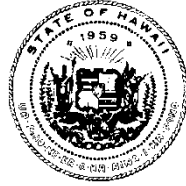


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



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, February 2, 2023**  
**1:00 PM – Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of  
**SB 340**  
**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) 340, relating to housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** the enactment of SB 340, with amendments, which appropriates funds to the HPHA for the rehabilitation 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 would like to humbly request the following amendments:

1. To authorize the HPHA to contract out the repair and maintenance of these units without regard to civil service.
  - a. This is because repair and maintenance work is traditionally done by civil servants, and this exemption will allow the HPHA to contract out this work to multiple contractors to have this work done in a more timely manner with a sunset of June 30, 2025; and
2. To clearly authorize the HPHA to expend the funds:

SECTION 1. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the Hawaii public housing authority to rehabilitate, remodel, renovate, and repair housing units without regard to Chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the ~~[department of human services]~~  
Hawaii public housing authority for the purposes of this Act.

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

**SB-340**

Submitted on: 1/27/2023 9:06:54 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/2/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ashleigh Loa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB340.

**Chair Stanley Chang**  
**Vice Chair Dru Mamo Kanuha**

**Senate Committee on Housing**

**Thursday, February 2, 2023**  
**1:00PM**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB340 RELATING TO HOUSING**

Aloha Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha, Members of the Senate Committee on Housing,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a graduate of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and a current member of the Hawai‘i State Youth Commission, testifying as an individual in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB340**, Relating to Housing.

The legislature should provide enough funding so that the State can properly take care of our existing public housing units and allow the families and individuals who live in them to have full and dignified lives. Our legislators should also work to prevent privatization in the daily operations of our public housing and to universally expand access to public housing so that more and more families can escape the housing insecurity that remains a crucial element in why it is so expensive to live here in Hawai‘i.

Please pass this bill out of your committee and build more public housing for everyone.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,  
State House District 23 | State Senate District 12  
Cell: 808-255-6663  
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

**SB-340**

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 9:29:31 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/2/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB340.