

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

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

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FNANCE

Tuesday, February 28, 2017
3:00 PM
Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
HD 534, HD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

Honorable Chair Luke and Members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding House Bill 534, HD1, relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** HB 534, HD1, which appropriates \$94,600 in general funds to hire an additional security guard to improve security and monitoring at the Alu Street Gate of Kalihi Valley Homes.

One of the HPHA's greatest concerns and priorities is the safety and well-being of its tenants and staff. This appropriation would allow the HPHA to maintain the needed amount of security necessary at the Alu Street gate of Kalihi Valley Homes, which has been lacking despite the best efforts of the Authority to provide a safe and secure living environment.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Finance with the HPHA's comments regarding HB 534, HD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

LATE

February 27, 2017

THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION 2017
HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE - SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2017, 3:00 P.M.
STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 308

RE: HB534, HD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

Chair Luke and Members of the House Finance Committee,

We are Max Sword and Mona Wood-Sword, writing in strong support of HB534, HD1, which will appropriate funds for the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (“HPHA”) to hire an additional security guard to improve security and monitoring at the Alu Street gate of the Kalihi Valley Homes (“KVH”).

We reside in the Wilson Tract community and can personally attest to the recent rise in criminal activity in our neighborhood perpetrated by individuals who reside in, or are affiliated with residents of, Kalihi Valley Homes.

Over the past couple of years, we have seen a large portion of our street parking taken by KVH residents, or their associates. While it is legal for them to park on our public street, this has brought a higher rate of crime into our neighborhood, including theft, rampant littering, excessive noise during the night, public intoxication, public defecation and urination, illegal parking, and threatening behavior towards residents.

We have learned that there is ample parking for all residents and their guests at KVH, and many residents who park on our street have the KVH resident permit on their dashboards. However, stricter rules set by the HPHA, approximately two years ago, require the driver to present his/her driver’s license and car registration, insurance and current safety check before parking at KVH. As many of these vehicles do not have current paperwork, the drivers have chosen to park in our neighborhood and, as mentioned above, our once quiet, friendly neighborhood turned into “The Nightmare on Wilson Street.”

We believe a security guard on duty at the key point of exit and entry to Wilson Tract, at Alu Street, is a strategic and necessary move to curtail the criminal activities mentioned above.

We kindly urge the House Finance Committee to pass HB534, HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Max Sword (cell. 927-3700/swordhnl@aol.com)
Mona Sword-Sword (cell. [218-5546](tel:218-5546)/ikaikacomm@gmail.com)

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 8:27 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: sabrinanguyen2010@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB534 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB534

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sabrina	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB534, HD1, because this will make the entire area safer for both the residents of Kalihi Valley Homes and the area residents. Currently the area has a lot of criminal activity at the back of Kalihi Valley Homes and with a security guard this will address the concerns of criminal activity in the area.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:53 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kananisouza@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB534 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB534

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanani Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB534,HD1, because providing a security guard at the back opening where a guard shack is located of Kalihi Valley Public Housing Units will ensure a safer neighborhood. This has become a very dangerous area with many criminal activities in this back area. Please pass HB534, HD1 to provide one more security guard to ensure stronger protection not only for the housing residents, but for all the area residents that live near this housing unit.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
 Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:08 PM
 To: FINTestimony
 Cc: alangarcia2017@yahoo.com
 Subject: Submitted testimony for HB534 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM

HB534

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Garcia	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB534, HD1 to have security at the back end of Kalihi Valley Public Housing Units, because crime is on the rise especially in this area and we have had so many crime, illegal drug use, underage drinking of alcohol, theft, and criminal property damage in the area. This would certainly reduce crime and make the area safer. In the long run, bench marks will be made by the additional security.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Warren <wyoung2266@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:33 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: HB534, HD1

Honorable members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Warren Young, I am a 58 year owner-resident of Wilson Tract which is located across Likelike Highway from Kalihi Valley Homes public housing. I am in support of HB534, HD1 in order to provide more security for the residents of Kalihi Valley Homes and Wilson Tract. For several years now the problems for me and my fellow residents are the increase in crime, loitering, graffiti, littering, and reduction of street parking availability for our residents and guests. This is due to residents and visitors to Kalihi Valley Homes now coming into Wilson Tract to park their vehicles daily and for extended periods, or pick-up/drop-off family and friends, or meet their visitors to talk story and drink in front of our homes, and leave their trash on the street and sidewalk.

The solution to this problem is to reopen the Kalihi Valley Homes Alu Street entry/exit access to and from Likelike Highway, and to re-staff the guard station at this entry/exit point to monitor residents and their visitors. The state DOT would have to modify the traffic signal at Likelike Highway and Alu Street so the mauka bound left turn lane into the public housing can be functional again. If you make it convenient for the public housing residents and their visitors to park at their homes, perhaps Wilson Tract residents can again have the peace and quiet we once had for paying our state and property taxes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Warren Young

LATE

From: Efren Bihag <efrenbihag@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:23 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: HB534, HD1

My name is Efren H Bihag, I live in 2281 Wilson Street. I support HB534, HD1 seeking appropriate addition security guards at Alu Street (Rear) Gate..Housing Authority need to monitor that gate because there's so much human traffic going in and out all day and mostly late hours..they park there car's on our street (Wilson and Jeanne Street)..throw their trash on our street..beer bottles..etc..so please we need help..thank you..

From: Michael McDonald <mmcdonald.nhb@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 8:11 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: HB534 - Testimony

Finance Committee,

As a resident that lives near the Kalihi Valley Homes (KVH) mauka gate, I am in support of HB 534.

The lack of security guard services fosters undesirable activities such as;

- Slipping banned substances onto KVH property.
- Allowing unaccounted outsiders and non-residents to stay for extended periods without having to get a visitor pass.
- Allowing the above individuals to take the on-street parking in the surrounding Wilson Tract/Kula Kolea areas at various times; increasing foot traffic, litter, excessive noise during the night, public intoxication/defecating/urinating, illegal parking, and heckling.
- Using the unoccupied exit-only gate as a passenger pickup and dropoff zone; blocking exiting City buses and lawful residents.

Security guard services are a safety issue for the KVH (Kalihi Valley Homes) residents and for the surrounding residents.

I urge you to restore it thru the approval of HB 534 so we can curtail the outlined activities.

Sincerely,
Michael McDonald

LATE

From: MYoshizumi@aol.com
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:59 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: HB534 HD1

Aloha,

I am a longtime resident on Jennie Street. In all the decades residing here, the crime, property damage, littering, noise and illegal parking has never been so bad.

Many of the people continue to park in our neighborhood and cross the highway to go to Kalihi Valley Homes. I have learned by speaking with them, that there are not registered as tenants so they are not allowed to park there. Also many of them do not have the necessary documents to get a parking permit there. Our neighborhood is being overrun by outsiders whom disregard the laws as well as common courtesy.

I am in strong support of HB534 HD1. I feel that a security presence will discourage illegal activities in Wilson Tract as well as Kalihi Valley Homes. This guard should verify credentials for people entering. Those without proper credentials should not be allowed to enter.

Mahalo,

Marvin Yoshizumi
2388 Jennie St.
Honolulu, HI 96819
845-2449