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Statement of

Hakim Ouansafi

Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

9:30 AM - Room 423, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

SB 9, SD1

RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

Honorable Chair Brower and Members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 9, SD1, relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports the intent** of SB 9, SD1, provided that it does not adversely affect the Governor's Biennium Budget. SB 9, SD1 requires the HPHA to adopt rules without regard to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Appropriates an unspecified amount to the Hawaii public housing authority to reimburse landlords who participate in the section 8 housing choice voucher program for repair costs of tenant-caused property damage when such repair costs exceed the tenant's security deposit and for one full time-equivalent position to assist and administer the reimbursement program.

The HPHA assists our 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. This program currently brings approximately 32.68 million dollars a year on the island of Oahu, supports over 2,337 families and over 6,400 individuals.

Because of the overwhelming need in our community to assist our low-income families, we are hopeful that with the passage of this measure, more landlords would be willing to consider our over 200 Section 8 participants that are currently searching for housing as tenants. The Section 8 program is an important part of the State's efforts in addressing the affordable housing needs of our low-income families, and the HPHA is willing to work and assist all landlords that would like to participate in the program.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with the HPHA's testimony regarding SB 9, SD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

SB-9-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 6:21:23 AM

Testimony for HSG on 3/12/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

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