

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



DENSE M. WISE
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LATE TESTIMONY

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
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Statement of
Denise M. Wise
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

March 8, 2010 1:15 P.M.
Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SCR 120

**REQUESTING THAT FUNDS BE MADE AVAILABLE AND RELEASED TO ENABLE THE
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT A TENANT MONITOR PROGRAM**

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the intent of SCR 120 to assist HPHA in the establishment of a Resident Monitor Program in public housing. However, this measure is not necessary, as HPHA is already in the process of establishing the program and funding for it is not needed.

The Resident Monitor Program will authorize designated residents of public housing to be the immediately available contact person for emergency situations when property management is not available. Usually the need arises at night or on weekends, when the manager's office is closed. Police or other emergency responders may need someone to authorize them to go onto property, or direct them to a particular unit, or confirm whether a person does or does not reside on the property. Resident Monitors will fill this role; they will receive community policing training from the Honolulu Police Department, and other safety awareness training provided through the Attorney General's Office.

The program will be piloted in 3 housing projects to begin; when the inevitable unforeseen issues and problems are resolved it will be expanded to additional properties. The Resident Monitors will not be employees of the agency; the only compensation they will receive will be in the form of living rent-free in the housing. In order to permit HPHA to excuse rent payment, it is necessary that the Department of Housing and Urban Development approve the plan. The request for approval is included in the draft 2010 Public Housing Authority Annual Plan that will be submitted to HUD after required public hearings this month.

Because the only compensation for Resident Monitors will be in the form of free rent, funding for the program is not needed. We appreciate the support offered in this Resolution, however it is not necessary to get the program started. We expect HUD to approve the plan by July 1, 2010 and will make the necessary policy and procedure changes to implement the program shortly after approval is received.