

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



DENISE M. WISE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

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

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

March 9, 2011 10:30 A.M.  
Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of  
**H.R. 57 & H.C.R. 64**

**URGING THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY TO DEVELOP AND  
IMPLEMENT A SUSTAINABLE PLAN TO REPAIR ALL PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS IN  
NEED OF MAINTENANCE**

Madam Chair and Members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding House Resolution 57 and House Concurrent Resolution 64, urging the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to develop and implement a sustainable plan to repair all public housing units in need of maintenance.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) appreciates the intent of these measures, which illustrate the Legislature's concern for this State's most vulnerable populations, such as those earning less than thirty percent of the Area Median Income, the disabled, and the elderly. The HPHA has been working with the State Administration and the Legislature in order to address the growing maintenance and repair backlog we have experienced over the past few years, which exceeded \$350 million in 2007. The agency has revamped the capital planning process utilized internally in order to better assess critical needs as they arise and to clear the backlog in a timely, efficient, and sustainable matter.

Most critical to the HPHA in achieving this goal of clearing the maintenance and repair backlog is the provision of State Capital Improvement Program Funds through the upcoming Biennium Budget. The Administration has recommended funding for the HPHA which would provide us with the money necessary to make a dramatic improvement in capital improvements. The HPHA urges the membership of this Committee to express your support for this budget to your colleagues on the House Committee on Finance.

The HPHA has also seen significant impacts to our ability to maintain pace with the repair and maintenance backlog as a result of the furloughs, reductions in force, and hiring freezes. In the coming months, the HPHA is optimistic that these policies are

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being lifted, allowing us to utilize the proper amount of staffing necessary to spend the increased capital funds we hope to receive in this biennium's appropriations. We need the support of this Committee to be expressed to the rest of the Legislature in seeing that these policies are backed with the necessary operating funds and capital funds to help support our mission to provide safe, decent, affordable housing.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Housing with the agency's position regarding H.R. 57 and H.C.R. 64.