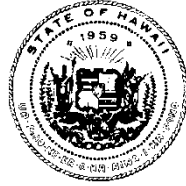


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



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
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, February 22, 2023
10:00 AM – Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 340, SD1
RELATING TO HOUSING

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 340, SD1, relating to housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** the enactment of SB 340, SD1, which appropriates funds to the HPHA for the rehabilitation, remodeling, renovation, and repair of housing units.

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 (AMI), the disabled, and the elderly.

Given the age of our housing inventory, the HPHA is currently facing a capital needs backlog upwards of approximately \$800,000,000. With multiple properties constructed over 50 years ago, additional funding is crucially needed to keep public housing units safe, decent and sanitary. As you may know, the HPHA is approximately 90% federally funded and only occupied

units allow HPHA to receive federal subsidies to house our most disadvantaged families earning 15% Area Median Income (AMI) or less.

Approximately 350-500 units become available for new families every year. Unit rehabilitation and modernization work includes but is not limited to lead abatement, electrical infrastructure upgrades, plumbing replacements and upgrades, roof replacements, spall repair, painting, unit modernization, reasonable accommodations, and other federally-mandated improvements and retrofitting of units to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with its testimony regarding SB 340, SD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated and continued support.

PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Continuum of Care

Our mission is to eliminate homelessness through open and inclusive participation and the coordination of integrated responses.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 340 SD1: RELATING TO HOUSING

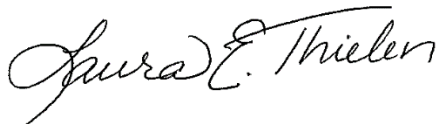
TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)
Hearing: **Wednesday, 2/22/23; 10:00 AM; Room 211 & via videoconference**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means:

Partners In Care (PIC) is a coalition of more than 60 non-profit homelessness providers and concerned organizations. The crisis of homelessness and the lack of affordable housing makes this measure so important to pass. With many units offline within the Public Housing Authority, we have the opportunity with this bill to get more units online for those who are desperate for affordable housing in our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony **in strong support SB 340 SD1**, Relating to Housing.

Sincerely,



Laura E. Thielen
Executive Director
Partners In Care



LATE

CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY: SUPPORT SB 340, SD1: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawaii

Hearing: **Wednesday, 2/22/23; 10:00 AM; CR 211 & via videoconference**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means:

We appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony **in support of SB 340 SD1**, which provides funding to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) for the rehabilitation, remodeling, renovation, and repair of housing units without regard to civil service law. I am Rob Van Tassell, with Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii for over 75 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless, and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawaii. Catholic Charities Hawaii has long been a supporter of funding to create safe and decent rental housing in our State.

Catholic Charities Hawaii supports a minimum of \$20.2 million to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to repair and renovate its aging inventory. Many of the HPHA projects are over 50 years old and are showing their age. The elders and families who rent these units deserve to live in housing that is safe and decent. They deserve to live in units that are accessible and meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act and other federal mandates. HPHA has estimated that it will require \$20,200,000 to repair and upgrade 255 units, statewide.

We urge your support for this bill to repair and upgrade these 255 units of public housing.

Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.



SB-340-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 9:52:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB340 SD1.

LATE

SB-340-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 12:13:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Galen Fox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support SB352 because the conveyance tax is the only dedicated and annual source of revenue for the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (Fund), which provides gap financing for new affordable rental projects. By eliminating the cap on conveyance tax use for affordable housing, the bill would enable more revenue to flow toward reducing the housing crisis that impacts so many local residents, and that is sending them to the mainland in search of less expensive homes. Help!