

**THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2007**

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

**Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair**

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING

**Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair**

NOTIC OF INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

**DATE: Wednesday, November 07, 2007
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street**

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR WRIGHT TENANT ASSOCIATION

**Pres. Hana S. Eliapo
Tres. Theresa L. Cummings**

Aloha Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Senator Les Ihara Jr., Representative Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, and Representative Karl Rhoads. My name is Theresa L. Cummings and I am a Widower and Parent of eight boys and seven girls. A resident and member of the Mayor Wright Tenant Association, and representative of the Resident Advisory Board (RAB).

Our first comments and concerns are on empty units within our project. Out of 358 units 19 are empty and is need of repairs. Of these 19, ten are four and five bedroom units. The association knows our project is one of a few who has five bedroom units. Our worry is for the large families that are put into two and three bedrooms and/or are on the waiting list. We request that the four and five bedroom units have first priority for repairs.

Our second comment and concern is the cutting short of the eviction process for residents by removing the hearing board process and sending these cases straight to the court system. The eviction process has been cut so many times with the reason; that the process was so long that PH was losing money. (the process went from 18 months to 12 mon. to 8 mon. and now from 3 to 6 mon.) If they are still losing money they need to try another way to do it instead of cutting the process shorter.

As residents we fear that more of our rights to be heard and a fair chance to protest an eviction will fall on deaf ears with no compassion for public housing residents. The court system will not care if an elderly person did not take her medication and forgot to pay her rent, or if the welfare, SS, or Veterans made a mistake and the monthly checks were stopped. THE LAW IS THE LAW.