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February 24, 2017

TESTIMONY TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
AND  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
For Hearing on Tuesday, February 28, 2017  
9:50 a.m., Conference Room 211

By

JAMES K. NISHIMOTO  
DIRECTOR

**Senate Bill No. 968**  
**Relating to Services Performed by Civil Service Employees**

CHAIRPERSONS KEITH-AGARAN AND TOKUDA, VICE-CHAIRS RHOADS AND DELA CRUZ AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR AND WAYS AND MEANS:

S.B. 968 authorizes establishment of permanent civil service positions for the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority (HPHA) to provide services historically and customarily performed by civil service employees in connection with creating housing opportunities for homeless individuals and others in need.

The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) **strongly supports** S.B. 968 as we believe the additional thirty-four permanent civil service positions being sought would enable the HPHA to continue its multi-skilled worker teams to quickly renovate or repair public housing units in its effort to provide housing for homeless individuals and others in need. It is our understanding, according to HPHA, that no appropriation of funds is being requested.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
AND  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**Wednesday, February 28, 2017  
9:50 AM  
Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of  
**SB 968**  
**RELATING TO SERVICES PERFORMED BY CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES**

Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Honorable Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, and Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill 968, relating to services performed by civil service workers.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports SB 968, which authorizes the establishment of permanent multi-skilled worker civil service positions for the HPHA to provide some services historically and customarily performed by civil service employees in connection with creating housing opportunities for homeless individuals and others in need. Specifically, this bill requests thirty-four permanent positions for the HPHA Multi-Skilled Worker program.

The Multi-Skilled Worker (MSW) Program began as a pilot program to address a dire need to reduce housing turn-over rates. The program's advantage is that public servants are no longer confined by their position descriptions, but can now train and be trained by other skilled trade workers in the MSW program to effectively, and efficiently work as a unified team to put a roof over the heads of our most vulnerable citizens and also reduced the amount of time to repair a vacant unit from triple digits' years ago, to only seven days.

Because it is voluntary in nature, HPHA currently has only 34 participants in a 68-person program. Establishing permanent positions will enable a greater opportunity for increased

success across the agency. Positions for the program were initially borrowed from the Property Management Branch, as HPHA workers volunteered to participate in the program. Ultimately, the MSW positions will save tax payer money as HPHA gets Federal subsidies based on the total occupied units.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Labor, and Ways and Means with the HPHA's comments regarding SB 968. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.