

SB535

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

February 9, 2009 1:15 p.m.
Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
S.B. 535
RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** 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 is helping deter drinking, but which can be improved.



SB 535 RELATING TO INTOXICATING LIQUOR
Committee on Education and Housing

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **supports** the purpose and intent of SB 535.

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 lawless behavior, including alcohol and drug abuse and abusive and violent behavior, criminal property damage, and terroristic threatening. The need to have the housing authority to have clear definitions of possession of any open liquor container or consume any liquor on the common area of a public housing project and it be prima facie evidence that a person is consuming liquor leads to a much needed systemic change.

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 and your support is being requested.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.