

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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 2269, Senate Draft 1

Relating to Public 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.) 2269, Senate Draft 1 (SD1), relating to public housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports this measure, which would allow the HPHA to establish a work study program with the University of Hawaii's Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, and allow the work study program to be implemented at each public housing project and state low-income public housing project.

The mission of the HPHA is to provide Hawaii residents with affordable housing and shelter without discrimination, and the agency depends on its partnerships with community organizations to assist our tenants with their social service needs. By allowing the HPHA to partner with the University of Hawaii's Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, we hope to create a work study program that will provide our tenants with a wide array of social services and life achievement opportunities that are currently not accessible to them, and at the same time further the education and experience of the school's students.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Housing with the agency's comments regarding S.B. 2269, SD1. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.



Community Alliance for Mental Health

March, 10, 2014

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To: House Committee on Housing
Re: SB 2269, SD2

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 SB2269, SD2.

There is a desperate need for social services to be co-located in the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority's projects. Far too many of our citizens simply go into the projects and wait to die.

There is a need for monitoring some individuals to see that they remain on their medications. This relates to not only some of our disabled community but to the elderly as well.

There is a great need for geriatric social workers to help our seniors find a reason to get up in the morning. Far too many of them simply watch T.V. and again, wait to die.

The advantage of SB 2269, SD2, is that it should cost virtually nothing and will almost certainly lead to a reduction in overall Medicaid expenditures. If the graduate seniors use the projects as their practicum setting the People effectively get something for nothing. Couple that with the fact that anything that can get people out of their sedentary lifestyles will help prolong their lives and improve their overall shape then SB 2269, SD2 is the way to go.

Scott Wall
VP/Legislative Advocate
Community Alliance for Mental Health

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woodson1-Brina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 1:45 AM
To: HSGtestimony
Cc: Awai76@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2269 on Mar 10, 2014 08:30AM

SB2269

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for HSG on Mar 10, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellen Awai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of SD2269 SD2. With the 2012 reported capital expenses of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority necessary for improvements, a partnership with the University of Hawaii's School of Social Work would be valuable and beneficial to both programs. The elderly and disabled need assistance on a regular-basis, especially if a resident manager is not available on property. Otherwise issues and problems get pushed back or forgotten about until it could be too late to handle. Health issues or a safety problem with the unit or property could occur. The students would also get the necessary experience for their practicum as to how events and problems on the job could be solved. Please support SB2269 SD2!

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.

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Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Housing
Monday, March 10, 2014, 8:30 a.m.

by
Dr. Noreen Mokuau

SB 2269 SD2- RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING

RE: In **support** with proposed amendment: replace “work study” with “student internship”

Chair, Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, and members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2269 SD2 with proposed amendment, replace “work study” with “student internship”.

As the dean of the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (MBTSSW) we stand in support of SB 2269 SD2.

The mission of the MBTSSW is to provide educational excellence that advances social work with its focus on social justice. The principal responsibility is the generation, transmission, and application of knowledge for the global enterprise with special attention to Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islander, and Asian populations in our state and region.

We appreciate the opportunity to begin discussions with the Hawaii Public Housing Authority regarding potential internship opportunities for our students.

Through our mission and community partnerships MTBSSW is engaged in collaborative processes, such as potential placements with the Hawaii Public Housing Authority that support transformative community teaching by promoting a “Hawaiian Place of Learning”.

We support SB 2269 SD2.

We strongly urge your favorable consideration of this bill, with the proposed amendment provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University’s Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments.