

LATE TESTIMONY

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Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Thursday, February 2, 2017
2:55 PM
Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB967

RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

Honorable Chair Espero and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill 967, relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **strongly supports** administrative bill SB 967, 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 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 Housing with the HPHA's comments regarding SB 967. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

February 2, 2017

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Senator Will Espero
Chairperson, Committee on Housing

Aloha,

My name is Wanda Camara.

I'm here to give my support to Executive Director Hakim Ouansafi, of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, on SB 967 who is requesting permanent "No Trespassing Law(s) 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, to un-authorize people(s) who frequent all Federal and State Public Housings.

As a resident of public housing myself it is easy to recognize un-authorize trespassers because of the disturbance they create. The blue domes on our Police Vehicles are a dead giveaway of approaching police and these un-authorize trespassers know how to get out of the way. Still, there is no law that says they can't be in the area where they are not welcomed. Therefore, a message must be sent to these un-authorize trespassers.

Without the help of SB 967 continued violators will be ongoing because there is no law to be enforced.

I thank you Mr. Chairman and Housing Committee Members for taking into consideration my support for SB 967 and look forward from you a favorable answer supporting the Hawaii Public Housing Authority's permanent "No Trespassing" law(s)

Mahalo,



Wanda Camara

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February 2, 2017

Aloha Senator's,

I am submitting this testimony for SB 967 as a Public Housing Resident and member of my resident association board and community security patrol. I strongly support the passing of this Bill For An Act, as it will benefit all Public Housing Communities, especially those who don't have paid security and rely on the police to help us keep criminal activities out of our community, keeping it safe for our children and families.

Mahalo,

Desiree Kihano

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Desiree Kihano". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.