

JAN 23 2009

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DISCRIMINATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that low-income
2 individuals have an extremely difficult time finding affordable
3 rentals in Hawaii. This situation is made more frustrating when
4 housing vacancy advertisements discourage people from applying
5 by advertising "no section 8 accepted". At this time, in the
6 State of Hawaii, the law does not prohibit discrimination based
7 on lawful source of income. However, thirteen other states,
8 including California and Oregon, have prohibited this type of
9 income discrimination. Renters who participate in government
10 assistance programs, such as Housing Choice Vouchers, also known
11 as, section 8, should have an equal opportunity to find housing.

12 The purpose of this Act is to prohibit discrimination based
13 on lawful source of income in real estate transactions,
14 including advertising available rental units.

15 SECTION 2. Section 515-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
17 and to read as follows:



1 "Source of income" means any lawful source of money paid
2 directly or indirectly to a renter or buyer of housing,
3 including:

4 (1) Any lawful profession or occupation;

5 (2) Any government or private assistance, grant, loan, or
6 rental assistance program, including low-income
7 housing assistance certificates and vouchers under the
8 United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended;

9 (3) Any gift, inheritance, pension, annuity, alimony,
10 child support, or other consideration or benefit; and

11 (4) Any sale or pledge of property or interest in
12 property."

13 SECTION 3. Section 515-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "§515-3 Discriminatory practices. It is a discriminatory
16 practice for an owner or any other person engaging in a real
17 estate transaction, or for a real estate broker or salesperson,
18 because of race, sex, including gender identity or expression,
19 sexual orientation, color, religion, marital status, familial
20 status, ancestry, disability, age, source of income, or human
21 immunodeficiency virus infection:



- 1 (1) To refuse to engage in a real estate transaction with
2 a person;
- 3 (2) To discriminate against a person in the terms,
4 conditions, or privileges of a real estate transaction
5 or in the furnishing of facilities or services in
6 connection therewith;
- 7 (3) To refuse to receive or to fail to transmit a bona
8 fide offer to engage in a real estate transaction from
9 a person;
- 10 (4) To refuse to negotiate for a real estate transaction
11 with a person;
- 12 (5) To represent to a person that real property is not
13 available for inspection, sale, rental, or lease when
14 in fact it is available, or to fail to bring a
15 property listing to the person's attention, or to
16 refuse to permit the person to inspect real property,
17 or to steer a person seeking to engage in a real
18 estate transaction;
- 19 (6) To print, circulate, post, or mail, or cause to be
20 published a statement, advertisement, or sign, or to
21 use a form of application for a real estate
22 transaction, or to make a record or inquiry in



1 connection with a prospective real estate transaction,
2 that indicates, directly or indirectly, an intent to
3 make a limitation, specification, or discrimination
4 with respect thereto;

5 (7) To offer, solicit, accept, use, or retain a listing of
6 real property with the understanding that a person may
7 be discriminated against in a real estate transaction
8 or in the furnishing of facilities or services in
9 connection therewith;

10 (8) To refuse to engage in a real estate transaction with
11 a person or to deny equal opportunity to use and enjoy
12 a housing accommodation due to a disability because
13 the person uses the services of a guide dog, signal
14 dog, or service animal; provided that reasonable
15 restrictions or prohibitions may be imposed regarding
16 excessive noise or other problems caused by those
17 animals. For the purposes of this paragraph:

18 "Blind" shall be as defined in section 235-1;

19 "Deaf" shall be as defined in section 235-1;

20 "Guide dog" means any dog individually trained by
21 a licensed guide dog trainer for guiding a blind



1 person by means of a harness attached to the dog and a
2 rigid handle grasped by the person;

3 "Reasonable restriction" shall not include any
4 restriction that allows any owner or person to refuse
5 to negotiate or refuse to engage in a real estate
6 transaction; provided that as used in this paragraph,
7 the "reasonableness" of a restriction shall be
8 examined by giving due consideration to the needs of a
9 reasonable prudent person in the same or similar
10 circumstances. Depending on the circumstances, a
11 "reasonable restriction" may require the owner of the
12 service animal, guide dog, or signal dog to comply
13 with one or more of the following:

- 14 (A) Observe applicable laws including leash laws and
15 pick-up laws;
- 16 (B) Assume responsibility for damage caused by the
17 dog; or
- 18 (C) Have the housing unit cleaned upon vacating by
19 fumigation, deodorizing, professional carpet
20 cleaning, or other method appropriate under the
21 circumstances.



