

LATE TESTIMONY

IN SUPPORT

Providing Testimony for the Record

TO: Committee on Housing, Representative Rida Cabanilla, Chair, Representative Pono Chong, Vice Chair, Representatives Jerry Chang, Denny Coffman, Sharon Har, Robert Herkes, Ken Ito, Chris Lee, Sylvia Luke, Hermina Morita, Roland Sgum, III, Corinne Ching, and Cynthia Thielen

FROM: Patricia Urieff, MSW, Licensed Social Worker with thirty years of experience working with children and their families; parent; grandparent, Co-Chair for Legislative Appointed *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force, August 2008 through December 2009.* *Patricia Urieff*

For Hearing on Wed. March 17, 9:00 AM, Room 325, at State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street.

HCR 12 Related eligible seniors getting evicted because gets grandchild in crisis and needs time to find appropriate housing
HCR261 REQUESTING THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY TO AMEND ITS RULES TO ALLOW AN OCCUPANT FACING EVICTION FROM A STATE-FUNDED HOMELESS SHELTER TO REMAIN IN THE SHELTER PENDING AN APPEAL OF THE EVICTION.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force 2009. Reports received showed that on all islands in Hawaii State, managers of public senior housing send Eviction Notices to eligible residents who through no fault of their own gets grandchildren-in-crisis who need care and the grandparents wants to provide care. (Depending on the circumstances, the grandchild could go into state custody and foster care with strangers.)

Research Finding from Committee, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force 2009

Federal housing discrimination laws (24 CFR 100.300 et. seq.) exempt certain senior housing projects from familial status protections. This means that managers of qualified senior housing may choose to evict a grandparent who takes in a grandchild(ren)-in-crisis. Under federal guidelines, qualified senior housing projects have options (1) to evict a grandparent who gets a grandchild-in-crisis who needs care without any repercussions; or (2) managers can legally change policy and House Rules to allow the senior with grandchild-in-crisis to remain for a reasonable time to find new housing.

March 2009, GRGTF Focus Group: participants learned that a grandfather (eligible and living in senior public housing) had received an Eviction Notice, so he lives in his car with his grand-daughter.

GRGTF Report to the Legislature June 2009, Recommendation. **Housing:**

The 2010 Legislature is strongly encouraged to support legislation whereby managers for all Public Senior Housing and managers of all senior housing in Hawaii State that receive government funds

- change House Rules,
- stop sending *Eviction Notices*, and
- provide waivers that allow eligible seniors [who get a grandchild (ren)-in-crisis who needs care] to remain in their unit for a reasonable time needed to find new appropriate housing.