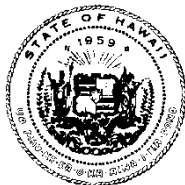


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 28, 2013 2:00 P.M.
Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

Senate Bill 84, House Draft 1
Relating to Public Housing

Honorable Chair Luke, and Members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding Senate Bill (S.B.) 84, House Draft (HD) 1, relating to public housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the enactment of this measure, which would expand the scope of the definition of "public housing project" to include any housing project controlled or managed by the HPHA pursuant to federally assisted housing.

Section 356D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), uses an inaccurate and overly limiting definition of the term "public housing project" for the purposes of the federal low-income public housing program. Under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations, Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) are authorized to administer a variety of federally assisted housing beyond simply "public housing", such as project-based Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher buildings and housing funded through the United States Department of Agriculture. Since the HPHA is the only PHA in the State of Hawaii, the definition of public housing should correspond to the HUD definition of housing that might be administered by a PHA.

As currently written, the statute uses the term "federal low-rent public housing program", which does not accurately reflect the program as being income-based, hence the term "low-income public housing" which is based on HUD income limits, and not controlled rents. By linking the statutory definition to the HUD rule, any expansion or addition of

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federally assisted housing options to the HUD rule would be incorporated into the HPHA's program administration.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Finance with the agency's position regarding S.B. 84, HD1. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.