



**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**

March 20, 2008, 1:15 p.m.  
Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of  
**SCR 61**

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) provides comments on SCR 61, urging HPHA to issue a request for proposals to form a public/private partnership to renovate the State's public housing inventory.

HPHA acknowledges that public/private partnerships may help create new opportunities for HPHA to repair and renovate its public housing inventory. This is important given the present limitations of the state and federal economies. Please note that HPHA's lump sum capital improvement project request in the Executive Supplemental Budget is \$20,000,000. The house draft 1 of the state budget bill, H.B. 2500, reduced CIP funding to \$10,000,000. With limited funding it is difficult for HPHA to address statewide public housing repair and maintenance needs, and therefore welcomes financial resources from the private sector.

HPHA has concerns, however, regarding its current ability to issue a request for proposal and proceed with renovation of the first housing project by the end of 2008, as urged by this resolution. Furthermore, HPHA must receive approval from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) for major projects undertaken at federal public housing. Due to these factors in conjunction with ongoing challenges such as an operating budget deficit for FY08 and FY09, HPHA requests that the Legislature allow it to stabilize operations over the next year before actively seeking requests for proposals for public/private partnerships.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**S.C.R. NO. 61 Urging The Hawaii Public Housing Authority To  
Issue A Request  
For Proposals To Form A Public/Private Partnership to Renovate  
The State's Public Housing Inventory  
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing**

March 20, 2008  
016

1:15 p.m.

Room

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs supports the purpose and intent of SCR 61.

We believe it is not government's sole responsibility to come up with all solutions needed to address the citizens of Hawai'i access to safe, decent, and sanitary housing. We, too, believe it is critical that the public/private partnership with the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority is vital to the success of meeting these housing needs with a "sense of urgency".

As stated above, the support of the purpose and intent of SCR 61 is within this testimony subject to a concern with the first "WHEREAS" on page 2 starting with line one. The State of Hawaii must find ways to partner with public/private partnerships to build public housing because we cannot view all our citizens in public housing will be able to transition out of public housing. Our citizens who are on fixed incomes will not be able to find affordable housing when affordable housing to meet their needs are not being built. HPA should not be ensuring what inventory there is as only transitional housing without research and statistics to prove that all tenants will be able to transition out to available affordable housing.

Therefore, the support of SCR NO 61 is with the deletion of the above mentioned "WHEREAS".

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to provide testimony.

March 17, 2008

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chairwoman  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
and members of the Human Services and Public Housing

From: Dominique Kekiwi

RE: SCR 61- requesting that the Office of Youth Services and Child Welfare Services conduct a study into a safe shelter options for youth.

NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: Thursday, March 20, 2008

Time: 1:15 pm

Place: Conference Room 016  
State Capitol

Chairwoman Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara Jr., and members of the Human Services and Public Housing, my name is Dominique Kekiwi and I am a student of Honolulu Community College and a concern citizen. I am testifying in SUPPORT of SCR61 requesting that the Office of Youth Services and Child Welfare Services conduct a study into a safe shelter options for youth.

I feel it is very important for a runaway and homeless youth should have a safe shelter to go to even though with no parental consent. There are certain circumstances where these young individual does not live in a safe environment, have no other safe alternative living arrangement and they are living on the streets. By living on the streets they are at risk of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, prostitution and/or drug abuse.

When I was in high school, I was in a similar situation where I wanted to runaway because of certain situations that were happening at my home but because I didn't have anywhere to go; I stayed home and dealt with the problem. I feel if there is another way for a child to be in a shelter, they would be living away for a short or long period of time away from the problem until for a better lifestyle.

If they were to perform a study to give homeless and runaway youths another option for a safe shelter, these individuals would be able to sleep in a safe environment, have hot meals, clean clothes and being able to create a relationship with other youths in the same situation. Even though they know that they are in this position, they would feel safe and trust the people that are trying to help them.

Again, I urge you to SUPPORT SCR61. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Dominique Kekiwi  
Honolulu Community College Student  
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