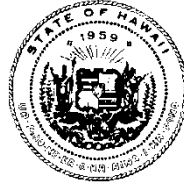


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



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 HOUSING

Thursday, January 25, 2024
1:00 PM – Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 2068
RELATING TO HOUSING

Honorable Chair Chang and members of the Senate Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 2068, relating to housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **strongly supports** the enactment of SB 2068 which appropriates funds to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority 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 \$870,000,000. 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 that funding is based on occupied units, as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

does not provide subsidies for vacant units. Please note that administrative fees to pay staff is also based on occupied units and as you are aware, all of our positions except for one are from federal sources.

Over the past two years, your assistance with passing legislation to fix vacant public housing units and Governor Green's dedication to affordable housing have brought major strides in reducing the HPHA's vacant public housing unit count to house our most disadvantaged families earning 15% Area Median Income (AMI) or less.

Last year, 440 vacant units were made available for new families. This funding would go towards current and future vacant public housing 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. 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 2068: RELATING TO HOUSING

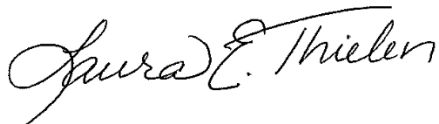
TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)
Hearing: **Thursday, January 25th; 1:00 pm; Room 225 & via videoconference**

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Hashimoto and Members of the House Committee on Housing:

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 2068**, Relating to Housing.

Sincerely,



Laura E. Thielen
Executive Director
Partners In Care



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Housing

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

January 25, 2024

S.B. 2068 — RELATING TO HOUSING

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly opposes the purpose and intent of S.B. 2068, Section 2, Line 3 to 6 (page 2) which allows the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to contract out the repair and maintenance of units without regard to Chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Granting the HHFDC blanket authority to contract out this function goes against civil service law and the merit principles, where private entities are performing duties that has been traditionally performed by public servants. Instead of contracting out to a private entity, the civil service system must become more flexible and competitive. Contracting out work is a 'band-aid' fix to address the underlying recruitment and retention issue in state government.

Instead, the state and the HHFDC needs to invest in its current and future workforce – increasing the position pay and offering modern and attractive recruitment and retention incentives is paramount. Repricing these employees (raising their pay), will allow the state to offer a competitive salary which will help this agency recruit and retain employees. If the justification of contracting out this service is to better streamline the maintenance of affordable housing units, then providing more support to current and future public servants should be considered prior to moving to a private contractor.

We respectfully request a proposed amendment to repeal Section 2, line 3-6 (page 2) which allows the HHFDC to contract out the repair and maintenance of units without regard to Chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition of S.B. 2068.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2068: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: Senate Committee on Housing

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

Hearing: Thursday, 1/25/24; 1:00 pm; Room 225 & Videoconference

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in Support of SB 2068**, which appropriates funds to the Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 75 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy to the most vulnerable of the people in Hawai'i. Creating affordable housing and ending homelessness are our top priorities.

We support this funding since the HPHA offers the most affordable housing available to the community. Tenants pay only 30% of their incomes for rent. This makes these units affordable even to homeless persons, seniors struggling with limited income, and very low-income families. However, many units cannot be occupied due to health and safety issues in the units. These units must be brought into shape ASAP to house our state's residents with limited incomes.

These units do not need to wait years for permits or construction. These funds could make them available very fast compared with funding for new construction. These units are "low hanging fruit" that should be immediately repaired to add them to our inventory of safe and decent housing.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i urges your support for this bill. Please approve significant funding that will bring hope to so many local families and kupuna.

If you have any questions, please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 527-4813.





UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senator Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair

Thursday, January 25, 2024, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Re: OBJ Testimony on SB2068 – RELATING TO HOUSING

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties.

UPW **opposes** SB2068, which appropriates funds to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (“HPHA”) for the rehabilitation, remodeling, renovation, and repair of housing units without regard to civil service law.

Pursuant to Governor Green’s Second Proclamation Relating to Affordable Housing, which was issued on October 24, 2023, Chapters 76 and 89 (i.e., statutes pertaining to civil service and collective bargaining respectively), Hawaii Revised Statutes, have been suspended “to expedite the construction, repair, renovation, and occupancy of housing and infrastructure projects to provide emergency relief...”.

While we understand the need for the State to provide affordable housing to eligible Hawaii residents, particularly in response to the Maui wildfires, UPW believes that the appropriation request in this bill creates an opportunity for HPHA to utilize service contracts to privatize work that has historically been performed by public employees. Our concern is that this bill could set a precedent that would encourage HPHA to continually seek funding from the Legislature to perform this work.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kalani Werner", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kalani Werner
State Director

HEADQUARTERS

1426 North School Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1914
Phone 808.847.2631

HAWAII

362 East Lanikaula Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4336
Phone 808.961.3424

KAUAI

2970 Kele Street, Suite 213
Lihue, Hawaii 96766-1803
Phone 808.245.2412

MAUI

841 Kolu Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1436
Phone 808.244.0815

1.866.454.4166

Toll Free - Molokai/Lanai only

January 23, 2024

Senator Stanley Chang, Chair, Senate Housing Committee

Troy Hashimoto, Vice-chair, Senate Housing Committee

Re: SB 2068 RELATING TO Housing

Dear Senators Chang and Hashimoto:

I am Gail Breakey, resident of Waipio Gentry and an advocate for vulnerable young children and their families. I am testifying in support of SB 2068.

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 bill provides additional funds for public housing

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Breakey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gail Breakey, RN, MPH