

**TO: The Honorable Rida Cabanilla ,  
The Honorable Pono Chong ,  
and members of the Judiciary Committee**

**Chair  
Vice Chair**

**DATE: Friday, February 19, 2010  
8:30AM Room 325**

**RE: HB 755, Relating To Public Housing**

**POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT**

**AS a resident of public housing , I Fetu Kolio, strongly encourage the passage of this bill HB-755 that will eliminates most procedural requirements preliminary to an eviction hearing as a tenant of State Public Housing .**

**HB-755, Requires eviction for tenants of State Public Housing to be conducted by hearings officers it will tremendously help as a solution to all the ongoing problems, in some cases takes for evictions.**

**So to help with a solution on the already long, long, waiting list for people that might really need a home this will bill-755 , would help start with-in, the State Public Housing Authority to take responsibility .**

**Thank you for hearing this bill and my testify please pass HB-755, .**

**FETU KOLIO, ( MAYOR WRIGHT HOMES )  
 ( TENANTS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT )**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



DENISE M. WISE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
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BARBARA E. ARASHIRO  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Statement of  
**Denise M. Wise**  
Hawaii Public Housing Authority  
Before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

February 2, 2011 8:30 A.M.  
Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of  
**H.B. 755**  
**RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING**

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Madam Chair and Members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding House Bill 755, relating to public housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) appreciates the intent of this measure; however, we oppose enactment of the measure, which would amend eviction procedures from public housing. This legislation would provide the agency with a streamlined process and would remain consistent with the agency's current Public Housing Authority Annual Plan. Nonetheless, the agency values the continued due process protection afforded the fundamental right to housing by the current eviction board procedure.

Currently, the HPHA has undertaken the process to streamline its grievance and eviction procedures by working with the Resident Advisory Board, the Board of Directors, and the Attorney General's Office. The HPHA is seeking to simplify and expedite evictions for violations, while accelerating removal for violent crimes. Enacting this statute would support these efforts and contribute to increased security within our communities.

However, the measure proposes to modify eviction hearings to be conducted by a hearings officer, rather than by the current practice utilizing an eviction board constituted of three members and a current public housing resident. The HPHA opposes such a change to our eviction process. Facing possible eviction from public housing is a situation of the highest gravity, and the HPHA believes that providing tenants with this opportunity to be heard from several different perspectives is advantageous to our most vulnerable residents, such as immigrant groups and the disabled. The fundamental right to housing is an important foundation to support these

families, maintain their existence, and hopefully support their transition to private housing in the future

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Housing with the agency's position opposing H.B. 755. We respectfully request that the Committee hold this measure.

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