

Testimony regarding HCR 94 REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL AUDIT OF THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY'S MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

Before the House Committee of Human Services

March 16, 2009

By Chad Taniguchi, Executive Director, Hawaii Public Housing Authority

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) respectfully opposes HCR 94 on the basis that with the assistance of the legislature's recent funding HPHA is resolving the safety concerns raised in the resolution.

For example at Kuhio Park Terrace:

fire alarms are currently being installed at a cost of \$1.4 million

garbage chutes will be repaired at a cost of \$1 million, pending receipt of the building permit

pest infestations are being addressed by better housekeeping requirements for residents and integrated pest control management

6 elevators are being modernized at a cost of \$4.1 million, and all 34 elevators in the public housing units will be modernized

HPHA is required to have 259 ADA units. HPHA has 144 units and is now working on a plan to provide the remaining 115 units over the next 5 plus years. The estimated cost to provide those units is \$18 million, of which \$9 million is projected to come from future federal funds. HPHA is requesting that the legislature provide \$4.5 million during this session so we can start on the first 30 units.

HPHA thanks the legislature for its support of improved public housing facilities statewide.