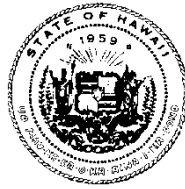


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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 2544 Senate Draft 1
Relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority's Administration of the Federal Housing Choice Voucher Program

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.) 2544, Senate Draft 1 (SD1) relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority's administration of the Federal Housing Choice Voucher Program.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) strongly supports the enactment of this measure, which would only allow original household members to retain a federal Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and prevent the "inheriting" of HCVs to family and friends.

The Housing Choice Voucher program allows people to live outside of public housing, in private market rentals, and does not have an expiration date. Currently, it is permissible for original members of the household to add more people to the existing household. Therefore, when the original household members leave the Housing Choice Voucher Program, the new people that were subsequently added to the household, end up "inheriting" the voucher. This practice circumvents the waitlist process and adds to the slow movement on the waitlist. Needy families on the waitlist are then forced to wait that much longer for their chance at housing assistance.

The "inheriting" of HCVs is not a problem that is unique to Hawaii. Agencies that administer the HCV program across the nation are experiencing this situation. The HPHA investigated and found that the person with the longest serving voucher is over 3 decades, and over 50 known cases of "inheriting" of HCVs at the HPHA.

Hawaii Public Housing Authority

February 5, 2014

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The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Ways and Means with the agency's position regarding S.B. 2544 SD1. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2544 on Feb 5, 2014 10:30AM
Date: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 2:36:45 PM
Attachments: [SB 2549, SD1 WAM 2-5-14.docx](#)

SB2544

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 5, 2014 10:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Wall	Community Alliance for Mental Health	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Community Alliance for Mental Health

February, 5, 2014

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To: Senate Ways & Means Committee
Re: SB 2549, SD1

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 support the passage of SB 2549, SD1, if it is amended in line 17 to include "or graduates college."

Scott Wall
VP/Legislative Advocate
Community Alliance for Mental Health

