

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
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Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

April 2, 2012 4:00 P.M.
Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
Senate Bill 2805, House Draft 1
RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING

Honorable Chair and Members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding Senate Bill 2805, as amended by House Draft 1, 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 statutory 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.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Finance with the agency's comments supporting S.B. 2805, H.D. 1. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
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April 2, 2012

TO: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2805, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING**

Hearing: Monday, April 2, 2012; 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 2805, H.D. 1, is to allow the Resident Advisory Board of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) to provide a list of at least three but no more than five names of individuals to the Governor for consideration for appointment to the resident member seat on the HPHA Board of Directors.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill because it will allow flexibility in providing a list with fewer than the five names that are currently required to be submitted to the Governor.

When a vacancy occurs for the resident member seat on the HPHA Board of Directors, section 356D-6(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), requires the Resident Advisory Board of the HPHA to submit a list of five names for consideration by the Governor for appointment to the Board. In situations where there are less than five interested individuals, the Resident Advisory Board is unable to provide a list to the Governor for consideration. This may cause the resident member seat on the HPHA

Board to remain vacant for extended periods. This, in turn, deprives the residents of their voice on the HPHA Board and endangers the receipt of Federal funds since the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the HPHA to have a resident member on its Board.

By amending HRS section 356D-6(a) to submit a list of at least three but no more than five names to the Governor, the Resident Advisory Board is better positioned to provide qualified candidates while still providing a diverse selection for the Governor's consideration. This amendment will also help HPHA to be in conformance with HUD's requirement of having a resident member in the HPHA Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.