

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

February 4, 2013 8:45 A.M.
Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
House Bill No. 1119
Relating to the Public Housing Authority

Honorable Chair and Members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding House Bill 1119, relating to the public housing authority.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the enactment of this measure, which would appropriate up to 10 million for each fiscal year of fiscal biennium 2013-2015 to leverage funds for the redevelopment of Mayor Wright Homes, provided that its passage does not adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Biennium Budget.

Mayor Wright Homes is the first post-World War II public housing project by the Hawaii Housing Authority, and was dedicated in 1953 and later named after the late Mayor of Honolulu, George F. Wright, in 1958. It is currently a 364-unit development that throughout the years, has continuously suffered from maintenance issues, property damage, sewage problems, and other physical upkeep problems. These much needed funds would assist the HPHA to redevelop Mayor Wright Homes, and ultimately provide much needed housing for our low income residents.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Housing with the agency's position regarding H.B. No. 1119. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.