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Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Tuesday, February 27, 2018
9:30 AM - Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 2784, 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 Senate Bill (SB) 2784, SD1, relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **strongly supports** SB 2784, 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 SB 2784, SD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

SB-2784-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 9:20:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Polk	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have serious concerns about this bill and ask that it be deferred. The bill would give a single person, who may be another tenant (see p 4,lines 4-6) the power and authority of a circuit court judge, without any regard to the background or training of that person.

Although the tenant under eviction notice is granted the right of judicial review, the bill provides that the eviction order may be carried out prior to the completion of that review (see p. 8, lines 5-8), making such review meaningless, since the tenant will already have lost his/her home and perhaps also his/her possessions before the court rules.

PLEASE DEFER THIS BILL, which appears to be especially cruel to low income and elderly people.