

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

February 4, 2009 9:00 a.m.
Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
H.B. 566
RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports H.B. 556, which prohibits an open liquor container 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 is helping deter drinking, but which can be improved.