

HB 2143

Measure Title: RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING.

Report Title: HPHA Board of Directors; Resident Board Members; Nominations

Description: Provides the Hawaii Public Housing Authority resident advisory board the flexibility to submit a list of no less than three but no more than five names of nominees to fill the resident member seat on the Hawaii Public Housing Authority Board of Directors.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS

Introducer(s): . CABANILLA, Aquino, Carroll, Chong, Keith-Agaran

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN
DIRECTOR

BARBARA A. YAMASHITA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

March 13, 2012

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 2143 - RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 13, 2012; 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to provide the Hawaii Public Housing Authority resident advisory board the flexibility to submit a list of no less than three but no more than five names of nominees to fill the resident member seat on the Hawaii Public Housing Authority Board of Directors.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill.

When a vacancy occurs for the resident member seat on the HPHA Board of Directors, current statute requires the Resident Advisory Board to provide the names of five individuals to the Governor for consideration. When the Resident Advisory Board is unable to provide a list of five names to the Governor, the resident member seat on the Board of Directors may remain vacant for extended periods. This, in turn, deprives the residents of their voice on the Board of Directors and endangers the receipt of Federal

funds since the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the Board of Directors to have a resident member.

Allowing the Resident Advisory Board to submit a list of at least three but no more than five names to the Governor, will facilitate the filling of the resident member seat on the Board of Directors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
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
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

March 13, 2012 1:15 P.M.
Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
House Bill 2143
Relating to Public Housing

Honorable Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding House Bill 2143, relating to public housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports enactment of this measure, which would amend Section 356D-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to provide the HPHA Resident Advisory Board (RAB) with more flexibility in nominating the resident member of the Board of Directors.

When a vacancy occurs for the resident member seat on the HPHA Board of Directors, Section 356D-6, HRS, requires the RAB to develop a list of interested, qualified individuals for consideration by the Governor for appointment to the Board. The current statutory section requires the RAB to provide the names of five individuals. In situations where there are not five interested individuals, the Resident Advisory Board is unable to provide a list to the Governor for consideration, which can cause the resident member seat on the Board of Directors to remain vacant for extended periods.

This, in turn, deprives the residents of their voice on the Board of Directors and endangers the receipt of Federal funds since the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the Board of Directors to have a resident member. By amending the statute section to allow the RAB to submit a list of at least three but no more than five names to the Governor, the RAB is better positioned to provide the most serious, qualified, and interested candidates while still providing a diverse selection for the Governor's consideration. This statutory amendment has been requested specifically by the RAB to improve the fulfillment of their statutory functions.

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The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Human Services with the agency's position regarding H.B. 2143. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.