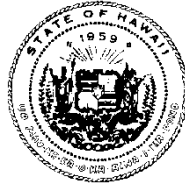


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

March 2, 2015, 9:00 A.M.  
Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

**Senate Bill 477, SD1**

**Relating to Public Housing**

Honorable Chair Tokuda 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.) 477, Senate Draft (SD) 1, relating to Public Housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) strongly supports the enactment of this measure, which would provide the HPHA with \$90,000,000 in general funds for the repair, renovation, improvements, and maintenance of the HPHA's existing public housing stock.

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.

Due to the age of the HPHA's housing inventory, these crucial funds will provide the agency with the ability to tackle its capital needs backlog of approximately three quarter of a billion (\$0.75) in capital needs, and your assistance is very important. The agency has properties that have been built over 50 plus years ago, and the issues at these properties need to be addressed.

Some of the situations that need to be addressed are straight forward site and building improvements such as new roofing needs at Kalihi Valley Homes on Oahu, to unforeseen issues such as remediating arsenic from the soil at Lanakila Homes on Hawaii Island, and to federally mandated Americans with Disabilities Act improvements at all HPHA properties.

Hawaii Public Housing Authority

March 2, 2015

Page 2

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Ways and Means with the agency's position regarding S.B. 477, 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.



**HPCCA**

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

The Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

The Hon. Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair

**Testimony on Senate Bill 477 SD 1**

**Relating to Public Housing**

**Submitted by Nani Medeiros, Public Affairs and Policy Director**

**February 27, 2015, 9:00 am, Room 211**

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports Senate Bill 477, which appropriates funds to improve existing public housing.

The HPCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, housing, and employment, can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes.

Senate Bill 477 speaks to one of these major determinants by seeking to alleviate the growing affordable housing crisis in Hawaii. For that reason, we strongly support this measure and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**SB477**

Submitted on: 3/1/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS THE INTENT of SB 477, SD1, which appropriates funds for the plans, design, construction, and equipment to develop, upgrade, or renovate public housing facilities in the State. (SD1)

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**SB477**

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**SB477**

Submitted on: 3/1/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deborah Kimball	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I thought that all public housing units have finally been brought to habitable condition. If this be true, I support priority to new low-income units of all sorts over public housing renovation. If my understanding is incorrect, I support this measure. There is simply no greater essential need for Hawai'i well-being than low-income shelter. As a Section 8 tenant age 77 who faced in terror homelessness three times--so far, I know.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)