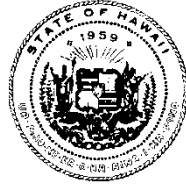


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Statement of  
**Hakim Ouansafi**  
Hawaii Public Housing Authority  
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

**Tuesday, March 10, 2020**  
**1:45 PM - Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of  
**HB 1679, HD1**  
**RELATING TO HOUSING**

Honorable Chair Chang, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning House Bill (HB) 1679, HD1, relating to housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports HB 1679, HD1, which authorizes the HPHA to give preference to persons residing in the zip code in which a low-income or elder housing project is constructed for the housing project's initial tenants or residents and offers the following comments.

Waitlist preferences allow for the priority placement to those applicants who qualify for a specific preference category that targets housing assistance to our most vulnerable populations. The HPHA will defer to the Department of the Attorney General for their legal analysis of the measure.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with the HPHA's testimony regarding HB 1679, HD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.