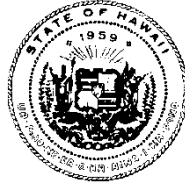


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO:

25:OED

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Friday, March 14, 2025
9:00 AM – Room 430, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 602
RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

Honorable Chair Evslin, and members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 602, relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **strongly supports** the passage of SB 602, 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.