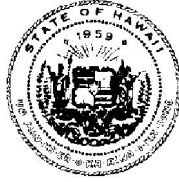


NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET  
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BARBARA E. ARASHIRO  
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Statement of  
**Hakim Ouansafi**  
Hawaii Public Housing Authority  
Before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

January 28, 2013 8:45A.M.  
Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of  
**House Bill No. 532**  
**Relating to Public Housing**

Honorable Chair and Members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding House Bill (H.B.) No.532, relating to public housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the enactment of this measure, which would require the inclusion of the value of all motor vehicles registered to applicant household members for purposes of determining income eligibility for state low-income public housing, with amendments.

Under the current statute, the HPHA is not able to consider an applicant's assets, including any motor vehicles, regardless of the cost of its value. The HPHA is committed to serving the most needy of Hawaii's residents and have over 11,600 families on our waitlist. By allowing the HPHA to include the value of all motor vehicles registered to applicant household members for the purpose of determining income eligibility for state low-income public housing, the HPHA will be able to focus its efforts on housing those who truly have no other resources to obtain housing.

The HPHA however recommends an amendment to this measure to provide for a threshold amount to allow residents to have and use a reasonably priced vehicle to seek, and commute to work, school, or other economic opportunities.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Housing with the agency's position regarding H.B. No. 532. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably with the suggested amendment, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.