1 The foregoing list is illustrative only, and neither
2 exhaustive nor mandatory;

3 "Service animal" means any animal that is trained
4 to provide those life activities limited by the
5 disability of the person;

6 "Signal dog" means any dog that is trained to
7 alert a deaf person to intruders or sounds;

8 (9) To solicit or require as a condition of engaging in a
9 real estate transaction that the buyer, renter, or
10 lessee be tested for human immunodeficiency virus
11 infection, the causative agent of acquired
12 immunodeficiency syndrome;

13 (10) To refuse to permit, at the expense of a person with a
14 disability, reasonable modifications to existing
15 premises occupied or to be occupied by the person if
16 modifications may be necessary to afford the person
17 full enjoyment of the premises. A real estate broker
18 or salesperson, where it is reasonable to do so, may
19 condition permission for a modification on the person
20 agreeing to restore the interior of the premises to
21 the condition that existed before the modification,
22 reasonable wear and tear excepted;



1 (11) To refuse to make reasonable accommodations in rules,
2 policies, practices, or services, when the
3 accommodations may be necessary to afford a person
4 with a disability equal opportunity to use and enjoy a
5 housing accommodation;

6 (12) In connection with the design and construction of
7 covered multifamily housing accommodations for first
8 occupancy after March 13, 1991, to fail to design and
9 construct housing accommodations in [such] a manner
10 that:

11 (A) The housing accommodations have at least one
12 accessible entrance, unless it is impractical to
13 do so because of the terrain or unusual
14 characteristics of the site; and

15 (B) With respect to housing accommodations with an
16 accessible building entrance:

17 (i) The public use and common use portions of
18 the housing accommodations are accessible to
19 and usable by disabled persons;

20 (ii) Doors allow passage by persons in
21 wheelchairs; and

1 (iii) All premises within covered multifamily
2 housing accommodations contain an accessible
3 route into and through the housing
4 accommodations; light switches, electrical
5 outlets, thermostats, and other
6 environmental controls are in accessible
7 locations; reinforcements in the bathroom
8 walls allow installation of grab bars; and
9 kitchens and bathrooms are accessible by
10 wheelchair; or

11 (13) To discriminate against or deny a person access to, or
12 membership or participation in any multiple listing
13 service, real estate broker's organization, or other
14 service, organization, or facility involved either
15 directly or indirectly in real estate transactions, or
16 to discriminate against any person in the terms or
17 conditions of [such] access, membership, or
18 participation."

19 SECTION 4. Section 515-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 "§515-4 Exemptions. (a) Section 515-3 does not apply:



1 (1) To the rental of a housing accommodation in a building
2 which contains housing accommodations for not more
3 than two families living independently of each other
4 if the lessor resides in one of the housing
5 accommodations; or

6 (2) To the rental of a room or up to four rooms in a
7 housing accommodation by an individual if the
8 individual resides therein.

9 (b) Nothing in section 515-3 shall be deemed to prohibit
10 refusal, because of sex, including gender identity or
11 expression, sexual orientation, or marital status, to rent or
12 lease housing accommodations:

13 (1) Owned or operated by a religious institution and used
14 for church purposes as that term is used in applying
15 exemptions for real property taxes; or

16 (2) Which are part of a religiously affiliated institution
17 of higher education housing program which is operated
18 on property that the institution owns or controls, or
19 which is operated for its students pursuant to Title
20 IX of the Higher Education Act of 1972.



1 (c) Nothing in this chapter regarding familial status or
2 age shall apply to housing for older persons as defined by 42
3 United States Code section 3607(b) (2).

4 (d) Nothing in section 515-3 shall be deemed to prohibit a
5 person from determining the ability of a potential buyer or
6 renter to pay a purchase price or rent by:

7 (1) Verifying, in a commercially reasonable manner, the
8 source and amount of income of the potential buyer or
9 renter; or

10 (2) Evaluating, in a commercially reasonable manner, the
11 stability, security, and credit worthiness of the
12 potential buyer or renter or any source of income of
13 the potential buyer or renter.

