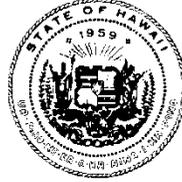


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
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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 8, 2024
1:15 PM – Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 3120
RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

Honorable Chair Chang, and members of the Senate Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 3120, relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) is in **strong support** of the enactment of SB 3120. This Administrative measure establishes, exempt from chapter 76, the position of a Housing Policy and Program Coordinator in the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA), whose salary shall be set by the Executive Director of the HPHA. Clarifies that the employment of certain positions and the adjustment of salaries are authorized by the Executive Director and not the Board of Directors. Deletes the wage ceiling requirement for positions in the HPHA.

This bill will add the new Housing Policy and Program Coordinator position that will be responsible for the overall policy and program research and execution of program rules and regulations for the HPHA's Rental Assistance Program (Section 8), Federal Low-Income Public Housing, Moving-to-Work (MTW) Demonstration Program Designation, and other subsidized housing programs.

The United States Congress and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have created numerous rule changes through the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act and Fair Housing Act. There is also the future program implementation of HUD's National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE) to assist in improving low-income public housing quality, health, and safety. All of these new and future policy and program changes will be effectively and efficiently researched, coordinated, implemented, and monitored by the Housing Policy and Program Coordinator to keep the HPHA compliant with all current and future laws, rules and regulations.

Additionally, this bill will also clarify the title of the Chief Financial Officer, codify the Chief Compliance Officer, Housing Contract and Procurement Officer, and Human Resources and Safety Officer positions that were established exempt from section 76-16(b) before 2014, clarify that the staff report to the Executive Director, and authorize the Executive Director to hire staff that may need salaries that are required to be above the Governor's salary due to the HPHA's redevelopment efforts.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with the HPHA's testimony. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.



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

February 8, 2024

S.B. 3120 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC
HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO opposes S.B. 3120, which establishes an exempt Housing Policy and Program Coordinator position in the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA).

The HPHA should provide civil service rights and protections to employees they employ. There is not enough information to simply exempt an employee from civil service based on position title. We do question the need to exempt this position from Chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and if current civil service employees already perform the duties of the proposed Housing and Program Coordinator position.

Without additional information, we respectfully oppose S.B.3120.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

LATE

SB-3120

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 4:57:20 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/8/2024 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice chair and other members of the commitee

I am strong oppsition to SB3120

To help with public trust this should not be allowed:

"Clarifies that the employment of certain positions and the **adjustment of salaries are authorized by the Executive Director and not the Board of Directors.** Deletes the wage ceiling requirement for positions in the HPHA."

Isnt the reason for a board to avoid any one person from making potentially unreasonable decisions? Where are the checks and balances for this?

Mahalo,

Nani Be