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

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**Thursday, March 16, 2017**  
**2:50 PM**  
**Room 224, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of  
**HB 1518, HD1**  
**RELATING TO PUBLIC RECORDS**

Honorable Chair Kim and Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning House Bill 1518, HD1, relating to public records.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports the intent** of HB 1518, HD1, which provides that upon request from a public agency, OIP may, under certain conditions, declare a person a vexatious records requester and restrict the person's rights under the Uniform Information Practices Act.

The HPHA has firsthand experience dealing with members of the public who have used the Uniform Information Practices Act (UIPA) to abuse and harass our employees, and waste hours of public servant work time. Over the last few years, two individuals have regularly made up over 60% of HPHA's UIPA requests (one reaching 85% in a recent UIPA report), often asking for the same items again and again, regardless of whether HPHA already provided the information. In the most vexatious instance, the individual would send a copy of the same letter multiple times throughout the year, all with the same date of the original letter. Despite HPHA's timely compliance with sending the required Notice to Requester letter each time the request is received, the individual will make claims that HPHA failed to meet its notice letter requirement based on the letter's date, and not when actually sent or received. This same individual also used copies of old requests and used liquid paper to cover the old request, but retained the original request date. These false accusations were made to not only to HPHA and OIP, but also to the Governor. The individual then filed appeals with OIP based on these false

dates to the extent that OIP has sent letters stating that his numerous requests would have to be put on the “back burner” in order for the OIP to serve other members of the public.

The HPHA supports the suggested amendments provided by the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, allowing for an expedited judicial determination that a requester is abusing the process established under chapter 92F, without taking away the public’s right of public access.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Government Operations with the HPHA’s comments regarding HB 1518, HD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.