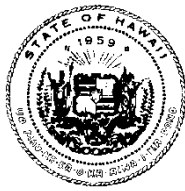


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 13, 2014, 9:30 A.M.
Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

Senate Bill 2265
Relating to Housing

Honorable Chair Ige and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding Senate Bill (S.B.) 2265, relating to housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the enactment of this measure, which would appropriate out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to improve the existing public housing stock and increase the supply of public housing units in the State, provided that its passage does not adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

With these much needed funds, the HPHA will be able to address the extensive capital needs of the HPHA's aging housing stock. With approximately half billion (\$0.5 B) of needed capital improvements and an aging inventory, the HPHA needs this funding to repair our low-income housing properties quicker, and move more needy families into low-income public housing.

This measure will bring the HPHA one step closer to bringing its existing housing inventory up to current on its capital needs, and also contribute to the 50,000 new units needed by the year 2016, that has been indicated in the 2011 Hawaii Housing Planning Study.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Ways and Means with the agency's position regarding S.B. 2265. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.