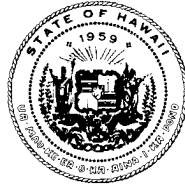


SB455



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

February 23, 2009 1:35 p.m.
Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol


In consideration of
S. B. 455
RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports the intent** of S.B. 455, which would prohibit smoking in and around public housing projects.

The health costs of smoking and second hand smoke are well known and more commercial and residential buildings are going "no-smoking" all the time. From a public health standpoint this measure would be beneficial.

The Committee should be aware, however, that the time and effort required for HPHA staff to monitor compliance, document violations and process evictions would be significant and would require that HPHA modify its current focus on increasing rent collections, reducing vacancy rates and providing repair and maintenance. With 6,195 units statewide, HPHA expects a large number of violations and allegations of violations would result from enactment of this measure.



To: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair, Committee on Education and Housing
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Education and Housing
Members, Senate Committee on Education and Housing
From: Trisha Y. Nakamura, Policy and Advocacy Director 
Date: February 20, 2009
Hrg: Senate Committee on Education and Housing; February 23, 2009 at 1:35 p.m.
Re: **In Support of the Intent** of SB 455, Relating to Public Housing

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony supporting the intent of SB 455 which prohibits smoking in and around public housing or State low-income housing projects.

The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii (Coalition) is the only independent organization in Hawaii whose sole mission is to reduce tobacco use through education, policy and advocacy. Our organization is a small nonprofit organization of over 100 member organizations and 2,000 advocates that works to create a healthy Hawaii through comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts.

The Coalition has a Smoke-Free Homes Initiative (<http://www.HawaiiSmokeFreeHomes.org>) to help landlords and tenants in condos, apartments and public housing adopt *voluntary* smoke-free policies.

Secondhand smoke is dangerous; the U.S. Surgeon General in 2006 noted, “[s]econdhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke.” The International Agency for Research on Cancer and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency both note that secondhand smoke is carcinogenic to humans. Secondhand smoke contains 4,000 known chemical compounds, 69 of which are known or probable carcinogens.

Housing units can currently adopt their own rules to prohibit smoking but there are currently no smoke-free public housing options in Hawaii. A 2007 letter from the Honolulu HUD office indicates that “[r]egulating smoking in public housing units or in common areas is a local decision. In addition, according to the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Civil Rights analyst, smokers are not a protected class under the Fair Housing Act.” Going smoke-free is lawful and promotes health.

The Coalition frequently receives calls from public housing residents who have asthma, heart disease, COPD and other health issues and who are having health problems as a result of exposure to secondhand smoke in their home.

All families deserve to live free of second-hand smoke and the health problems caused by exposure. Secondhand smoke can not be removed with ventilation and often seeps through walls and vents. The only option is to eliminate smoking in homes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

February 20, 2009

TO: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chairman
And members of the Senate Education and Housing Committee

FROM: Darren Michael Gionson

RE: SB 455 Relating to Public Housing

Chairman Sakamoto and members of the Senate Education and Housing Committee, my name is Darren Michael Gionson and I am a Resident Board Member of the Oahu Eviction Board, Board A. I am also a first year graduate student at UHM working on my MSW. I am testifying in **SUPPORT of SB 455** Relating to Public Housing.

As you are all aware, there are already statewide laws regulating smoking near and in certain establishments. This bill proposes that there be language entered into the rental agreement for residents in public housing.

Currently, there are already warnings on cigarette packages and other medical evidence to prove smoking of tobacco products to be detrimental to our health. This bill helps to enforce the smoking laws so people like my son who has asthma can enjoy smoke free areas.

I urge you to support SB 455. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair, the Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and other Members of the Education and Housing Committee

DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009
1:35 p.m., Room 225

RE: SB 455 Relating to Public Housing

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

My name is Fetu Kolio, and I am a community resident of Kalihi-Palama. I also serve as a Neighborhood Board Member and a Weed and Seed resident participant in my community. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of SB 455. We are asking for your help in protecting our families and all Public housing residents from secondhand smoke.

