

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 5:25 PM
To: HSGtestimony
Cc: thirr33@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR283 on 4/1/2009 9:00:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for HSG 4/1/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR283

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Arvid Tadao Youngquist
Organization: The Mestizo Association (est. 1982 in Honolulu)
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: thirr33@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/31/2009

Comments:
Chair Rida T. Cabanilla
Vice Chair Pono Chong
The Right Honorable Members of:
The House Housing Committee

I am Arvid Youngquist. I submit this testimony in opposition to HCR 283 sponsored by your chair & a lone Committee member. Other sponsors include a key Committee chair of the House Committee on Agriculture.

I realize once we start contemplating "outsourcing homelessness" to where Mainlanders originate, this HCR283 is a logical next step.

But a fiat five (5) years maximum stay for Public Housing asking the Board and the Governor to honor your wishes is not realistic, if not down-right inhumane. These are families that require temporary housing, training, and assistance. If during this downturn in the job market were not a factor, maybe this type of HCR283 can gather more steam.

I therefore ask the Housing Committee to hold HCR283 until time certain...when we as a State dig out of the "Hole" were are in. And, as you know, the Rule about Hole is, "When you are in it, you stop digging."

And I don't "dig" this HCR283. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony. Please remember that four of you were once strangers in this State, and one of you for a while in infancy was "unwanted". Such a bi-partisan resolution has to be held or table to a time certain. The Authority and the Board members need your patience. I have been 'Olelo telecast of the Board meetings. Sam Aiona is a Board member and the rest of the Board members have dealt in these

uncertain times with the reality of the fiscal situation. Evictions don't require a five year grace period presently. Unless, it is the purpose of the HCR283 to extend the normal period of a family stay to almost five years, thus bypassing the Board's authority, then perhaps this resolution has to be thought out further.

In any case, it would be best not to act with haste. This resolution is not to be dealt with lightly.

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,

Arvid T. Youngquist
Spokesman
The Mestizo Association
(Est. 1982-A Not For Profit Association)

LATE TESTIMONY

March 31, 2009

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HCR283

Housing Committee
April 1, 2009 9:00 a.m. Room 325

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii hereby provides testimony in opposition to HCR 283.

Legal Aid provides free legal services to the low-income population of the State of Hawai'i. In addition to providing services to clients who currently reside in public housing, we also have a HUD approved Fair Housing Enforcement Program (FHEP).

The current resolution promotes actions which are in violation of both the federal and state Fair Housing Acts. Families with children are a protected class under the Act and laws which violate the rights of a protected class on their face, or result in a disproportionate impact on a protected class, are illegal. This resolution promotes banning families with children from residence in public housing for more than five years. This resolution is a clear case of promoting discrimination based on familial status.

The groups which were chosen to be a protected class were carefully chosen. These are groups who have a history of being discriminated against. The first Civil Rights Act was passed by Congress in 1863. We have had 125 years to become aware that discrimination based on race is illegal.

Because familial status is a relatively new protected class, discrimination can occur without people being aware they are violating the law. Many federal cases have used the approach that when examining a law, one well-known protected class is substituted for a lesser-known protected class. Thus, familial status is replaced by discrimination based on race. When this is done it immediately becomes clear that discrimination is taking place.

Before passing this resolution, I urge you to read it by replacing the protected class of familial status with the protected class of race. Your resolution thereby becomes:

WHEREAS, *African-Americans, Hawaiians, Caucasians* born into poverty and living in public housing appear hopelessly caught in a self-fulfilling prophecy of perpetual welfare and public housing;

WHEREAS, although this policy may appear harsh, it is intended to encourage and motivate upward economic mobility from low- to moderate-income for *Filipinos, Chinese and Japanese* who are overly dependent on public housing;

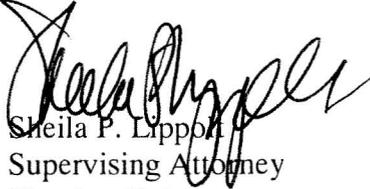
March 31, 2009

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I assume that violation of the Fair Housing Act was not the intent of this resolution. I strongly urge you to not pass this resolution which discriminates against familial status.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheila P. Lippon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sheila P. Lippon
Supervising Attorney
Housing Unit

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Patrick Koh [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:19 PM
To: Rep. Rida Cabanilla
Subject: Testimonies for HCRs 279, 281, 282, 283

I, Patrick Koh, do hereby lend my strong support to HCR 279 and urge the Hawaii public housing authority to streamline the eviction process to conform to federal guidelines. Thank you for accepting my testimony.

Patrick Koh
[REDACTED]

I, Patrick Koh, do hereby lend my strong support to HCR 281, urging the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to provide fair and equal access to public housing by removing preferences in the application process. Thank you for accepting my testimony.

Patrick Koh
[REDACTED]

I, Patrick Koh, do hereby lend my strong support to HCR 282, urging the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to increase the minimum rent schedule. Thank you for accepting my testimony.

Patrick Koh
[REDACTED]

I, Patrick Koh, do hereby lend my strong support to HCR 283 and urge the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to institute a five-year maximum stay for public housing. Thank you for accepting my testimony.

Patrick Koh
[REDACTED]