

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **705**-24

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 13**, 2024

RE: H.B. No. 2431  
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2024  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Housing, to which was referred H.B. No. 2431 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish the position of Housing Policy and Program Coordinator in the Hawaii Public Housing Authority;
- (2) Clarify that the employment of certain positions and the adjustment of their salaries are authorized by the Executive Director of Hawaii Public Housing Authority and not the Board of Directors; and
- (3) Repeal the wage ceiling requirement for positions in the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO.

2024-1298 HB2431 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee finds that the federal government created numerous rule changes through the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act and Fair Housing Act. In addition, there is the pending implementation of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate to assist in improving low-income public housing quality and the health and safety of tenants. Your Committee believes that these new and future policy and program changes will need to be effectively and efficiently researched, coordinated, implemented, and monitored by an expert, such as a Housing Policy and Program Coordinator.

Your Committee notes the concern raised during the public hearing on this measure expressing reservations of having positions that are exempt from civil service protections. The goal of civil service is to protect state employees and ensure that appointments are based on merit and ability determined through a competitive process. Your Committee acknowledges that there may be situations where a position exempt from civil service requirements is more beneficial due to the specific nature of the work. However, your Committee respectfully asks your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider whether an exemption from civil service requirements is necessary for the positions under this measure.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2431, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2431, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Housing,

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LUKE A. EVSLIN, Chair



