

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

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

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

I am Nancy Atmosphera Walch testifying in support of HCR 279.

There are over 9,000 people on the waiting list for public housing. This bill is necessary in order to give those on the waiting list a fair chance to utilize public housing. Since the eviction process is far too cumbersome and drawn our state resources and time to evict someone, the availability of public housing units to the really needy citizens is limited. The board needs to focus on developing ways to make the mission and strategic plans to be more effective and efficient. Eviction process should be ministerial and non political.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Nancy Atmosphera Walch, RN, BSN, MPH, LNHA, CCHN, CHES, CMC
President & CEO
AIM Healthcare Institute

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In Support of HCR 279-Relating to PUBLIC HOUSING
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I am Dr. Inam Rahman, a medical doctor practicing for 15 years, supports the intent of HCR 279 which would streamline the eviction process to residents of public housing units who violates the conditions of the rental agreement of public housing. This bill will eliminate the lengthy process and the waiting periods that can be manipulated in its complexity to delay eviction of residents who are unable to pay and who pose danger to other residents due to their disruptive behavior. Eviction process done properly under due process and timely scheduling of meetings and notice requirements will speed up the process. The limited number of public housing units should be available to deserving needy citizens who are responsible enough to comply with community rules and will pay rent when due. Currently procedures can take months between times of violation to resolving disputes. This bill will significantly reduce the delay of availability of public units to more responsible tenants.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HCR 279

Inam Rahman, MD
CEO/Director
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OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Legislative Testimony

**HCR 279 Urging the Hawaii Public Housing Authority
to Streamline the
Eviction Process to Conform to
Federal Guidelines**

Committee on Housing

April 1, 2009
Room 325

9:00 a.m.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs supports the purpose and intent of HCR 279.

The beneficiaries of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs have a tenancy to be renters. The percent of beneficiaries in public housing is not known.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs advocates for systemic changes to address processes for conformity. The need to have the housing authority streamline these processes will provide standards that need to be clearly communicated to tenants before eviction.

OHA recognizes that physical solutions by themselves will not solve social and economic problems, but neither can economic vitality, community stability, and environmental health be sustained without a coherent and supportive physical framework like this bill giving the authority to evict tenants according to standards.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



CHAD K. TANIGUCHI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Statement of
Chad K. Taniguchi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

April 1, 2009 9:00 a.m.
Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
HCR 279 and HR 251

**URGING THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY TO STREAMLINE THE EVICTION
PROCESS TO CONFORM TO FEDERAL GUIDELINES**

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the intent of HCR 279 and HR 251, which encourage HPHA to streamline the process of evicting residents of public housing units who do not pay rent when due, or otherwise violate the rental agreement which is a condition of living in public housing. It is imperative that the limited number of public housing units be available to needy citizens who will meet their responsibilities by complying with necessary community rules and paying rent when due. Under current statutory requirements it can be many months between the time a violation occurs and the time when the unit becomes available to a more responsible tenant.

However, it must be noted that eviction from federal public housing units, which represent 5,331 of the statewide total of 6,195 public housing units, is governed by HRS 356D-91 to 98, which would have to be amended in order to for HPHA to comply with the intent of this measure.