

HB 1539

HD1

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY'S ADMINISTRATION OF THE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM.
Report Title:	Hawaii Public Housing Authority; Housing Choice Voucher Program
Description:	Requires surrender of housing voucher upon vacancy of unit by last original household member or upon the last minor household member reaching age twenty-one. Effective July 1, 2525. (HB1539 HD1)
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HMS, WAM
Introducer(s):	CABANILLA, BROWER, CACHOLA, HASHEM, ITO, LUKE, MIZUNO, MORIKAWA, SOUKI, TAKAYAMA, TOKIOKA, Nakashima, Saiki



Community Alliance for Mental Health

March, 11, 2014

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To: Senate Committee on Human Services
Re: HB 1539, HD 1

Aloha Chair Chun-Oakland and the members of the committee,

On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help we support the passage of HB 1539, HD 1, with one caveat.

At the end of section two we would ask for the inclusion of something to the effect of "unless the last original resident is currently in college. If so then the voucher must be turned in six months after graduation from college."

Scott Wall
VP/Legislative Advocate
Community Alliance for Mental Health

Committee on Human Services
March 11, 2014 – 1:15 PM
Testimony of Anmercil Lamayo Romaguera
In support of HB 1539

Dear Chair Oakland and members of the Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of HB1539 which requires surrendering of housing voucher upon vacancy of unit by last **original** household member and allows surviving minor or guardian to retain voucher until that minor reaches age 21. There are hundreds of people waiting to get into public housing, and far fewer vacancies. I am in support of this measure because it prevents multi-generational families from living in public housing for a time beyond what was originally intended.

I understand that there are unexpected circumstances that cannot be foreseen upon moving into public housing, such as incarceration, injury, or death of original voucher recipients. In those cases, allowing surviving minors to retain the voucher helps to protect them from potential poverty and homelessness. However, the vouchers should not be passed down from generation to generation, sometimes occupying these units for decades.

Furthermore, the families that are in need right *now*, those on the waiting list for public housing, can be waiting for years and forced to move into unsafe neighborhoods or worse. This measure is a step in the right direction to putting an end to the list of people waiting for public housing. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

Anmercil Lamayo Romaguera

Committee on Human Services Hearing
March 11, 2014 – 1:15 PM
State Capitol, CR 016

**Testimony of
Homeless and Affordable Housing Institute (HAHI)**

Senator Oakland, Chair and members of HMS,

I stand in strong support of HB 1539 that would help make more available the limited housing resources of Public Housing Authority.

Currently, when a family applies for public housing they will continue to keep the housing after they move out by allowing their relatives to take over the public housing unit.

This bill would limit the tenancy of public housing when the last original tenant moves out. If the parents move out, the children would also have to move upon reaching age 21.

This will free up available public housing to provide fair opportunities for people on the waiting list to participate in the public housing voucher program voucher.

Considering our very limited available affordable housing, surrendering a voucher by last original household member is essential for fair access for everyone one on the huge public housing waiting list.

Christopher Ching