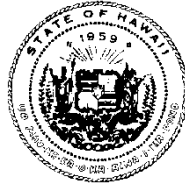




SB 477

Measure Title:	RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING.
Report Title:	Keiki Caucus; Public Housing; Hawaii Public Housing Authority; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Appropriates funds to improve the quality of existing public housing stock in the State.
Companion:	
Package:	Housing and Homeless Legislative Package
Current Referral:	HSH, WAM
Introducer(s):	CHUN OAKLAND, INOUYE, Dela Cruz, Riviere

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 HUMAN SERVICES

January 31, 2015 1:15 P.M.
Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

Senate Bill 477

Relating to Public Housing

Honorable Chair Chun Oakland and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding Senate Bill (S.B.) 477, 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 our 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 needs 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.

The HPHA would like to propose the following amendments to this measure and respectfully requests that on page 2, line 1 of the bill be amended as follows:

“the [~~repair, renovation, improvements, and maintenance~~] plans, design, construction and equipment to develop, upgrade or renovate public housing facilities. Including ground & site improvements, infrastructure, equipment, appurtenances and all related and associated project costs for public housing development, improvements, and renovations, statewide. Including funds for permanent and non-permanent project related positions.”

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Human Services with the agency’s position regarding S.B. 477. 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.



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Senate Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

The Hon. Josh Green, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 477

Relating to Public Housing

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

January 31, 2015, 1:15pm, Room 229

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.