

LATE TESTIMONY

February 8, 2012

Aloha Representatives,

My name is Kapiolani Silva and I am a tenant of Puuwai Momi Housing (Halawa) in Aiea. I am writing in support of HB 2736 Relating to the Promotion of Controlled Substances to Include Public Housing Projects and Complexes. I'd like to thank you all for taking the time to hear this much needed matter. The inclusion of Public Housing Projects to the law would be a foot in the right direction in attempting to break the cycle of drug abuse in a highly vulnerable environment.

Knowledge of accessing drugs in my community is common to children as young as 5 years old. In 2006 Puuwai Momi Volunteers for Youth, a parent lead and organized support group for families in the Makalapa Community, held a family event in the park. At this event we had several interactive activities. One of the activities was for the youth to identify areas in their community where they knew there was drug use, by placing a colored dot on the map of the Housing Project and its surrounding area. Needless to say, our map was well colored, and we were amazed at the age ranges and how young they were. I don't mean to sound naïve, we hear about the "at risk" studies and believe them to be true, but having them validated by five year olds drove the point home for those of us assessing the event at the time.

As a parent trying to raise my son the best I can, I can't ignore the fact that he comes into contact with drugs on a daily basis no matter what I do to educate him. It is accessible to him. In my mind, simple tasks like taking out the trash become life threatening because on any given day groups gather and cohort near the receptacle areas and "smoke pakalolo and drink". Including public housings and complexes to the current law would possibly cut off or minimize the availability and access to drugs. I know that my view is not popular with many of my neighbors, but that is why I believe it is necessary. Our children are currently protected by the current law in school and in parks, should they not be protected where they live as well?

It is my understanding that it is a privilege and not a right to be a tenant in a publicly subsidized housing project. I asked for help with rental assistance voluntarily, therefore giving up any right to privacy of self and home when I signed the lease agreement. As a parent and resident of Puuwai Momi Housing I beg of you to pass HB 2736 into law.

Mahalo for your time,

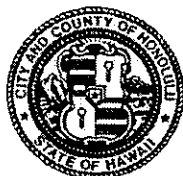
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OUR REFERENCE **JM-TA**

February 8, 2012

The Honorable Rida T. R. Cabanilla, Chair
and Members
Committee on Housing
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Cabanilla and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 2736, Relating to Promotion of Controlled Substances

I am John McEntire, Major of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department.

The Honolulu Police Department supports House Bill No. 2736, Relating to Promotion of Controlled Substances.

The bill proposes to extend the prohibition of Promoting a Controlled Substance in, on, or near schools, school vehicles, or public parks to include public housing projects and complexes.

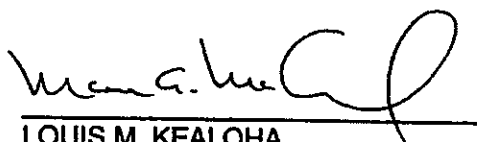
The passage of this bill will help to deter illegal drug dealing in these protected areas and will also help law enforcement in its efforts to curtail illegal drug activity. Convicted persons who violate this proposed section would be imprisoned for longer periods of time.

The Honolulu Police Department urges you to support House Bill No. 2736, Relating to Promotion of Controlled Substances.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,


for **LOUIS M. KEALOHA**
Chief of Police


JOHN MCENTIRE, Major
Narcotics/Vice Division

Serving and Protecting With Aloha