

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 17907  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

Statement of  
**Hakim Ouansafi**  
Hawaii Public Housing Authority  
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

**Tuesday, February 5, 2019**  
**1:15 PM - Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of  
**SB 9**

**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 concerning Senate Bill (SB) 9, relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports the intent** of SB 9, which appropriates an unspecified amount to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to reimburse landlords who participate in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program for repair costs of tenant-caused property damage when such repair costs exceed the tenant's security deposit, provided that it does not adversely affect the Governor's Biennium Budget.

The HPHA assists our low-income families through the Housing Choice Voucher Program, also known as "Section 8". The Section 8 program is one of the federal government's major programs for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market, including single-family homes, townhouses and apartments. This program currently brings approximately 32.68 million dollars a year on the island of Oahu, supports over 2,337 families and over 6,400 individuals.

If the intent is to immediately establish this program, the HPHA would like to humbly request that the Agency be allowed to develop interim rules without regard to chapter 91, and the HPHA would need 1 FTE position to assist and administer the reimbursement program. In addition, the HPHA also administers the federal Project Based Contract Administration (PBCA) program, and this program contains 60 properties with 2,996 units, and houses approximately 6,000 individuals. If this program is also included, the HPHA may need to add more positions depending upon how many claims are received.

Because of the overwhelming need in our community to assist our low-income families, we are hopeful that with the passage of this measure, more landlords would be willing to consider our over 200 Section 8 participants that are currently searching for housing as tenants. The Section 8 program is an important part of the State's efforts in addressing the affordable housing needs of our low-income families, and the HPHA is willing to work and assist all landlords that would like to participate in the program.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with the HPHA's testimony regarding SB 9. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

**LATE**

**SB-9**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 11:05:30 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>  | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melodie Aduja       | Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SB-9**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 6:34:23 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/5/2019 1:15:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kekai Quartero      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

As a tenant of the Hawaii State Section 8 Housing Voucher program, I support SB9 as it provides me the ability to maintain safe and fair housing standards despite economic disadvantage and/or economic disability.

Sincerely,

Robert Quartero