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Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Thursday, March 29, 2018
9:30 AM - Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
HB 2357, HD2, SD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

Honorable Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning House Bill (HB) 2357, HD2, SD1, relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **strongly supports** the HB 2357, HD2, SD1. 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 Senate Committee on Judiciary with the HPHA's testimony regarding HB 2357, HD2, SD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.