SB 455 would prohibit smoking in and around public housing projects under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii public housing authority.

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke confirmed the known health effects of secondhand smoke exposure, including immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, and coronary heart disease and lung cancer. The report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and that establishing smoke free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure.

Please help us keep our air clean in and around Mayor Wright Homes for all residents. Please pass SB 455 so that all the residents can live in a smoke-free environment.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. I hope you will pass SB 455.

Fetu Kolio
Mayor Wright Homes
1235 Pua Lane, 34-D
Honolulu, HI 96817

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair, the Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and other Members of the Education and Housing Committee

DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009
1:35 p.m., Room 225

RE: SB 455 Relating to Public Housing

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

My name is Eleanor Kolio, and I am a resident of Mayor Wrights Homes. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of SB 455. We are asking for your help in protecting our families and all Public housing residents from secondhand smoke.

SB 455 would prohibit smoking in and around public housing projects under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii public housing authority.

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke confirmed the known health effects of secondhand smoke exposure, including immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, and coronary heart disease and lung cancer. The report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and that establishing smoke free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure.

Please help us keep our air clean in and around Mayor Wright Homes for all residents. Please pass SB 455 so that all the residents can live in a smoke-free environment.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. I hope you will pass SB 455.

Eleanor Kolio
Mayor Wrights Homes
1235 Pua Lane, 34-D
Honolulu, HI 96817

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair, the Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and other Members of the Education and Housing Committee

DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009
1:35 p.m., Room 225

RE: SB 455 Relating to Public Housing

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

My name is Keoondorie Thakhambor, and I am a resident of Mayor Wrights Homes. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of SB 455. We are asking for your help in protecting our families and all Public housing residents from secondhand smoke.

SB 455 would prohibit smoking in and around public housing projects under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii public housing authority.

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke confirmed the known health effects of secondhand smoke exposure, including immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, and coronary heart disease and lung cancer. The report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and that establishing smoke free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure.

Please help us keep our air clean in and around Mayor Wright Homes for all residents. Please pass SB 455 so that all the residents can live in a smoke-free environment.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. I hope you will pass SB 455.

Keoondorie Thakhambor
Mayor Wrights Homes
649 N. Vineyard, 35-B
Honolulu, HI 96817
450-9493

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair, the Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and other Members of the Education and Housing Committee

DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009
1:35 p.m., Room 225

RE: SB 455 Relating to Public Housing

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

My name is Genevive Cadnette, and I am a resident of Mayor Wrights Homes. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of SB 455. We are asking for your help in protecting our families and all Public housing residents from secondhand smoke.

SB 455 would prohibit smoking in and around public housing projects under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii public housing authority.

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke confirmed the known health effects of secondhand smoke exposure, including immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, and coronary heart disease and lung cancer. The report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and that establishing smoke free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure.

Please help us keep our air clean in and around Mayor Wright Homes for all residents. Please pass SB 455 so that all the residents can live in a smoke-free environment.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. I hope you will pass SB 455.

Genevive Cadnette
Mayor Wrights Homes
649 N. Vineyard, 35-A
Honolulu, HI 96817

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair, the Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and other Members of the Education and Housing Committee

DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009
1:35 p.m., Room 225

RE: SB 455 Relating to Public Housing

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

My name is Joanna Thakhambor, and I am a resident of Mayor Wrights Homes. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of SB 455. We are asking for your help in protecting our families and all Public housing residents from secondhand smoke.

SB 455 would prohibit smoking in and around public housing projects under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii public housing authority.

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke confirmed the known health effects of secondhand smoke exposure, including immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, and coronary heart disease and lung cancer. The report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and that establishing smoke free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure.

Please help us keep our air clean in and around Mayor Wright Homes for all residents. Please pass SB 455 so that all the residents can live in a smoke-free environment.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. I hope you will pass SB 455.

