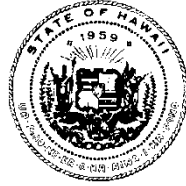


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



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

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of  
**Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director**  
**Hawaii Public Housing Authority**

Before the  
**House Committee on Housing**

9:30 a.m., February 8, 2023  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Room 312

In consideration of  
**HB 1395**  
**RELATING TO HOUSING**

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

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) is in **support** of HB 1395, 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. We thank you very much for your dedicated and continued support.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair  
Addison Bulosan  
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.  
Felicia Cowden  
Bill DeCosta  
Luke A. Evslin



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**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 6, 2023

TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALII  
COUNCIL VICE CHAIR, KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON  
HB 1395, RELATING TO HOUSING  
House Committee on Housing  
Wednesday, February 8, 2023  
9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 312  
Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Hashimoto and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong SUPPORT of HB 1395, Relating to Housing. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as Council Vice Chair of the Kaua'i County Council.

We are all well-aware of the longtime suffering of our constituents—families moving away, young people not returning after college, and employers not being able to hire workers who cannot find housing.

We have all talked about our housing shortage crisis (disaster), and we have talked about needing to have all hands on deck and utilizing every tool in our tool boxes. HB 1395 is a tool and will help our housing shortage crisis, as it intends to appropriate funds for the planning and design for new housing units at the Kapa'a public housing project site in Kapa'a, Kaua'i.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 1395. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

KIPUKAI KUALII  
Council Vice Chair, Kaua'i County Council

AAO:jy

cc: Senate President Ronald D. Kouchi  
(Via Email Only: senkouchi@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
House Majority Leader Nadine K. Nakamura  
(Via Email Only: repnakamura@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Adam P. Roversi, County of Kaua'i Housing Director

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER