

H.D. 1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY TO INSTITUTE A FIVE
YEAR MAXIMUM STAY FOR PUBLIC HOUSING.

1 WHEREAS, some government policies designed to assist those
2 in need may inadvertently encourage a lifestyle of poverty that
3 may be perpetuated from generation to generation; and
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5 WHEREAS, families that continue to live in public housing
6 for years and years may not take the necessary steps to break
7 this dependence on government assistance; and
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9 WHEREAS, one way to break this dependency may be to have a
10 policy to limit tenancies in state public housing projects to a
11 cumulative term of five years, except for veterans, elderly
12 tenants, and disabled tenants; and
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14 WHEREAS, although this policy may appear harsh, it is
15 intended to encourage upward mobility for low- to moderate-
16 income families who are dependent on public housing; and
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18 WHEREAS, this policy will promote integrity in the state
19 public housing system to prevent "homesteading" and long-term
20 tenancies lasting for more than one generation; and
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22 WHEREAS, this policy will also reduce housing fraud for
23 those who take cash jobs and do not report any income; and
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25 WHEREAS, it will also increase the supply of low-income
26 housing to give a fair opportunity to the 14,000 applicants on
27 the waiting list; and
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29 WHEREAS, limiting the tenancies to five years will
30 encourage those in state public housing projects to become self-
31 sufficient within five years; now, therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
35 of 2009, that HPHA is urged to adopt a five-year limit on the

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1 cumulative term of tenancy in a state public housing project by
2 a tenant, except for a tenant who is elderly, disabled, or a
3 veteran; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when sufficient funds become
6 available, HPHA is requested to provide tenants in state public
7 housing projects support services to encourage the successful
8 transition from state public housing including employment,
9 financial, and life-skills training; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the current state public
12 housing tenants be adequately advised of the new policy; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the
16 Hawaii Public Housing Authority and the Board members.

