

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
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Statement of  
**Hakim Ouansafi**  
Hawaii Public Housing Authority  
Before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

**Friday, February 9, 2018**  
**2:00 PM - Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of  
**HB 2357, HD1**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Honorable Chair Nishimoto and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning House Bill (HB) 2357, HD1, relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **strongly supports** the enactment of HB 2357, HD1. This Administrative Bill creates an internal eviction process, which is substantially similar to the eviction process currently employed for the federal low-income public housing program, for the HPHA's state low-income family housing and state housing for elder's programs. The passage of this measure will streamline the eviction process for all of HPHA's state and federal low-income public housing programs, and lessen the caseloads of the Judiciary and the Department of the Attorney General.

In 2017, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law Act 114, exempting all state low-income public housing directly controlled, owned, or managed by the Hawaii Public Housing Authority from the requirements of the Residential Landlord-Tenant Code under Chapter 521, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The passage of Act 114 was the first step in creating a uniform eviction process for both state and federal low-income public housing, ensuring all tenants receive the same due process regardless of the property in which they reside. The HPHA would comply with strict requirements when handling tenant issues and evictions, including adherence to eviction board hearings and peer review prior to decision making.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Judiciary with the HPHA's testimony regarding HB 2357, HD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2018**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 2357, H.D. 1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**DATE:** Friday, February 9, 2018

**TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 325

**TESTIFIER(S):** Russell A. Suzuki, Acting Attorney General, or  
Klemen Urbanc, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports the passage of this bill.

This bill establishes an administrative eviction process for the state low-income housing and state housing for elders programs ("state-funded programs") administered by the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority (HPHA). This process would be identical to the process followed by HPHA for its federal low rent housing projects. It is a process once followed by HPHA for its state-funded programs and is a system to which HPHA prefers to return as a more efficient system. Currently, evictions arising out of state-funded programs are required to be filed under chapter 666, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requiring actions in our district courts.

We respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill.