



LATE TESTIMONY

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In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

H.B. 46, RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

February 7, 2012
2:00PM, Rm. 325

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of HB 46, HD1 to
2 prohibit smoking in public housing, under Chapter 356D, Hawaii Revised Statutes but believes that a
3 similar result can be accomplished through the internal policy of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority
4 (HPHA).

5 **Fiscal Implications:** No appropriations requested.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** DOH supports the scientific findings and recommendations of the U.S.
7 Surgeon General regarding the involuntary exposure of tobacco smoke to nonsmokers. Those findings
8 disclosed that: 1) There is no safe level or amount of secondhand smoke (SHS) and that breathing even
9 a little SHS can be dangerous; 2) Breathing SHS is a known cause of sudden infant death syndrome
10 (SIDS) and that children are more likely to have lung problems, ear infections, and severe asthma from
11 being around tobacco smoke; SHS causes heart disease and lung cancer; separate "no smoke" sections
12 do not provide protection from SHS, and neither does are filtration.

13 Hawaii's current smokefree workplace and public places law, enacted in 2006, does not cover,
14 and excludes private residences. The federal Housing and Urban Development authority, (HUD) now

1 actively supports the creation of smoke free residential public housing properties governed under that
2 authority.

3 DOH will again defer to HPHA and supports their position that the intent of this bill can be
4 accomplished through the internal policy as indicated in their testimony of February 1, 2012 on HB
5 2629. The DOH looks forward to collaborating with the HPHA on their recommendation to implement
6 smoke free housing as an issue that will become a priority item and can successfully be accomplished
7 through internal policy. Further, DOH is willing to work closely with HPHA on both assessment of
8 residents to determine need and on smoking cessation efforts to help current smokers link up with the
9 many available cessation services to help smokers to quit.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.