

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,
State of Hawaii to the House Committee on Judiciary**

March 22, 2013

H.B. No. 87, S.D. 1: RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

H.B. No. 87 would extend the offense of Trespass 1° to entering or remaining unlawfully on any public housing project after reasonable warning to leave by housing authorities or a police officer. We oppose the bill because it further specifies that a warning or request to leave need not be given between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. This would allow the authorities to clear out a housing area after 10:00 p.m. A person may have any number of legitimate reasons for being on the grounds of a housing project during the specified time and should not be arrested or cited without a warning.

We also share the concerns about this measure that have been raised in the testimony submitted by the Department of the Attorney General.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

GOVERNOR



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

March 22, 2013 10:30 A.M.
Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

**House Bill 87, Senate Draft 1
Relating to Public Housing**

Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding House Bill (H.B.) 87, Senate Draft (SD) 1, relating to public housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) strongly supports enactment of this measure which amends criminal trespass in the first degree to include public housing projects. The HPHA continues to make improvements to security measures at many of our high risk housing projects, including additional fences, security fences, and photo IDs for tenants. Enactment of this measure will significantly improve the ability of the HPHA to ensure a secure, livable community for our residents. The HPHA will continue to work with local law enforcement and security personnel to refine our policies and procedures to effectively apply the provision, along with other necessary security improvements.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor with the agency's position regarding H.B. 87, SD1. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.