



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

March 10, 2014 8:30 A.M.
Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

Senate Bill 2265, Senate Draft 1

Relating to Housing

Honorable Chair Hashem and Members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding Senate Bill (S.B.) 2265, Senate Draft 1 (SD1), relating to housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** the enactment of this measure, which would appropriate an unspecified sum out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii for fiscal year 2014-2015 to improve the existing public housing stock and increase the supply of public housing units in the State, provided that its passage does not adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget. The HPHA respectfully requests the House Housing Committee to reinsert the original \$50,000,000 amount that was provided in the original bill.

With these much needed funds, the HPHA will be able to address the extensive capital needs of the HPHA's aging housing stock. With approximately half billion (\$0.5 B) of needed capital improvements and an aging inventory, the HPHA needs this funding to repair our low-income housing properties quicker, and move more needy families into low-income public housing.

This measure will bring the HPHA one step closer to bringing its existing housing inventory up to current on its capital needs, and to contribute to the 50,000 new units needed by the year 2016, that has been indicated in the 2011 Hawaii Housing Planning Study.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Housing with the agency's comments regarding S.B. 2265, SD1. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

House Committee on Housing

The Hon. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

The Hon. Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of SB 2265, SD 1

Relating to Housing

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

March 10, 2014, 8:30 am, Room 329

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, **supports** Senate Bill 2265, making an appropriation to improve existing public housing.

The HPCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, housing, and employment, can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes.

Senate Bill 2265 speaks to one of these major determinants by appropriating funds to improve existing public housing. For that reason, we strongly support this measure and thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Community Alliance *for* Mental Health

March, 10, 2014

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To: House Committee on Housing
Re: SB 2265, SD 1

Aloha Chair Hashem and the members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help we **strongly support** the passage of SB 2265, SD 1.

The single greatest problem facing both the disabled and elderly populations of these islands is the lack of affordable housing. We know that the members of this body know this. The only blessing in this situation is that the political necessity to address our ever increasing homeless problem has become the driving force that just might motivate the passage of SB 2265, SD1.

Year by year it is becoming more evident that far too many of our citizens have not adequately provided for themselves in their retirement. These citizens too will turn toward Public Housing hoping for a place they can live on their meager nest egg.

Like long term care this is a subject too few lawmakers are willing to address. The reason for that is simple, they can't find a solution. Fortunately the plight of our most vulnerable population is forcing us to face the problem head on.

Scott Wall
VP/Legislative Advocate
Community Alliance for Mental Health

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