



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
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Feb 01, 2018, 8:17 am

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 1, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative Ken Ito, Chair
House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and
the Arts

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **HB1529 – RELATING TO HOUSING**

Hearing: Thursday, February 1, 2017, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 429, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure, as the State has made significant progress in its efforts to end veteran homelessness. The Coordinator defers to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission on the merits of the bill, but notes that U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers have been a critical tool in reducing the number of homeless veterans. Between 2015 and 2016, the number of homeless veterans on Oahu decreased by 11%.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to prohibit discrimination in the rental of real property based on a veteran's use of HUD-VASH vouchers.

The Coordinator notes that the HUD-VASH program is a form of permanent supportive housing, which pairs an ongoing rental housing subsidy together with supportive case management services. The HUD-VASH program is similar to the state Housing First program and primarily addresses the needs of chronically homeless individuals.

Although HUD-VASH provides assistance with rent, some homeless veterans may face discrimination from landlords who are reluctant to rent to a person who is issued a "voucher" for rental assistance. According to feedback from service providers, a landlord may identify a veteran with a "voucher" as someone who is low-income or experiencing homelessness, and

may be reluctant to rent to the individual as a result. The Coordinator notes that homeless participants in the state Housing First program and Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program have reported similar challenges with certain landlords being reluctant to rent to a tenant with a “voucher.”

Despite potential discrimination from landlords, the HUD-VASH program has been a critical tool in addressing veteran homelessness. With the assistance of HUD-VASH and other similar programs, the number of homeless veterans on Oahu has decreased by 11% (54%) between 2015 and 2016.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1529, RELATING TO HOUSING

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE
AND THE ARTS

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN
DIRECTOR OF STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

February 01, 2018
10:00 a.m.

Good morning, Chair Lo Presti, Vice Chair Fukumoto, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services. I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of the concepts in House Bill 1529.

This measure prohibits discrimination in the rental of real property based on use of HUD-VASH vouchers to support our Veterans in need of shelter and services.

The OVS supports the concepts and intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Jan 31, 2018, 9:23 am

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Thursday, February 1, 2018
10:00 AM
Room 429, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
HB 1529
RELATING TO HOUSING

Honorable Chair LoPresti and Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning House Bill (HB) 1529, relating to housing.

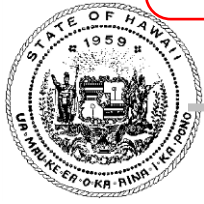
The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) is in support of HB 1529, which prohibits discrimination in the rental of real property based on a veteran's use of HUD-VASH vouchers.

Throughout the State, thousands are competing to find homes amidst an affordable housing crisis. This is especially true for veterans, who often return to Hawaii in need of assistance and resources. HUD-VASH vouchers provide veterans an opportunity to find affordable housing, with HPHA as the leader in Hawaii for housing veterans. Currently, there are 466 veterans with VASH vouchers. In addition, 36 are voucher holders in search of housing, with many searching for many months. The proposed bill will assist in expediting the placement process for veterans trying to secure suitable housing.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts with the HPHA's comments regarding HB 1529. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

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Jan 31, 2018, 11:11 am



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

February 2, 2017
Rm. 429, 9:30 a.m.

To: The Honorable Matthew S. LoPresti, Chair
Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs,
& Culture and the Arts

From: Linda Hamilton Krieger, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: H.B. No. 1529

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights.

The HCRC supports the intent of H.B. No. 1529.

H.B. No. H.B. No. 1529, if enacted, will prohibit discrimination in housing rentals based on a veteran’s use of a housing assistance voucher issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Department of Veterans Affairs supportive housing (HUD-VASH) program. The bill amends the Landlord-Tenant Code (HRS Chapter 521) to add this protection for veterans seeking rental housing.

The HCRC supports the intent of H.B. No. 1529.