



SB 3060, SD 2
Relating to Hawaii Public Housing Authority Evictions Boards
Committee on Human Services & Housing

March 11, 2008

8:30 am

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs supports the purpose and intent of SB 3060, SD 2 (SSCR 2743).

The growing affordable housing problem is one of the most critical issues faced by our communities, especially our Native Hawaiian communities. This issue seems to have many of our families struggling to find adequate housing and to make ends meet.

As you are aware, public housing does help to fill this need. Public housing does need to operate efficiently and timely. The timely operations in eviction hearings is critical to it's' success.

OHA recognizes that physical solutions by themselves will not solve social and economic problems, but neither can economic vitality, community stability, and environmental health be sustained without a coherent and supportive physical framework.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

-----Original Message-----

From: Joel Fischer [mailto:jfischer@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2008 2:02 PM
To: HSHtestimony
Subject: SB3060; HSH; 3/11; 8:30AM; Rm 329
Importance: High

SB3060, SD2, Relating to Hawai`i PHA
HSH; Chair, Rep Shimabukuro

PLEASE AMEND THIS BILL.

The solution to the problem (tenant members on eviction boards) as described in this bill does not address the problem as stated. The problem is that it takes too long to find a tenant member. The solution this bill proposes is to no longer require a tenant member. That does not make sense and discriminates against tenant members and also unduly hastens evictions.

I understand the frustration involved in the long waits to find a tenant member. Therefore, I propose the following AMENDMENT that will not allow exclusion of a tenant member from day one:

PLEASE CHANGE THE WORDING IN LINES 1 AND 2 ON PAGE 3 TO READ: "IF A TENANT MEMBER CANNOT BE FOUND WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS OF FORMING AN EVICTION BOARD, THE BOARD CAN PROCEED WITHOUT A TENANT MEMBER AS LONG AS A QUORUM IS PRESENT."

Thank you for considering this amendment.

Aloha, joel

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"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should DO justice."
Thomas Jefferson

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never, never, never quit."
Winston Churchill