

SB 2497

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY.
Report Title:	Hawaii Public Housing Authority; Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program; Insurance; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Requires the Hawaii public housing authority to establish a program to offer insurance policies to landlords who rent to tenants using the section 8 housing choice voucher program. Requires the authority to report to the legislature. Appropriates funds to establish and administer the program.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HOU, WAM
Introducer(s):	S. CHANG, GALUTERIA, SHIMABUKURO, Espero, Green, Kim, Nishihara, K. Rhoads

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
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Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Thursday, February 1, 2018
2:55 PM - Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 2497
RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

Honorable Chair Espero and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 2497, relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports the intent** of SB 2497, which requires the HPHA to establish a program to offer insurance policies to landlords who rent to tenants using the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, provided that it does not adversely affect the Governor's Supplemental Budget.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) assists low-income families through the Housing Choice Voucher Program, also known as "Section 8". The Section 8 program is one of the federal government's major programs for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market, including single-family homes, townhouses and apartments.

Because of the overwhelming need in our community to assist our low-income families, the passage of this measure could possibly assist future Section 8 participants who rent from landlords that participate in a program that offers dwelling insurance policies for landlords renting to Section 8 participants. However, the HPHA would need 1 FTE position to assist and administer the program, and will defer to the State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs in regards to any insurance related implications.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Housing with the HPHA's testimony regarding SB 2497. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.



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COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

THURSDAY, February 1, 2018, 2:55 PM, Room 225

SB 2497, Relating to Hawaii Public Housing Authority

TESTIMONY

Nina Eejima, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Espero; Vice-Chair Harimoto; and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 2497, the purpose of which is to encourage landlords to rent to section 8 tenants by requiring the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to:

- **establish a program that offers dwelling insurance policies for such landlords; and**
- **establish a framework for establishing the insurance program, followed by the submission of a report of findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation to establish the insurance program.**

We note the financial challenges faced by landlords with respect of their inability to recover the costs of repairing damage to their properties when those costs exceed the amount of the security deposit. Going forward, we urge that subsequent legislative consideration of the framework and proposed legislation take into account other, relevant jurisdictions' best practices and established, successful modalities so as to facilitate a cost-effective and sustainable insurance program that meets the objectives of this proposed measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-2497

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:28:07 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/1/2018 2:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Tam		Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SB 2497. As a landlord who had first hand experience of renting to a Section 8 tenant, I know how difficult it is. Many of the Section 8 tenants have some kind of disability. My ex-tenant happened to have a mental illness. She was accused of flooding the bathroom. When the ambulance was called, the paramedics had to kick down the door to take her to the hospital. After she was evicted by the Association for excessive noise coming from her apartment, we had to fix the jalousie, repair all the damages, and almost had to replaced the refrigerator. If the State can provide assistance to people like me to purchase insurance policy, it will be a great incentive for landlords to rent to Section 8 tenants.