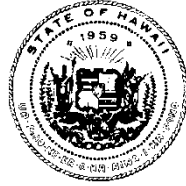


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



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

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Before the
House Committee on Finance

10:00 a.m., February 24, 2023
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 308

In consideration of
HB 674, HD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

Honorable Chair Yamashita and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 674, HD1, relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) is in **strong support** of HB 674, HD1, which would repeal the percentage requirements related to the admission of applicants, with or without preferences, into federal and State low-income public housing units.

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.

The removal of the preference percentage requirements would allow the HPHA to conduct its admissions in a fairer and more appropriate manner based on the State's current needs and availability of funds. Under 24 CFR §960.206, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban


Development allows Public Housing Agencies to develop residency requirements or local preferences in the admission process for their public housing programs.

The HPHA has established local preferences for both its State and federal public housing programs within their respective Administrative Rules. This bill would allow the HPHA to continue prioritizing housing for families with preferences (e.g., victims of domestic violence, families experiencing homelessness) through its valued relationships with our non-profit partners.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the committee with its testimony regarding HB 674, HD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated and continued support.



 808-733-7060
 808-737-4977

 1259 A'ala Street, Suite 300
Honolulu, HI 96817

February 24, 2023

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

House Committee on Finance

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

RE: House Bill 674, HD1, Relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority

HEARING: Friday, February 24, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lyndsey Garcia, Director of Advocacy, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its over 11,000 members. HAR **supports** House Bill 674 HD1, which repeals the percentage requirements for the Hawai'i public housing authority related to the admission of applicants, with or without preferences, into federal and state low-income public housing units. Effective 7/1/3000.

The Hawai'i Public Housing Authority ("HPHA") plays a vital role in offering affordable housing and shelter to residents through its public housing and rental assistance programs. According to HPHA, eliminating the preference requirement would enable them to conduct its admissions process in a more equitable and suitable manner, in accordance with the State's current needs and funding availability.

For the foregoing reasons, Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® supports this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

