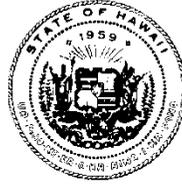


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
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IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Wednesday, February 5, 2025
9:00 a.m. – Room 430, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
HB 199
RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

Honorable Chair Evslin, Vice Chair Miyake, and members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill (HB) 199, relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **strongly supports** the passage of HB 199, which includes any parcel owned by the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) as areas that may be closed to the public. Specifies required signage.

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, the disabled, and the elderly.

One of the HPHA's greatest concerns and priorities is the safety and well-being of its tenants and staff. Too often, incidents arise on HPHA property due to the presence of uninvited individuals. Clarifying the conditions under which HPHA properties may be closed to the public will allow prosecution of trespassers pursuant to section 708-914, Hawaii Revised Statutes

(HRS). Clarifying what property is closed to members of the public will assist to deter late night gatherings that disturb the community. Especially at HPHA properties with community centers that are leased out to nonprofit organizations.

The passage of this bill should provide a positive impact on the public, especially public housing tenants, their household members, and the surrounding community by affording a safer living environment for all.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide the committee with our testimony. Thank you very much for your continued and dedicated support.

HB-199

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:04:36 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/5/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Lee	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha

Senator Ichiyama

Re:HB199

My name is Susan Lee

Makalapa Manor Apt.#20-306

I would like to thank you and Sen. Wakai and

Sen. Chang

again for helping pass

Bill 602

I so much appreciate your effort and hard-work for passing bill 602.

With this opportunity,

I would like to offer more testimony.

There are many days that I was too tired and miserable to record anything but it happened nonetheless.

On February 2024 at about 2:30am

I walked to parking lot to meet them.

I was a little scared,

There was about 10 people.

I told them where I am from and asked them to turn down the music because I need go to work next day.

And one of man said,

I need to put soundproof material between my jealousy window. We had already done that.

He also said that we should thank them for preventing the homeless and thieves from being in the area.

On September,2024 at about 1am, from my window

I asked them to stop the music and go home.

I was beside myself and so angry at not being able to sleep.

All of 2024 was a nightmare.

I became angrier and sicker every day.

For 5 months, I moved my bed to the living room. It was miserable because I don't have any fresh air coming through the house.

I had to close the two bedroom doors and window.

I have seen men urinating on the building (HCAP) wall and I realize there is no restroom while they're at the parking lot all night! They are using walls and behind the building to relieve themselves.

I called the police numerous times and felt sorry for always bothering them. It's embarrassing and a complete waste of their time. But I have no choice.

Some other units on the side have called the police many times as well.

My next door neighbor in unit #305

Once yelled at them from his window. They threw a rock at his window and broke it.

His is now sleeping in the living room.

On 1/25/25, Unit 206 down stairs tenants moved out after 6 years because they could not take it anymore.

I don't know what to do anymore.

I am trying to move out but it is so expensive and I'm tired of moving.

We don't deserve this.

We are so looking forward to peace.

Everyone has a right to feel safe and secure in their home.

Aloha and much Mahalo()

Susan Lee

2/3/25