

LATE TESTIMONY

House Committee on Housing

Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. CR 325

In Support of HCR 281 and HR 253

Aloha Chair Rida Cabanilla, Vice Chair Pono Chong and members of the Housing Committee.

I am Ilalo Parayno a 40 year educator with the DOE and now retired.

I am testifying in support of HCR 281 and HR 253 that will urge the elimination of preferences in the application process in public housing.

The application process should be fair and provide equal opportunity to all. This would help to ensure that housing facilities are open and fair and provides equal opportunity for everyone.

The admission process should be abuse proof and the elimination of preferences will ensure more fairness to those who have been in the wait list for a long period of time. This will also prevent populating public housing with so called "homeless" people that will defeat the purpose of public housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Aloha Chair Rida Cabanilla, Vice Chair Pono Chong and members of the Housing Committee.

I am Chris Manabat a long time resident of the Leeward area.

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In Support of HCR 281-relating to Public Housing

Aloha Chair Rida Cabanilla, Vice Chair Pono Chong and members of Housing Committee.

I am Flor Martinez, a radio announcer at KNDI radio. I am testifying in support of HCR 281 that mandates minimum contribution by tenants that will provide landlord resources to be used in maintaining housing facilities to be safe, in good condition and will provide dignity to the tenant. Rental income will also assist the housing projects to stabilize. Public housing should serve as a transitional stage for individuals to incentivize them to look for a better job and do better in life.

Tenant selection rules will facilitate the transition of families out of the program and will prevent extended period of time for individuals and families to remain unsheltered and increased exposure to circumstances of the highest risk factors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATIVE, REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

LATE TESTIMONY

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Chair: Rida Cabanilla Vice Chair: Pono Chong
And Members of Housing Committee

DATE: Friday, April 1, 2009
TIME: 9:00 am
PLACE: Conference Room 325
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii

In Support of
HCR 281
Relating to
PUBLIC HOUSING

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My name is Dr. Inam Rahman, a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii for the last 15 years. I support the intent of this bill to provide affordable housing that is decent and secure to working people with low income.

A minimal rental requirement provides a win- win situation between tenant and landlord. It encourages working people to strive and better themselves and deters them to become homeless and at the same time provides landlord revenues to continue in maintaining a better living condition.

Our disabled veterans on the other hand who have served and protected us and our country should be given preference of tenancy in the rental units and not let them become homeless as a means of our appreciation to them.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Inam Rahman, MD.

LATE TESTIMONY

March 31, 2009

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HCR 281

Housing Committee
April 1, 2009 9:00 a.m. Room 325

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii hereby provides testimony in opposition to HCR 281.

Legal Aid provides free legal services to the low-income population of the State of Hawai'i. In addition to providing services to clients who currently reside in public housing, we also assist individuals who are on the waiting list to gain access to public housing.

The current guidelines give preference to the neediest of our population: victims of domestic violence and the homeless. These are the people who need entry into public housing the quickest. Failure to provide preferences for emergency situations will defeat the purpose of this resolution: to provide public housing to those in need. Elimination of the preference for victims of domestic violence will result in more women being unable to leave dangerous situations.

Rather than do away with the homeless preference altogether, I would suggest changes be made to the current systems. One of the simplest and most efficient ways to do this is to re-define homelessness.

I would suggest that it would be more effective for the committee to resolve:

WHEREAS various problems have been encountered due to the current definition of homelessness, be it resolved that:

A homeless family is defined as a family who has lived in a homeless or a transitional shelter for the maximum time period allowed, or for one year, whichever is greater;

A homeless family is defined as a family who has lived with friends or relatives in conditions with more than two persons per bedroom, for one year;

A victim of domestic violence is defined as a person who has a current Protective Order issued by a state or federal court;

Thirty percent of public housing vacancies will be filled by families who are currently on the waiting list, beginning with those who have been on the list the longest;

March 31, 2009

Page 2

Changes to the preference definition would optimize the housing that is available, without abandoning the truly homeless to life on the beach, in the parks and on the streets.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila P. Lippolt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Sheila P. Lippolt
Supervising Attorney
Housing Unit

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Patrick Koh [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:19 PM
To: Rep. Rida Cabanilla
Subject: Testimonies for HCRs 279, 281, 282, 283

I, Patrick Koh, do hereby lend my strong support to HCR 279 and urge the Hawaii public housing authority to streamline the eviction process to conform to federal guidelines. Thank you for accepting my testimony.

Patrick Koh
[REDACTED]

I, Patrick Koh, do hereby lend my strong support to HCR 281, urging the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to provide fair and equal access to public housing by removing preferences in the application process. Thank you for accepting my testimony.

Patrick Koh
[REDACTED]

I, Patrick Koh, do hereby lend my strong support to HCR 282, urging the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to increase the minimum rent schedule. Thank you for accepting my testimony.

Patrick Koh
[REDACTED]

I, Patrick Koh, do hereby lend my strong support to HCR 283 and urge the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to institute a five-year maximum stay for public housing. Thank you for accepting my testimony.

Patrick Koh
[REDACTED]