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Statement of  
**Hakim Ouansafi**  
Hawaii Public Housing Authority  
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR**

**Friday, February 24, 2017**  
**9:15 AM**  
**Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of  
**SB967, SD1**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill 967, Senate Draft 1, relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **strongly supports** administrative bill SB 967, SD1, which provides that certain areas within HPHA housing projects are closed to the public, amends criminal trespass in the second degree to permit the prosecution of an unauthorized entry or a violation of a written prohibition to enter into the subject housing project, and clarifies requirements for signage notifying trespassers of illegal entry.

One of the HPHA's greatest concerns and priorities is the safety and well-being of its tenants and staff. Too often, incidents arise on HPHA project grounds due to the presence of uninvited individuals. On multiple occasions, homeless and other trespassers have entered onto public housing property believing it was ok to put up tents in the middle of the property. Such acts, and others, create conflict among the tenants as well as staff, especially when we are not able to effectively resolve the matter. This measure will assist the HPHA to prosecute trespassers for unauthorized entry, or violation of a written prohibition to enter a housing project based on an unlawful act, as the measure clarifies what property is closed to members of the public in a housing project.

The HPHA requests one **amendment** be made to SB967, SD1. The word "or" after the semicolon on page 14, line 19, was inadvertently left out when non-substantive changes were

being made in the prior committee. The word “or” is part of HRS §708-814(2)(b), and needs to be put back into the bill.

The passage of this bill should provide a positive impact on the public, especially public housing tenants, their household members, and the surrounding community by affording a safer living environment for all.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor with the HPHA’s comments regarding SB 967, SD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

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**SB967**

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for JDL on Feb 24, 2017 09:15AM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments:

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**SB967**

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for JDL on Feb 24, 2017 09:15AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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