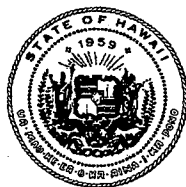


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC HOUSING

February 5, 2008, 1:15 p.m.
Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
S.B. 3159
RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) strongly supports this measure.

This bill prohibits the consumption of alcoholic beverages in common areas of public housing projects, in addition to requiring law enforcement officers to enter any common area of public housing projects to enforce this provision. Please note that HPHA prefers the language used in S.B. 2141 to amend Section 281-78 (a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, as it applies the alcohol prohibition to public sidewalks in public housing projects and includes a clear definition of "common area".

Currently, HPHA has a policy in place prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in common areas of public housing projects. The policy alone, however, is ineffective in deterring disturbances caused by the public consumption of alcohol. HPHA managers 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 when alcohol is being consumed. Unlike police officers, security guards do not carry weapons nor do they have arresting powers. This bill will require law enforcement to enter public housing projects, which are not categorized as public land, and assist in these situations.

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 curb lawless activity and create a safer family and community atmosphere at public housing projects.

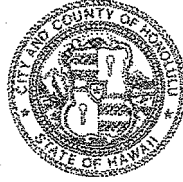
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

Handwritten notes and signatures in the right margin, including the number 217 and the name Taniguchi.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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

MUTI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



BOISSE P. CORREA
CHIEF

PAUL O. PUTZULU
MICHAEL D. TUCKER
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE
KK-MK

February 5, 2008

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
and Members
Committee on Human Services
and Public Housing
The Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill 3159, Relating to Law Enforcement

I am Major Kurt Kendro of District 5 (Kalihi) of the Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu.

The Honolulu Police Department supports Senate Bill No. 3159, Relating to Law Enforcement. Police officers often respond to incidents in public housing areas and have to deal with disruptive persons who are drinking alcohol in the common areas. The courts consider these areas semi-private and currently officers are not legally able to take enforcement action on people drinking in these areas. This bill would allow police officers to enforce the statutes that prohibit drinking alcoholic beverages in the common areas of public housing projects.

We urge your support in passing Senate Bill 3159.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Kendro".

KURT KENDRO, Major
District 5

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Boisse P. Correa".

for: BOISSE P. CORREA
Chief of Police