



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

January 27, 2014 9:00 A.M.
Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

House Bill 1539
Relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority's Administration of the Federal Housing Choice Voucher Program

Honorable Chair Hashem and Members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding House Bill (H.B.) 1539, relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority's administration of the Federal Housing Choice Voucher Program.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **strongly supports** the enactment of this measure, which would only allow original household members to retain a federal Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and prevent the "inheriting" of HCVs to family and friends, with amendments.

Line 9: authority shall be surrendered to the authority upon the vacancy by the last original household member; provided that, where the original head or co-head of the household are survived by a minor or minors who were subsequently added to the household, the household may retain the voucher until the last of the minors who were added to the household reach the age of twenty-one. Any legal guardian that is added to the household to care for the minor or minors, must be eligible for participation in the housing choice voucher program, and shall not retain the voucher after the minor or minors reach the age of twenty-one.

The Housing Choice Voucher program allows people to live outside of public housing, in private market rentals, and does not have an expiration date. Currently, it is permissible for original members of the household to add more people to the existing household.

Therefore, when the original household members leave the Housing Choice Voucher Program, the new people that were subsequently added to the household, end up “inheriting” the voucher. This practice circumvents the waitlist process and adds to the slow movement on the waitlist. Needy families on the waitlist are then forced to wait that much longer for their chance at housing assistance.

The “inheriting” of HCVs is not a problem that is unique to Hawaii. Agencies that administer the HCV program across the nation are experiencing this situation. The HPHA investigated and found that some people have had the voucher for over 3 decades, and there are over 50 known cases of “inheriting” of HCVs at the HPHA.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Housing with the agency’s position regarding H.B. 1539. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.

LATE

Testimony in Opposition to HB1539
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Committee on Housing
Monday, January 27, 2014 at 09:00 A.M. in Conference Room 329

Written Testimony ~~in Opposition to HB1539:~~

Chair Representative Hashem, I'm Timothy Miller and I am a resident of Marin Tower. I oppose returning the federal housing choice voucher when tenants who lived as part of the household with the original member are still alive. There are already limits and strict rules on the income of the total household, such as percentages of the median Hawaii income of 60% or 80%. If the original member with the voucher has their cousin move into the household, the Ohana, and then the original member passes-on the cousin should not have to leave.

Members of the Ohana in the sense we use it here in Hawaii should be allowed to retain a federal housing choice voucher even if they are not minors. They have been part of the household with the original member, part of the Ohana, and should not be forced to leave their homes as a fairness issue (they would already be part of the income limits for the household). Affordable housing in neighborhoods need two critical components to make the communities livable. The first component is residents with a mixed range of incomes so that the community has diversity and does not devolve into a slum (federal housing choice vouchers for tenants with up to 60% of the median Hawaii income, up to 80% of the median Hawaii income, workforce housing and some market rate units in the neighborhood). The second component is relationships built up over time by the neighboring residents. It would be inefficient for the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to keep taking back federal housing choice vouchers from tenants who were part of the household, the Ohana, upon the vacancy of original household member tenant. It would also break up the relationships the remaining members of the household have made with their neighbors. For example, if in an Ohana, a 22 year old niece has shared the household with her auntie, who has now passed-on, and the niece has three young keiki whom are not yet in school, the remaining members of this household should retain the federal housing choice voucher.

If the Hawaii Public Housing Authority rotates through transients frequently from a waitlist or does not maintain the social benefits that come from a mixed household income range the residential neighborhood will not function properly with the attendant social problems such as high crime. The federal housing choice voucher should be granted and retained by households in a manner that reinforces stable neighborhoods. The argument that it is unfair other people have been on the "wait list" is really only an argument to build more affordable housing or make funding available for more vouchers. It is not a valid moral argument to churn the population of people who have need of an affordable home, if one uses a standard of fairness in their moral argument.

Please Hold this bill!

Thank you.

woodson1-Brina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 7:12 AM
To: HSGtestimony
Cc: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1539 on Jan 27, 2014 09:00AM



HB1539

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for HSG on Jan 27, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Wall	Community Alliance for Mental Health	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Belatti and members of the committee. On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help we urge caution concerning HB1539. I understand that the author fears generations of entitlement but this method would simply be robbing Peter to pay Paul. What happens when the original leaseholder passes on and they have a 19 year old girl who already has children. Are we going to throw the grandchildren out when the momma reaches 21? How does creating more homeless cure homelessness? Scott Wall VP/Legislative Advocate Community Alliance for Mental Health

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Anmercil Lamayo Romaguera
In support of HB 1539
Chair Mark Hashem,
Housing Committee members

Dear Chair Hashem and members of the Housing Committee,

I am writing this letter in **support** of HB1539 which requires surrendering of housing voucher upon vacancy of unit by last **original** household member and allows surviving minor to retain voucher until age 21. There are hundreds of people waiting to get into public housing, and far fewer vacancies. I am in support of this measure because it prevents multi-generational families from living in public housing for a time beyond what was originally intended.

I understand that there are unexpected circumstances that cannot be foreseen upon moving into public housing, such as incarceration, injury, or death of original voucher recipients. In those cases, allowing surviving minors to retain the voucher helps to protect them from potential poverty and homelessness. However, the vouchers should not be passed down from generation to generation, sometimes occupying these units for decades.

Furthermore, the families that are in need right *now*, those on the waiting list for public housing, can be waiting for years and forced to move into unsafe neighborhoods or worse. This measure is a step in the right direction to putting an end to the list of people waiting for public housing. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

Anmercil Lamayo Romaguera

LATE

Committee on Housing Hearing
January 27, 2014 – 9:00 AM
State Capitol, CR 329

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Jan 27, 2014, 2:12 pm

**Testimony of
Homeless and Affordable Housing Institute (HAHI)**

Rep. Mark Hashem, Chair and members of HSG,

I stand in **strong support** of HB 1539 that would help make more available the limited housing resources of Public Housing Authority.

Currently, when a family applies for public housing they will continue to keep the housing after they move out by allowing their relatives to take over the public housing unit.

This bill would limit the tenancy of public housing when the last original tenant moves out. If the parents move out, the children would also have to move upon reaching age 21.

This will free up available public housing to provide fair opportunities for people on the waiting list to participate in the public housing voucher program voucher.

Considering our very limited available affordable housing, surrendering a voucher by last original household member is essential for fair access for everyone one on the huge public housing waiting list.

Christopher Ching

The Pacific Resource
PARTNERSHIP



LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time

Jan 27, 2014, 2:07 pm

Testimony of Cindy McMillan
The Pacific Resource Partnership

House Committee on Housing
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair

HB 1595 – RELATING TO LOW-INCOME HOUSING
Monday, January 27, 2014
9:00 AM
Conference Room 329

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a labor-management consortium representing over 240 signatory contractors and the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters.

PRP **supports** HB 1595 – Relating to Low-Income Housing, which authorizes the issuance and appropriate of general obligation bonds to fund low-income housing tax credit loans.

According to the Demographia International Housing Affordability survey, Honolulu has the least affordable housing market in the U.S. The cost of housing in Hawaii is rapidly becoming out of reach for many, especially young professionals and working families. Alternative financing mechanisms would help to sustain and complete low-income housing projects. The idea of taxpayers in the construction industry foregoing certain state tax credits in exchange for an interest-free loan would provide an optimal solution for the affordable housing crisis in the State and would also help get the State's economy back on its feet by providing local employment opportunities to those in the construction industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our opinion and we kindly ask for your support.