Joanna Thakhambor
Mayor Wrights Homes
649 N. Vineyard, 35-B
Honolulu, HI 96817

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair, the Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and other Members of the Education and Housing Committee

DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009
1:35 p.m., Room 225

RE: SB 455 Relating to Public Housing

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

My name is Rose , and I am a resident of Mayor Wrights Homes. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of SB 455. We are asking for your help in protecting our families and all Public housing residents from secondhand smoke.

SB 455 would prohibit smoking in and around public housing projects under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii public housing authority.

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke confirmed the known health effects of secondhand smoke exposure, including immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, and coronary heart disease and lung cancer. The report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and that establishing smoke free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure.

Please help us keep our air clean in and around Mayor Wright Homes for all residents. Please pass SB 455 so that all the residents can live in a smoke-free environment.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. I hope you will pass SB 455.

Rose
Mayor Wrights Homes
650 Kukui St., 32-A
Honolulu, HI 96817

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair, the Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and other Members of the Education and Housing Committee

DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009
1:35 p.m., Room 225

RE: SB 455 Relating to Public Housing

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

My name is Awleen Paul, and I am a resident of Mayor Wrights Homes. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of SB 455. We are asking for your help in protecting our families and all Public housing residents from secondhand smoke.

SB 455 would prohibit smoking in and around public housing projects under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii public housing authority.

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke confirmed the known health effects of secondhand smoke exposure, including immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, and coronary heart disease and lung cancer. The report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and that establishing smoke free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure.

Please help us keep our air clean in and around Mayor Wright Homes for all residents. Please pass SB 455 so that all the residents can live in a smoke-free environment.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. I hope you will pass SB 455.

Awleen Paul
Mayor Wrights Homes
1235 Pua Lane, 34-M
Honolulu, HI 96817
953-4036

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair, the Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and other Members of the Education and Housing Committee

DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009
1:35 p.m., Room 225

RE: SB 455 Relating to Public Housing

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

My name is Randy Nicky, and I am a resident of Mayor Wrights Homes. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of SB 455. We are asking for your help in protecting our families and all Public housing residents from secondhand smoke.

SB 455 would prohibit smoking in and around public housing projects under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii public housing authority.

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke confirmed the known health effects of secondhand smoke exposure, including immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, and coronary heart disease and lung cancer. The report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and that establishing smoke free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure.

Please help us keep our air clean in and around Mayor Wright Homes for all residents. Please pass SB 455 so that all the residents can live in a smoke-free environment.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. I hope you will pass SB 455.

Randy Nicky
Mayor Wrights Homes
1330 Liliha St., 20-G
Honolulu, HI 96817

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair, the Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and other Members of the Education and Housing Committee

DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009
1:35 p.m., Room 225

RE: SB 455 Relating to Public Housing

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

My name is Aosy Helly, and I am a resident of Mayor Wrights Homes. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of SB 455. We are asking for your help in protecting our families and all Public housing residents from secondhand smoke.

SB 455 would prohibit smoking in and around public housing projects under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii public housing authority.

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke confirmed the known health effects of secondhand smoke exposure, including immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, and coronary heart disease and lung cancer. The report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and that establishing smoke free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure.

Please help us keep our air clean in and around Mayor Wright Homes for all residents. Please pass SB 455 so that all the residents can live in a smoke-free environment.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. I hope you will pass SB 455.

Aosy Helly
Mayor Wrights Homes
1330 Liliha St., 20-G
Honolulu, HI 96817

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair, the Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and other Members of the Education and Housing Committee

DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009
1:35 p.m., Room 225

RE: SB 455 Relating to Public Housing

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

My name is Francis Kerat, and I am a resident of Mayor Wrights Homes. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of SB 455. We are asking for your help in protecting our families and all Public housing residents from secondhand smoke.

SB 455 would prohibit smoking in and around public housing projects under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii public housing authority.

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke confirmed the known health effects of secondhand smoke exposure, including immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, and coronary heart disease and lung cancer. The report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and that establishing smoke free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure.

Please help us keep our air clean in and around Mayor Wright Homes for all residents. Please pass SB 455 so that all the residents can live in a smoke-free environment.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. I hope you will pass SB 455.

Francis Kerat
Mayor Wrights Homes
1235 Pua Lane, 34-M
Honolulu, HI 96817
953-4036

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair, the Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and other Members of the Education and Housing Committee

DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009
1:35 p.m., Room 225

RE: SB 455 Relating to Public Housing

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

My name is Marino Ricky, and I am a resident of Mayor Wrights Homes. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of SB 455. We are asking for your help in protecting our families and all Public housing residents from secondhand smoke.

SB 455 would prohibit smoking in and around public housing projects under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii public housing authority.

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke confirmed the known health effects of secondhand smoke exposure, including immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, and coronary heart disease and lung cancer. The report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and that establishing smoke free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure.

Please help us keep our air clean in and around Mayor Wright Homes for all residents. Please pass SB 455 so that all the residents can live in a smoke-free environment.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. I hope you will pass SB 455.

Marino Ricky
Mayor Wrights Homes
1235 Pua Lane, 34-L
Honolulu, HI 96817

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair, the Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and other Members of the Education and Housing Committee

DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009
1:35 p.m., Room 225

RE: SB 455 Relating to Public Housing

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

My name is Judy Ricky, and I am a resident of Mayor Wrights Homes. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of SB 455. We are asking for your help in protecting our families and all Public housing residents from secondhand smoke.

SB 455 would prohibit smoking in and around public housing projects under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii public housing authority.

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke confirmed the known health effects of secondhand smoke exposure, including immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, and coronary heart disease and lung cancer. The report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and that establishing smoke free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure.

Please help us keep our air clean in and around Mayor Wright Homes for all residents. Please pass SB 455 so that all the residents can live in a smoke-free environment.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. I hope you will pass SB 455.

Judy Ricky
Mayor Wrights Homes
1235 Pua Lane, 34-L
Honolulu, HI 96817

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair, the Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and other Members of the Education and Housing Committee

DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009
1:35 p.m., Room 225

RE: SB 455 Relating to Public Housing

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

My name is Fiailoa Muliaga, and I am a resident of Mayor Wrights Homes. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of SB 455. We are asking for your help in protecting our families and all Public housing residents from secondhand smoke.

SB 455 would prohibit smoking in and around public housing projects under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii public housing authority.

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke confirmed the known health effects of secondhand smoke exposure, including immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, and coronary heart disease and lung cancer. The report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and that establishing smoke free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure.

Please help us keep our air clean in and around Mayor Wright Homes for all residents. Please pass SB 455 so that all the residents can live in a smoke-free environment.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. I hope you will pass SB 455.

Fiailoa Muliaga
Mayor Wrights Homes
1211 Pua Lane, 34-J
Honolulu, HI 96817

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair, the Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and other Members of the Education and Housing Committee

DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009
1:35 p.m., Room 225

RE: SB 455 Relating to Public Housing

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

My name is Leonard Lester, and I am a resident of Mayor Wrights Homes. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of SB 455. We are asking for your help in protecting our families and all Public housing residents from secondhand smoke.

SB 455 would prohibit smoking in and around public housing projects under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii public housing authority.

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke confirmed the known health effects of secondhand smoke exposure, including immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, and coronary heart disease and lung cancer. The report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and that establishing smoke free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure.

Please help us keep our air clean in and around Mayor Wright Homes for all residents. Please pass SB 455 so that all the residents can live in a smoke-free environment.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. I hope you will pass SB 455.

