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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
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Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 26, 2014 9:15 A.M.
Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

Senate Bill 2269, Senate Draft 1
Relating to Public 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.) 2269, Senate Draft (S.D.) 1, relating to public housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports this measure, which would allow the HPHA to establish a work study program with the University of Hawaii's Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, and allow the work study program to be implemented at each public housing project and state low-income public housing project.

The mission of the HPHA is to provide Hawaii residents with affordable housing and shelter without discrimination, and the agency depends on its partnerships with community organizations to assist our tenants with their social service needs. By allowing the HPHA to partner with the University of Hawaii's Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, we hope to create a work study program that will provide our tenants with a wide array of social services and life achievement opportunities that are currently not accessible to them, and at the same time further the education and experience of the school's students.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Ways and Means with the agency's position regarding S.B. 2269, S.D. 1. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.