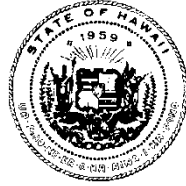


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Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Tuesday, February 1, 2022
1:30 PM – Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 2588
RELATING TO HOUSING

Honorable Chair Chang and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 2588, relating to housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** the enactment of SB 2588, which appropriates funds to the HPHA for the rehabilitation of housing units, so long as it does not adversely affect the Governor's Supplemental Budget.

The HPHA's mission is to promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity, and a suitable living environment free from discrimination through its public housing and rental assistance programs. The HPHA serves the State's most disadvantaged populations, including those earning less than thirty percent of the Area Median Income (AMI), the disabled and the elderly.

Due to the age of our housing inventory, these crucial funds will provide the agency with the ability to tackle its capital needs backlog of approximately \$700,000,000, and the Legislature's assistance with this issue is very important. The agency has properties that have been built over 50 plus years ago, and the issues at these properties need to be addressed. Some of the situations that need to be addressed are modernization of dwelling units including lead abatement, upgrading of electrical infrastructure, replacement of plumbing piping, roof replacement, spall repair, and federally mandated Americans with Disabilities Act improvements.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with the HPHA's testimony regarding SB 2588. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2588

February 1, 2022
1:30 p.m.
Room 225 and Videoconference

RELATING TO HOUSING

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2588 appropriates \$25,445,000 in general funds in FY 23 to the Department of Human Services for the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority to remodel, renovate, repair, and rehabilitate 264 housing units.

B&F notes that the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2588

TO: Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha, & Housing Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: February 1, 2022 (1:00 PM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** SB 2588, which appropriates funds to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for the rehabilitation of housing units.

As recently noted by Senator Chang in a policy briefing, the condition of our state's public housing is very poor compared to public housing found in other states. Under resourced families and communities should have access to affordable housing that facilitates health and well-being. [A built environment is a key social determinant of health](#). Housing and the physical environment surrounding housing, including communal open spaces, should be tailored to improve health rather than pose challenges.

HHRC Executive Director Heather Lusk currently serves as Board Chair of [Partners in Care O'ahu](#), a planning, coordinating, and advocacy alliance that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill needs within O'ahu's continuum of care for homeless persons.

HHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific. We work with many individuals impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those related to substance use and mental health conditions. Many of our program clients and participants have also been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.