Leonard Lester
Mayor Wrights Homes
1235 Pua Lane, 34-J
Honolulu, HI 96817

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair, the Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and other Members of the Education and Housing Committee

DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009
1:35 p.m., Room 225

RE: SB 455 Relating to Public Housing

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

My name is Binasita Eram, and I am a resident of Mayor Wrights Homes. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of SB 455. We are asking for your help in protecting our families and all Public housing residents from secondhand smoke.

SB 455 would prohibit smoking in and around public housing projects under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii public housing authority.

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke confirmed the known health effects of secondhand smoke exposure, including immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, and coronary heart disease and lung cancer. The report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and that establishing smoke free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure.

Please help us keep our air clean in and around Mayor Wright Homes for all residents. Please pass SB 455 so that all the residents can live in a smoke-free environment.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. I hope you will pass SB 455.

Binasita Eram
Mayor Wrights Homes
566 Kukui St., 25-E
Honolulu, HI 96817

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair, the Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and other Members of the Education and Housing Committee

DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009
1:35 p.m., Room 225

RE: SB 455 Relating to Public Housing

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

My name is Augafa Ene, and I am a resident of Mayor Wrights Homes. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of SB 455. We are asking for your help in protecting our families and all Public housing residents from secondhand smoke.

SB 455 would prohibit smoking in and around public housing projects under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii public housing authority.

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke confirmed the known health effects of secondhand smoke exposure, including immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, and coronary heart disease and lung cancer. The report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and that establishing smoke free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure.

Please help us keep our air clean in and around Mayor Wright Homes for all residents. Please pass SB 455 so that all the residents can live in a smoke-free environment.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. I hope you will pass SB 455.

Augafa Ene
Mayor Wrights Homes
1120 Desha Lane, 6-B
Honolulu, HI 96817

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair, the Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and other Members of the Education and Housing Committee

DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009
1:35 p.m., Room 225

RE: SB 455 Relating to Public Housing

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

My name is Nite Krisfoph, and I am a resident of Mayor Wrights Homes. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of SB 455. We are asking for your help in protecting our families and all Public housing residents from secondhand smoke.

SB 455 would prohibit smoking in and around public housing projects under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii public housing authority.

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke confirmed the known health effects of secondhand smoke exposure, including immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, and coronary heart disease and lung cancer. The report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and that establishing smoke free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure.

Please help us keep our air clean in and around Mayor Wright Homes for all residents. Please pass SB 455 so that all the residents can live in a smoke-free environment.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. I hope you will pass SB 455.

Nite Krisfoph
Mayor Wrights Homes
630 N. Kukui St., 29-C
Honolulu, HI 96817
723-4099

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair, the Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and other Members of the Education and Housing Committee

DATE: Monday, February 23, 2009
1:35 p.m., Room 225

RE: SB 455 Relating to Public Housing

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

My name is Tausagafou Alananu, and I am a resident of Mayor Wrights Homes. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of SB 455. We are asking for your help in protecting our families and all Public housing residents from secondhand smoke.

SB 455 would prohibit smoking in and around public housing projects under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii public housing authority.

The 2006 Surgeon General's Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke confirmed the known health effects of secondhand smoke exposure, including immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, and coronary heart disease and lung cancer. The report concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and that establishing smoke free environments is the only proven way to prevent exposure.

Please help us keep our air clean in and around Mayor Wright Homes for all residents. Please pass SB 455 so that all the residents can live in a smoke-free environment.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. I hope you will pass SB 455.

Tausagafou Alananu
Mayor Wrights Homes
520 N. Kukui St., 19-D
Honolulu, HI 96817

Jill Friedman P.O. Box 1248 Kekaha, HI 96752 808-635-5919 jillf2184@yahoo.com

Hearing Testimony for SB455
Monday, February 23, 2009 1:35 PM
Committee on Education and Housing

I support SB455. This measure is necessary for public housing tenants' health and safety, and to protect the public funds against costly lawsuits which will occur when tenants are harmed by secondhand smoke at HPHA properties, as well as against medical expenditures for preventable illnesses caused by secondhand smoke.

Environmental tobacco smoke has been determined beyond doubt to be a dangerous substance for which there is no safe level of exposure. It causes asthma in children and adults who previously had no symptoms, as well as bronchitis, pneumonia, sore throats, eye irritation, colds, ear infections, sinus infections, headache, nausea, nosebleeds, cancer, heart disease and sudden infant death. It is responsible for a significant portion of medical expenses. Providing smokefree environments in public housing will result in an immediate decrease in Med-Quest and Medicaid expenditures, and will also decrease absenteeism in schoolage children.

There are serious problems with secondhand smoke in HPHA projects. We have a very high proportion of smokers in public housing, much higher than in the general population. This creates very smoky and unhealthy conditions indoors and outdoors and toxic residue which accumulates in nonsmokers' units. Many tenants are adversely affected by cigarette smoke and there have been many complaints. I have been unable to use my public housing unit at all for almost 2 years, and have developed health problems that I did not previously have because of secondhand smoke and residue inside and outside my unit. There is also a high rate of asthma among public housing tenants which is triggered by tobacco smoke.

Public housing tenants need and deserve clean air and safe living conditions in their units and in all indoor and outdoor areas of public housing projects. The housing authority has a legal and ethical obligation to provide these conditions; it does *not* have any obligation to accommodate smokers. If the housing authority chooses to accommodate smokers it needs to be done in a way that does not harm other tenants or interfere with their full enjoyment of the property.

Smokefree public housing is rapidly becoming the norm; at least 102 housing authorities in the US alone now have smokefree policies. Some have designated smoking areas, while others are smokefree throughout the entire property. Smokefree policies do not discriminate against smokers or harm them in any way. They provide safe and healthy environments for smokers and their families as well as nonsmokers. Many smokers want to quit or cut back and smokefree environments make it easier for them to succeed, especially when combined with smoking cessation services. I am requesting that this bill be passed in a form that will provide all public housing tenants with the clean air and safe conditions they need and are entitled to.

I have a few concerns about the bill and requests for amendments.

Concerns:

--The bill does not create any obligation for HPHA to actually provide smokefree conditions or to protect tenants from secondhand smoke as the need or request arises. We need a full commitment to provide smokefree environments for public housing tenants. The public housing authority needs to respond to all complaints involving secondhand smoke and resolve them to the complaining tenants' satisfaction. Smoking areas need to be carefully designated and changed as needed to fully protect tenants from secondhand smoke.

--In my building and similar ones when people smoke outside 20 feet away from the building it can be worse than when they smoke inside their own units. It creates an unhealthy condition outdoors, interferes with other tenants use and enjoyment of the outdoor area, and because the yard is usually upwind of the building the smoke enters units and residue can accumulate over time. I conducted a survey in my project and was informed that many problems with secondhand smoke involved smoke coming from outdoors rather than

indoors. Smoke is a problem both indoors and outdoors. Moving smoking outdoors does not, in itself, effectively protect against secondhand smoke. Careful placement of designated smoking areas is necessary.

--Enforcement: Eviction is not an effective means of enforcement. It is not a swift and sure deterrent. It takes a long time--sometimes years--and is usually done for nonpayment of rent. Fines are the most effective way to enforce laws and regulations.

Requested amendments:

Amend section 1(a):

--add (a5)(prohibition includes) all other outdoor areas except clearly marked designated smoking areas.

amend section 1(b)designated smoking areas

--add suggested requirements:

1-project managers will designate smoking areas in consultation with tenants

2-if a tenant reports problems with smoke from a designated smoking area, that smoking area will be relocated or eliminated

-- designated smoking areas will be:

3-clearly marked with signs

4-clearly marked perimeters

5-not within 20 feet of a car parked in its assigned space

7-no more than 15% of total usable outdoor area (area not including driveways, paths and parking lots)

Add sections:

Smoking cessation:

Smoking cessation services will be provided free of charge at all projects. Project managers will work with tenants and community organizations to provide smoking cessation services.

