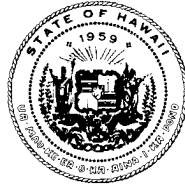


HCR282



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 EDUCATION AND HOUSING

April 24, 2009 9:05 A.M.
Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
HCR 282
URGING THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM RENT SCHEDULE

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the intent of HCR 282, to establish a minimum rent schedule that more nearly covers the cost of public housing units. . HPHA agrees with the concept of a minimum contribution by all tenants, but is able to set rent levels only for the 864 state public housing units, not the 5331 federal public housing units.

For state public housing, HPHA is required by HRS 356D-43(a) to have the rents pay for all expenses of the state family and state elderly housing. HPHA has not raised the minimum rents since 2001 for state family units and since 2005 for state elderly units. HPHA can set the \$250 minimum rent for new tenants, but would phase in higher rents for current tenants over a four year period. Otherwise the rate of increase will be too fast.



BY EMAIL: EDHtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Committee: Committee on Education and Housing
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, April 24, 2009, 9:05 a.m.
Place: Room 329
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Opposition to HCR 282, HD1

Dear Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee on Education and Housing:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in opposition to HCR 282, HD1, which urges the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to increase the minimum rent schedule.

This bill severely and unnecessarily punishes poor families. In this time of high and rising unemployment, we should not be considering ways to raise public housing tenants’ rent. The current rent structure appropriately balances the goals of the public housing authority with the needs of public housing tenants and should be maintained. Hawaii would be better served by enforcing the current rules and providing support to individuals and families seeking to transition out of public housing units.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 40 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Temple
Staff Attorney
ACLU of Hawaii

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