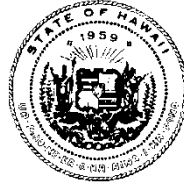


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



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

Friday, March 17, 2023
9:30 a.m. – Room 312, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 340, SD2
RELATING TO HOUSING

Honorable Chair Hashimoto and members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 340, SD2, relating to housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** the enactment of SB 340, SD2, which appropriates funds to the HPHA for the rehabilitation, remodeling, renovation, and repair of housing units without regard to civil service law.

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 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, SD2. We thank you very much for your dedicated and continued support.



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1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882
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**The State Legislature
House Committee on Housing
Friday, March 17, 2023
Conference Room 312, 9:30 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Troy Hashimoto, Chair

RE: Support for S.B. 340, SD 2 Relating to Housing

Aloha Chair Hashimoto and Members of the Committee:

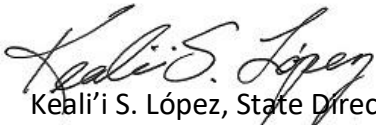
My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social impact organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the issues that matter most to older adults and their families.

AARP supports S.B 340 SD2 which appropriates funds to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for the rehabilitation, remodeling, renovation, and repair of housing units without regard to civil service law.

This measure enables the State to expeditiously repair and upgrade existing dwellings that are long overdue for maintenance improvements. This helps to maintain Hawaii's inventory of affordable housing that are already in critical demand but need to be habitable and safe for residents to live in. AARP Hawai'i supports initiatives that empower people of all ages and ability levels to access safe, decent, and affordable housing that enables them to continue to live safely in their homes and communities as they get older.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support **S.B. 340, SD2.**

Sincerely,


Keali'i S. López, State Director



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY: SUPPORT SB 340, SD2: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: House Committee on Housing

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

Hearing: Friday, 3/17/23; 9:30 AM; CR 312 & via videoconference

Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Aiu, and Members, Committee on Housing:

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of SB 340 SD2**, 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) 527-4813 if you have any questions.

THE KŪPUNA CAUCUS



HSG_03-17-23 9:30AM SB340

TO: COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
Rep. Troy N. Hashimoto, Chair
Rep. Micah P.K. Aiu, Vice Chair

CONCERNING: SB340 SD2 (SSCR934) RELATING TO HOUSING

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

ALOHA Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Aiu, and Members of the Committee

The Kūpuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i has a membership of more than 2,000 politically active and aware seniors and we strongly support this bill.

The condition of some of the public housing in Hawaii is horrendous and embarrassing. I know from direct experience that some Hawaii State owned public housing units, are guilty of violations of the basic safety requirements the State requires of private landlords. The neglect by the State is unconscionable and by putting off repairs the situation has just become more expensive and dangerous.

The constant cry out is that it will cost too much to make repairs. However, there are no new public housing places being built and nowhere else for tenants to move to, so if they protest they end up in the street or they are ignored and live in unacceptable conditions.

If dedicated funding is what is needed, pass this bill, which will appropriate the necessary funds for repairs, renovations and rehabilitation of Public Housing.

Martha E Randolph for the
Kūpuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

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 SB340 SD2 RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: Senate Committee on Housing,
FROM: Partners In Care – Oahu Continuum of Care (PIC)
Hearing: Thursday, March 17, 2023, 9:30AM
Conference Room 312 and Videoconference
Position: **SUPPORT**

LATE

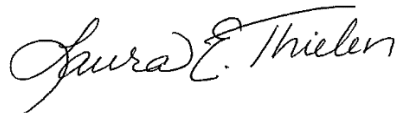
LATE

Chair Hashimoto and Members of the House Committee on Housing:

Partner In Care, Oahu's Continuum of Care, stands in support comments on **SB340 RELATING TO HOUSING** . With this measure, more than 200 units will be coming on line to add to the availability of affordable housing. Public Housing is essential to assist families with housing at a rate they can afford and thrive on.

Thank you for the opportunity to testifying on this measure. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Aloha



Laura E. Thielen
Executive Director

SB-340-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 4:27:07 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Lakritz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lack of affordable housing defeats any programs aimed at growing and possible diversification of the Hawai'i economy. It limits availability of goods and services, as those who provide the needed goods and services cannot afford to live here.

A good number of the bills we are seeing during this session pertain to healthcare. A large factor feeding into the lack of healthcare is the lack of housing healthcare workers can afford.

It is possible to attract some segments of the Tech Industry to the islands to help diversify, but housing limits what we can offer the decision makers to move operations to Hawai'i.

Even existing businesses cannot get qualified workers because our children have to leave the islands to afford a place to live.

We can do better, we must do better. Please vote yes on SB340
Gail Lakritz, Keaau.

SB-340-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 10:25:44 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB340 SD2.

SB-340-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 5:36:12 AM

Testimony for HSG on 3/17/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

One of the greatest challenges faced by our State in addressing the plight of the houseless, is the dearth of availability of suitable, affordable inventory. **Support of SB340, SD 2**, is an effecient and effective way to meet that particular challenge.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Hearing: Friday, March 17, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Via Video Conference Room 312
State Capitol

**TESTIMONEY IN SUPPORT OF SB 340
RELATING TO HOUSING**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023

To: Rep. Troy N. Hashimoto, Chair; Rep. Micah P. K. Aiu, Vice Chair; Committee on Housing

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

SB 340: Appropriates funds to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for the rehabilitation,
remodeling, renovation, and repair of housing units without regard to civil service law. Effective
7/1/2050. (SD2)

I urge you to support **SB 340**.

Anna Filler
District 26, Downtown-Kakaako-McCully
Email: afiller@twc.com