Signage:

1- HPHA will post signs at all entrances to project and all buildings stating that this is a smokefree property and smoking is prohibited by law except for clearly marked designated smoking areas. Include Act number, maximum fine and universal no smoking symbol.

2-HPHA will post signs at designated smoking areas.

Fines: Fines are the most effective way to enforce laws. Fines would be added to the monthly rent statement. This is already done with other charges. Employees who smoke in prohibited areas should also be fined, and guests, vendors and others if possible.

Suggested fines: first offense \$100, second offense \$150, third offense \$150 plus eviction hearing.

Guests: Tenants would be responsible for their guests' behavior regardless of the guests proximity to the tenant. This is consistent with the rules in the lease.

--Consider requiring HPHA to designate a few smokefree buildings with smokefree outdoor areas, surrounded by nonsmoking buffer zones at each project, as an alternative to a complete prohibition. Residence in smokefree buildings would be voluntary and contingent upon complying with the smokefree rule. This would greatly reduce problems with enforcement, prevent conflicts between tenants, and provide better protection for tenants who need a smokefree environment. Most of the people I have spoken with expressed a preference for this arrangement and considered it more likely to succeed. Some public housing authorities have done this.

Jill Friedman

P.O. Box 1248

Kekaha, HI 96752

From: [John S. Rabi](#)
To: [EDH Testimony](#); [Sen. Gary Hooser](#)
Subject: Bill SB455
Date: Friday, February 20, 2009 3:19:25 PM

*I want to tell you that **I STRONGLY OPPOSE Bill SB455** making it illegal to smoke within ones own home.

What is more sacred, more private than a persons home, and what possible right does the government have to tell someone that they may not participate in a LEGAL action there. Do you think you have the right because you are subsidizing their rent? Well part of that comes from MY tax dollars and I refuse to have it spent this way.

All citizens, smokers and non smokers alike should be horrified by this intrusion. Otherwise, it's welcome to the communism!



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Aloha,

John S. Rabi

PS. Remember, don't keep me a secret!

"THE NEXT LEVEL OF SERVICE!"



John S. Rabi, ABR*, CM, CRB*, FHS, RB
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* Inactive Member

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDH Testimony](#)
Cc: michael808a@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB455 on 2/23/2009 1:35:00 PM
Date: Sunday, February 22, 2009 2:28:01 AM

Testimony for EDH 2/23/2009 1:35:00 PM SB455

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: **oppose**
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Michael Zehner
Organization: Individual
Address: 750 Amana st. #608 Honolulu
Phone: 9520275
E-mail: michael808a@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/22/2009

Comments:

Can the legislature stay out of other people's bedrooms! No one else would even co-sign this hate called sb455.

Elaine M. Heiby, Ph.D.
2542 Date St., Apt. 702
Honolulu, HI 96826
Phone: 808-942-0738
Email: heiby@hawaii.edu

2/20/09

RE: **OPPOSE SB 455** Relating to smoking in one's home (public housing)

Dear Honorable Senators:

There may be good intentions to SB 455, but I fail to see them. This bill is designed to treat the people of Hawaii who live in public housing as less than human.

Since when does being poor in Hawaii justify blatant discrimination? Since when has Aloha been extended only to those who can afford their own home?

It is already difficult for those living in poverty to feel a sense of self-respect and freedom of choice. To legislatively remove the freedom to chose whether or not to smoke in one's home can do nothing but further demoralize those who are scraping to survive in our state's economy.

I urge you to kill SB 455 in committee. Doing so gives you the opportunity to take a public stand that Hawaii does not discriminate against any sector of society.

Sincerely,

Elaine M. Heiby, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology

STATEMENT ON SB 455
to the Senate Committee on Education and Housing
Relating to Banning Smoking in Public Housing

by
Bob Speck
652 Kumukahi Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96825
395-4292
e-mail: bobspeck@attglobal.net

February 23, 2009

I am totally opposed to SB 455.

