

SB-9-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 8:41:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, February 20, 2019
10:05 AM - Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 9, SD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, 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.

February 20, 2019

LATE

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: S.B. 9, SD1, Relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority

HEARING: Wednesday, February 20, 2019, at 10:05 a.m.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

I am Ken Hiraki Government Affairs Director, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its over 9,500 members. HAR **supports** Senate Bill 9, SD1, which appropriates an unspecified amount to the Hawai'i 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.

In November 2015, HAR worked with the State, City and County of Honolulu, and various social service providers to host a Landlord Summit. The goal was to educate landlords on the various government and social service programs that are available. Since then, REALTOR® Associations on Maui, Kauai and Hawai'i Island have hosted their own Summits.

Through the process, it is clear that there is a great need for both affordable housing and rentals and that efforts that encourage landlords to participate in the Section 8 Program were also needed. As such, HAR believes that this may help to encourage landlords to participate in the program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.