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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: HSGtestimony
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Subject: Submitted testimony for HR68 on Mar 21, 2017 10:40AM

HR68

Submitted on: 3/21/2017
Testimony for HSG on Mar 21, 2017 10:40AM in Conference Room 423

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daria Fand	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and House Housing Committee Members: This Resolution is so important to the improvement of the no-smoking compliance and enforcement strategies within Public Housing, which Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) has been remiss in initiating. Currently, HPHA has a policy whereby a resident may have a documented violation expunged from their record if they agree to attend a smoking cessation program. Not only does this foster a climate of laxity around the idea of community accountability, undermining the whole spirit of the 2014 smoke-free law (since it is already VERY HARD to evict a resident from public housing for non-felonious misconduct), but that in turn then results in further covert violation, which forces non-smokers to endure continued protracted exposures to secondhand and thirdhand smoke. It is hard enough to cite ANY violation of the smoking law — so ones that CAN be documented should always be retained on a residents' record without exception. Furthermore, it is inappropriate for HPHA to ask a resident to become a non-smoker in exchange for something that affects their lease. Residents may remain as smokers — as long as they follow the law and don't smoke on the premises. Quitting is a personal decision, and should not be conflated with the lease. Finally, the caveat to strike smoking violations off a resident's record is an aberration, an anomaly, of the lease agreement, in that no other lease violation is ever expunged. This resolution will bring the smoking Admin. Rules of HPHA into greater alignment with the law, the spirit of true compliance, and consistency with their other lease provisions. I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO PASS THIS RESOLUTION, FOR THE GREATER PROTECTION OF NON-SMOKERS, UNAMENDED. Mahalo for your consideration, Daria Fand Public Housing Resident, Community Health and Public Health Advocate

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