I cannot believe that Senator Hooser is serious in proposing this bill. The bill presents no justification nor reason for its passage. It is not proper nor logical to propose a bill without any justification. Therefore, the only conclusion I can reach is that this is a hate bill aimed against smokers.

I am very disappointed that Senator Hooser would stoop to this level. Isn't Hawaii supposed to be the land of Aloha where we all love one another? Hawaii has sure changed since I came here 41 years ago.

At least the other bills banning smoking claim their purpose is to protect the health of others from secondhand smoke, although these bills are based on faulty evidence. But that argument is not even present in this bill.

In my 41 years of living in Hawaii I have never seen a more hideous bill introduced. It strikes at the very basis of our precious freedom. I am reminded of Nazi Germany.

How would this bill be enforced. The fourth amendment to the constitution bars unreasonable searches. To get and execute a search warrant entails additional work on the police and courts and additional cost to the taxpayers. Would you not prefer to see the police attend to serious crime? All you have to do is read the newspapers to see the crime that is now running rampant in the streets.

Another serious shortcoming in this bill is that it targets the economically depressed, those living in public housing. How can you be so mean-spirited?

If this bill passes, you will shame Hawaii and yourselves! Truly, I believe the fact that this bill is even being introduced shames Hawaii!

A similar bill was introduced last year, but did not get through the Senate.

THERE ARE 200,000 SMOKERS IN HAWAII THAT VOTE!

Better a free Hawaii than a smoke free Hawaii.

From: [Joyce Schiffer](#)
To: [EDH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Oppose SB 455
Date: Friday, February 20, 2009 3:00:55 PM

I want to tell you that I **STRONGLY OPPOSE Bill SB455** making it illegal to smoke within ones own home.

What is more sacred, more private than a persons home, and what possible right does the government have to tell someone that they may not participate in a LEGAL action there. Do you think you have the right because you are subsidizing their rent? Well part of that comes from MY tax dollars and I refuse to have it spent this way.

All citizens, smokers and non smokers alike should be horrified by this intrusion.

Joyce Schiffer
75-5591 Hienaloli Rd.
Kailua Kona, Hawaii
329-4958

From: [Freebird](#)
To: [EDH Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 455
Date: Saturday, February 21, 2009 1:24:05 AM

Totally **against this bill.** You gotto be kidding..

We cant turn back the clock, We cant turn back the time, aint that a shame! /s/
Queen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDH Testimony](#)
Cc: gaia_julia@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB455 on 2/23/2009 1:35:00 PM
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2009 10:43:26 PM

Testimony for EDH 2/23/2009 1:35:00 PM SB455

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Julia Young
Organization: Individual
Address: Kapaa, HI
Phone:
E-mail: gaia_julia@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/19/2009

Comments:

I support this bill for the safety and health of the people, especially the children and elderly that live in public housing.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDH Testimony](#)
Cc: gentlewave@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB455 on 2/23/2009 1:35:00 PM
Date: Friday, February 20, 2009 8:20:52 AM

Testimony for EDH 2/23/2009 1:35:00 PM SB455

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David H Dinner
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: 808 639-7845
E-mail: gentlewave@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/20/2009

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDH Testimony](#)
Cc: kellylee88@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB455 on 2/23/2009 1:35:00 PM
Date: Friday, February 20, 2009 9:50:11 AM

Testimony for EDH 2/23/2009 1:35:00 PM SB455

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kelly Lee
Organization: Individual
Address: 5903 kiinani pl kapaa, hi
Phone: 8088222869
E-mail: kellylee88@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/20/2009

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDH Testimony](#)
Cc: kauaiphyl@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB455 on 2/23/2009 1:35:00 PM
Date: Friday, February 20, 2009 4:34:02 PM

Testimony for EDH 2/23/2009 1:35:00 PM SB455

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Phyllis Rosfeld
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kauaiphyl@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/20/2009

Comments: