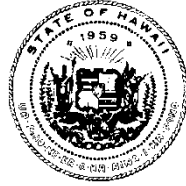


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IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Before the
House Committee on Finance

10:00 a.m., February 24, 2023
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 308

In consideration of
HB 1395, HD1
RELATING TO HOUSING

Honorable Chair Yamashita and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1395, HD1, relating to housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) is in **support** of HB 1395, HD1, which would appropriate funds for the planning and design for new housing units at the Kapa`a public housing project site.

The HPHA's mission is to provide Hawaii's residents with adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity, and suitable living environments that are free from discrimination through both its public housing and rental assistance programs. The HPHA serves our state's most disadvantaged populations, including families earning less than thirty percent of the Area Median Income, the disabled, and the elderly.

The Kapa`a public housing project is a federal public housing property located at 4726 Malu Rd, Kapa`a, HI 96746. The project consists of 6 one-bedroom, 8 two-bedroom, 12 three-bedroom, and 10 four-bedroom units. Its initial date of occupancy was July 19, 1966.

The Kapa`a property is included among several others in the HPHA's upcoming Ka Lei Momi Project which aims to develop 10,000 new affordable units across the state. The HPHA is currently seeking a Master Developer and issued a Request for Qualifications last month. Each redevelopment project will transform under-utilized State assets into vibrant, mixed-income, mixed-use communities. There will be a one-for-one replacement for all existing public housing units at each project site. By developing a combination of different housing types, the HPHA is seeking to deconcentrate poverty within our communities and empower low-income families by providing greater access to better healthcare, schooling, and job opportunities.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the committee with its testimony regarding HB 1395, HD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated and continued support.