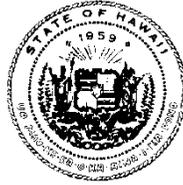


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 31, 2014 2:00 P.M.
Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

**Senate Bill 2541, Senate Draft 1
Relating to Elderly Housing**

Honorable Chair Luke and Members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding Senate Bill (SB) 2541, Senate Draft 1 (SD1), relating to elderly housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the enactment of this measure, which would appropriate an unspecified sum out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the redevelopment of the HPHA's administrative offices located on School Street and the planning, design and construction of an elderly-only housing complex at the same location, provided that its passage does not adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget. The HPHA respectfully requests the committee to reinsert the original \$60,000,000 amount that was provided in the original bill, and to amend the source of funding to General Obligation Bonds.

Currently, all of the HPHA's elderly housing properties also include Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) tenants. In order for the HPHA to convert its elderly low-income public housing properties to house "elderly only" housing, HUD requires public housing authorities to go through an arduous process that is administratively burdensome. By constructing new "elderly only" units, we will be able to create more low-income housing for our growing elderly population, and allow them to age in place with fellow elderly people.

With the creation of new “elderly only” housing units, the HPHA also plans to redevelop its administrative offices as well. While the HPHA has been occupying approximately 12.5 acres containing office buildings constructed as early as 1956, there are a myriad of needs for our office buildings. Some of the needs to be remedied include shifting foundations, cracked walls, the need to remove friable asbestos containing materials, roof leaks, 50 year old water and sanitary sewer lines that need to be replaced, mold, termite and wood rot damage. Furthermore, the site is comprised of several single story buildings and portable buildings sprawled throughout the property, which includes a public road cutting through the middle, and it is not the highest and best use of the property.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Finance with the agency’s position regarding SB 2541, SD1. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.



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FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Monday, March 31, 2014, Conference Room 308)

SB2541 SD1 RELATING TO ELDERLY HOUSING

TESTIMONY

Ann Sack Shaver, Ph.D., President, League of Women Voters of Honolulu

Chair: Rep. Syliva Luke, Vice Chairs: Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto and Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, and Committee Members: Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Rep. Kaniela Ing, Rep. Jo Jordan, Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Rep. Dee Morikawa, Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Rep. Gregg Takayama, Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Rep. Beth Fukumoto, and Rep. Gene Ward

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 2541, a bill to appropriate funding for the redevelopment, design and construction of elderly-only public housing in Hawaii.

We urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

For many years and in many places throughout the United States, public housing especially created for elderly persons has been shown to be effective in assisting the elderly to continue to live safely in the community. In addition to improving the quality of life for these individuals, such housing has reduced the need for more costly medical and institutional care of the elderly. This is a cost-effective as well as pro-social program.

There is currently no such public housing exclusively for the elderly in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.