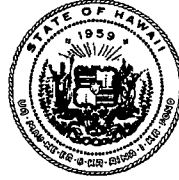


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



CHAD K. TANIGUCHI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
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Comments of
Chad K. Taniguchi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

To the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

Regarding Decision Making February 26, 2009 on
S.B. 535

RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) strongly encourages the Committee to pass S.B. 535, which prohibits open liquor containers in common areas of public housing projects. This bill would improve the ability of HPHA to control disruptive activity within our communities by arresting people in possession of open containers of liquor.

Currently the police are unable to arrest someone holding a container of beer unless the police observe the person putting the container to their mouth, or unless a witness is willing to testify. Our recent meetings with residents and police have recommended this change in the law, which as currently written is helping deter drinking, but which would be improved and strengthened by this measure.