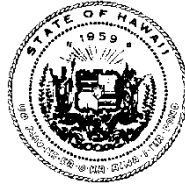


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

March 16, 2015 8:30 A.M.  
Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

**Senate Bill 1101, SD1**

**Relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority**

Honorable Chair Hashem and Members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding Senate Bill (S.B.) 1101, Senate Draft 1 (SD1) relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) strongly supports the enactment of this Administrative measure, which would extend the sunset date of Act 159 Session Laws of Hawaii 2012 for another 3 years and continue to temporarily exempt from civil service, persons hired or contracted to perform repair or maintenance work on the HPHA's vacant public housing units.

The HPHA's mission is to promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity and a suitable living environment free from discrimination through its public housing and rental assistance programs. The HPHA serves the State's most vulnerable populations, including those earning less than thirty percent of the Area Median Income (AMI), the disabled and the elderly.

Before the passage of Act 159 Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, the HPHA took an average of triple digit days to address the turnaround time of vacant units. With the passage of Act 159, the HPHA has been able to hire 26 exempt and professionally licensed staff members that have completely renovated 122 vacant units and performed 217 repairs to make available a total of 339 vacant units to needy families, while recently raising the HPHA's statewide occupancy rate to approximately 98 percent.

The 26 exempt staff members, termed the "Special Teams" unit has provided on the job training for unlicensed workers, and have provided kitchen and bath renovations, plumbing repairs, roof patching, asbestos removal, replaced windows, installed security doors, and repaired street lights. The efforts of the Special Teams unit has reduced vacant unit turnaround time from triple digit days to 7 days, of which some units were vacant since 2008.

The HPHA respectfully requests to continue the civil service exempt hiring of its Special Teams unit members for three additional years to continue with the repair, maintenance, or capital improvement project work on vacant housing units. The Special Teams unit is needed to maintain the same rate of performance and unit turnaround time to ensure the HPHA's delivery of low-income public housing in a timely and efficient manner as the agency aggressively attempts to increase its low-income rental housing stock in redeveloping its existing properties.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Housing with the agency's position regarding S.B. 1101, SD1. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support to address the affordable housing crisis facing Hawaii.



THE HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
The Twenty-Seventh Legislature  
Regular Session of 2015

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

The Honorable Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Monday, March 16, 2015  
TIME OF HEARING: 8:30 a.m.,  
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 329  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY ON SB1101, SD1 - RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING  
AUTHORITY

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,  
State Director of the United Public Workers,  
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW")

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

The UPW opposes extension of the State civil service exemption for the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. The original exemption should have provided the Authority with ample time to establish civil service positions to repair and maintain vacant state housing units. The work can still be addressed without having to extend Act 159, an Act that was wisely scheduled for repeal on July 1, 2015. We find that the Authority has not provided compelling reasons as to why the original sunset date should not be heeded.

We ask for your consideration in deferring this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

jordan3-Kevin

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2015 4:36 PM  
To: HSGtestimony  
Cc: jamesjtz@aol.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1101 on Mar 16, 2015 08:30AM

**SB1101**

Submitted on: 3/14/2015

Testimony for HSG on Mar 16, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Gauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I agree that qualified contractors should be hired under HPHA supervision to improve the State's housing assets, and what is civil service exemption(s)?

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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