amongst close-knit communities living in public housing projects on the neighbor islands.

Consequently, eviction hearings have been delayed for months due to the inability to find a public housing tenant to serve on an eviction board. Consequently, a tenant member of an Oahu evictions board has been frequently called upon to serve as a replacement at hearings on neighbor islands --- a practice that occurs at a cost to the State. Oftentimes during these time delays, public housing tenants awaiting a hearing stop paying rent, thereby exacerbating the already bad tenant delinquency problem.

This bill will not change the requirement that every eviction board must have a member who is a public housing tenant. HPHA acknowledges the value of the tenant member on the board. This bill, however, is a necessary step to eliminating time delays in conducting eviction hearings and will create a cost savings for the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, which is operating at a deficit.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.