

SCR 60

Measure Title: REQUESTING THE REVISION OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS SO THAT HOUSING SUBSIDIES THROUGH THE SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM PAID DIRECTLY TO AN APPLICANT OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE CALCULATION OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Report Title: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Housing and Urban Development; Section 8

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS/HOU

Introducer(s): SHIMABUKURO

I am testifying in favor of these resolutions, SCR60 and SR32, to exclude section 8 home ownership vouchers from income for SNAP eligibility.

My name is Carolyn Schmidt and I am a very thankful disabled Section 8 Home owner since 2008. I was assured by Lea Burton, head of the state home ownership program, that none of my benefits would be affected by this change in section 8 program. She told that to me and others in my situation who had successfully purchased homes without losing their SNAP and other benefits. I later discovered this only applied to the city section 8 program since their computer is apparently programmed to send checks to multiple vendors. Since the State Section 8 computer was programmed to cut only one check per client to a vendor, I was cut of all SNAP BENEFITS after I closed escrow. Since I had a first mortgage, condo fees, and a city and county down payment loan, sections 8 sent their check directly to me. SNAP counted it as income and I became ineligible. I appealed and won my case. A month later I was sued by the State of Hawaii in Federal court and lost. Fortunately I retained my SSI benefits since all SSI beneficiaries are presumptively eligible for SNAP. Their federal regs don't require section 8 monies be only sent to vendors to be exempt. Then I was told the State section 8 program was getting a new computer system and the problem would be fixed at that time. Just be patient. The new system was put in but this problem was not addressed as promised. Mr. Isobe informed me they were not working on the problem and had no plans to that effect.

I am caught in the middle of a very difficult situation. Nearly every year I have to write a letter to LIHEAP to explain this whole situation to receive energy assistance. No one knows when this conflict will surface again. I love my home and the security it provides. I love this State and want to remain in Hawaii. Please support these resolutions and whatever it takes to resolve this matter.

Respectfully,
Carolyn Schmidt

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR60 on Mar 24, 2016 13:15PM*
Date: Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:06:32 PM

SCR60

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HMS/HOU on Mar 24, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: mary@mauivortex.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR60 on Mar 24, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2016 7:24:24 AM

SCR60

Submitted on: 3/24/2016

Testimony for HMS/HOU on Mar 24, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Overbay	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I strongly SUPPORT this attempt to help Hawai'i's low income/poverty citizens. I recently lost my Section 8 voucher, which I had waited 6 years to get because nothing was available. Now I cannot even apply! I appreciate all help that can be given.

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