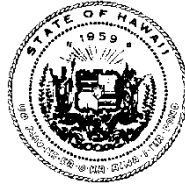


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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 5, 2014 10:30 A.M.
Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

Senate Bill 2541
Relating to Elderly 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.) 2541, relating to elderly 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 \$60,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the redevelopment of the HPHA's administrative offices located on School Street and the design and construction of an elderly-only housing complex at the same location, provided that its passage does not adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

Currently, all of the HPHA's elderly housing properties include tenants that also include Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) tenants. In order for the HPHA to convert its elderly low-income public housing properties to house "elderly only" housing, HUD requires public housing authorities to go through an arduous process that is administratively burdensome. By constructing new "elderly only" units, we will be able to create more low-income housing for our growing elderly population, and allow them to age in place with fellow elderly people.

With the creation of new "elderly only" housing units, the HPHA also plans to redevelop its administrative offices as well. While the HPHA has been occupying approximately 12.5 acres containing office buildings constructed as early as 1956, there are a myriad of needs for our office buildings. Some of the needs to be remedied include shifting

foundations, cracked walls, the need to remove friable asbestos containing materials, roof leaks, 50 year old water and sanitary sewer lines that need to be replaced, mold, termite and wood rot damage. Furthermore, the site is comprised of several single story buildings and portable buildings sprawled throughout the property, which includes a public road cutting through the middle, and it is not the highest and best use of the property.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Ways and Means with the agency's position regarding S.B. 2541. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.

Community Alliance for Mental Health

February, 5, 2014

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To: Senate Ways & Means Committee
Re: SB 2541

To: Senator Ige and the members of the committee,

Aloha,

On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help we strongly support the passage of SB 2541.

We believe that the passage of SB 2541 is an essential element in both our health care transformation and our chronic housing shortage.

What is of most import though is realizing that the aging out of the baby boom generation is going to include tens of thousands of our fellow citizens that haven't provided well enough for their retirement and are going to turn to the state for public housing, which does not now exist.

Scott Wall
VP/Legislative Advocate
Community Alliance for Mental Health

