



**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 HOUSING**

March 11, 2013 9:00 A.M.  
Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

**Senate Bill 82, Senate Draft 1**  
**Relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority**

Honorable Chair Cabanilla, and Members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding Senate Bill (S.B.) 82, Senate Draft (SD) 1 relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports enactment of this measure, which would clarify the power of the HPHA regarding certain properties, authorizes the acceptance of gifts that benefit public housing residents and exempts the HPHA from various state laws for the use of volunteer services. This measure will significantly improve the ability of the HPHA to administer its programs and resources, and also further enhance the quality of life for our tenants.

Gifts such as gallons of paint, maintenance equipment and lumber are items that would truly make a difference in the living environment for our tenants, and would not go toward the benefit of the HPHA Board or staff. However, on many occasions, the HPHA has to turn gifts away due to our inability to accept gifts over twenty-five dollars.

Many volunteers come to the HPHA to improve their community by creating projects, and rehabilitating vacant units. These projects benefit community relations, as well as provide housing for some of our most needy individuals. Projects that assist the HPHA in rehabilitating vacant units need physical labor, electrical wiring and plumbing. These are areas where the HPHA are lacking the most resources. With an exemption from the various state volunteer services laws, the HPHA would be able to turn around vacant units faster, and create resources that can be used by our tenants. The arduous tasks

of coordinating our community events, such as the "I Have a Dream" event, are very difficult to produce due to the ambiguity of our state volunteer services laws.

These gifts and volunteer services are just part of the solution in getting the whole community involved. Tenants, volunteers and staff members work side by side to transform our vacant units into housing for our most needy citizens, and create a sense of pride for our tenants.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Housing with the agency's position regarding S.B. 82, SD1. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.