

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**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 HUMAN SERVICES**

**AND**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

March 18, 2014 9:30 A.M.  
Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

**Senate Bill 2541, Senate Draft 1**  
**Relating to Elderly Housing**

Honorable Chair Carroll, Honorable Chair Hashem and Members of the House Committees on Human Services and Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding Senate Bill (S.B.) 2541, Senate Draft 1 (SD1), relating to elderly 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 for the redevelopment of the HPHA's administrative offices located on School Street and the design and construction of an elderly-only housing complex at the same location, provided that its passage does not adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget. The HPHA respectfully requests the committees to reinsert the original \$60,000,000 amount that was provided in the original bill, and to amend the source of funding to General Obligation Bonds.

Currently, all of the HPHA's elderly housing properties include tenants that also include Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) tenants. In order for the HPHA to convert its elderly low-income public housing properties to house "elderly only" housing, HUD requires public housing authorities to go through an arduous process that is administratively burdensome. By constructing new "elderly only" units, we will be able to create more

low-income housing for our growing elderly population, and allow them to age in place with fellow elderly people.

With the creation of new "elderly only" housing units, the HPHA also plans to redevelop its administrative offices as well. While the HPHA has been occupying approximately 12.5 acres containing office buildings constructed as early as 1956, there are a myriad of needs for our office buildings. Some of the needs to be remedied include shifting foundations, cracked walls, the need to remove friable asbestos containing materials, roof leaks, 50 year old water and sanitary sewer lines that need to be replaced, mold, termite and wood rot damage. Furthermore, the site is comprised of several single story buildings and portable buildings sprawled throughout the property, which includes a public road cutting through the middle, and it is not the highest and best use of the property.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Human Services, and the House Committee on Housing with the agency's position regarding S.B. 2541, SD1. We respectfully request the Committees to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.

# Community Alliance for Mental Health

March, 18, 2014

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To: House Committees on Health and Housing  
Re: SB 2541, SD 1

To: Chairs Carroll, Hashem, and the members of their committees,

Aloha,

On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help we strongly support the passage of SB 2541, SD 1.

We believe that the passage of SB 2541, SD 1 is an essential element in both our health care transformation and our chronic housing shortage.

What is of most import though is realizing that the aging out of the baby boom generation is going to include tens of thousands of our fellow citizens that haven't provided well enough for their retirement and are going to turn to the state for public housing, which does not now exist.

Scott Wall  
VP/Legislative Advocate  
Community Alliance for Mental Health



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COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 9:30 a.m. Room 329  
SB2541, SD1 RELATING TO ELDERLY HOUSING  
TESTIMONY

Ann Shaver, Ph.D. for the League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chairs Carroll and Hashem, Vice-Chairs Kobayashi and Woodson, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 2541, SD1** that appropriates funds for the redevelopment, design, and construction of the Hawaii public housing authority administrative offices on School Street and the creation of an elderly-only housing complex.

Our position is that it is appropriate for the public sector to add to and maintain the existing stock of assisted housing for very low-income persons. Every person and family should have decent, safe and affordable housing.

We urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.