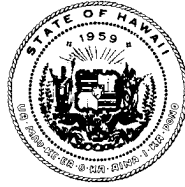


SB 1160



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Statement of
Chad K. Taniguchi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC HOUSING

February 4, 2009 1:15 p.m.
Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

S.B. 1160

RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the intent of S.B. 1160, which would assess a common expenses fee to all units in public housing projects.

However, under HUD rules the tenants in public housing are already paying 30% of their income for rent, as required for federal housing projects by federal law and regulations. For federal housing projects HPHA may not be able to increase the rent in excess of that amount. The HPHA is checking with HUD to see if there is any allowable way to charge an additional fee without having to reduce the rent by an equal amount. In certain projects HPHA requires tenants to cut the grass around their unit, and if a tenant fails to do so HPHA is allowed to assess a maintenance charge.

For state housing projects, the Hawaii Public Housing Authority already has the ability under current law to set rents, so this provision would be duplicative and unnecessary as to state housing.