



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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

April 23, 2012 11:00 A.M.
Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
Senate Resolution 38, Senate Draft 1
Supporting the Hawaii Public Housing Authority's Application for a Choice Neighborhoods Grant and Urging the United States Department of Housing And Urban Development to Select the Hawaii Public Housing Authority as a Choice Neighborhoods Grant Recipient

Honorable Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding Senate Resolution 38, as amended by Senate Draft 1, supporting the Hawaii Public Housing Authority's application for a Choice Neighborhoods Grant.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports this measure, which would demonstrate to grant reviewers that the State Legislature is fully behind the HPHA in our Choice Neighborhoods grant application. The HPHA is currently in the process of applying for a Choice Neighborhoods Planning grant. Under the FY 2011 NOFA, the HPHA submitted an application that was among 71 applicants that met the threshold criteria for a CNI Planning grant. Unfortunately, due to federal fiscal constraints, only thirteen planning grants were awarded. Without receiving this vital funding, the HPHA has been unable to undertake the necessary steps to develop the required Transformation Plan that supports the application for an implementation grant.

HUD anticipates awarding as many as twenty planning grants under the FY 2012 NOFA. Therefore, the HPHA is focusing efforts on obtaining a Planning Grant to develop a Transformation Plan that will be submitted for a full implementation grant. This supportive resolution would be utilized in our application as evidence of the far-reaching partnerships available to the HPHA and the political support for making a neighborhood transformation a reality.

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The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Ways and Means with the agency's comments supporting S.R. 38, S.D. 1. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.