14 (e) The prohibition against discrimination based on source
15 of income shall not prevent a person from refusing to consider
16 income derived from any criminal activity."

17 SECTION 5. Section 515-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 "§515-5 Discriminatory financial practices. It is a
20 discriminatory practice for a person, a representative of [such]
21 a person, or a real estate broker or salesperson, to whom an
22 inquiry or application is made for financial assistance in



1 connection with a real estate transaction or for the
2 construction, rehabilitation, repair, maintenance, or
3 improvement of real property, because of race, sex, including
4 gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, color,
5 religion, marital status, familial status, ancestry, disability,
6 age, source of income, or human immunodeficiency virus
7 infection:

- 8 (1) To discriminate against the applicant;
- 9 (2) To use a form of application for financial assistance
10 or to make or keep a record or inquiry in connection
11 with applications for financial assistance that
12 indicates, directly or indirectly, an intent to make a
13 limitation, specification, or discrimination unless
14 the records are required by federal law;
- 15 (3) To discriminate in the making or purchasing of loans
16 or the provision of other financial assistance for
17 purchasing, constructing, improving, repairing, or
18 maintaining a dwelling, or the making or purchasing of
19 loans or the provision of other financial assistance
20 secured by residential real estate; or
- 21 (4) To discriminate in the selling, brokering, or
22 appraising of residential real property."



1 SECTION 6. Section 515-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

3 "(a) Every provision in an oral agreement or a written
4 instrument relating to real property that purports to forbid or
5 restrict the conveyance, encumbrance, occupancy, or lease
6 thereof to individuals because of race, sex, including gender
7 identity or expression, sexual orientation, color, religion,
8 marital status, familial status, ancestry, disability, age,
9 source of income, or human immunodeficiency virus infection, is
10 void.

11 (b) Every condition, restriction, or prohibition,
12 including a right of entry or possibility of reverter, that
13 directly or indirectly limits the use or occupancy of real
14 property on the basis of race, sex, including gender identity or
15 expression, sexual orientation, color, religion, marital status,
16 familial status, ancestry, disability, age, source of income, or
17 human immunodeficiency virus infection is void, except a
18 limitation, on the basis of religion, on the use of real
19 property held by a religious institution or organization or by a
20 religious or charitable organization operated, supervised, or
21 controlled by a religious institution or organization, and used
22 for religious or charitable purposes."



1 SECTION 7. Section 515-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "§515-7 Blockbusting. It is a discriminatory practice for
4 a person, representative of a person, or a real estate broker or
5 salesperson, for the purpose of inducing a real estate
6 transaction from which the person, representative, or real
7 estate broker or salesperson may benefit financially, because of
8 race, sex, including gender identity or expression, sexual
9 orientation, color, religion, marital status, familial status,
10 ancestry, disability, age, source of income, or human
11 immunodeficiency virus infection:

12 (1) To represent that a change has occurred or will or may
13 occur in the composition of the owners or occupants in
14 the block, neighborhood, or area in which the real
15 property is located; or

16 (2) To represent that this change will or may result in
17 the lowering of property values, an increase in
18 criminal or antisocial behavior, or a decline in the
19 quality of schools in the block, neighborhood, or area
20 in which the real property is located."

21 SECTION 8. Section 515-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
22 amended to read as follows:



1 "§515-16 Other discriminatory practices. It is a
2 discriminatory practice for a person, or for two or more persons
3 to conspire:

4 (1) To retaliate, threaten, or discriminate against a
5 person because of the exercise or enjoyment of any
6 right granted or protected by this chapter, or because
7 the person has opposed a discriminatory practice, or
8 because the person has made a charge, filed a
9 complaint, testified, assisted, or participated in an
10 investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this
11 chapter;

12 (2) To aid, abet, incite, or coerce a person to engage in
13 a discriminatory practice;

14 (3) To interfere with any person in the exercise or
15 enjoyment of any right granted or protected by this
16 chapter or with the performance of a duty or the
17 exercise of a power by the commission;

18 (4) To obstruct or prevent a person from complying with
19 this chapter or an order issued thereunder;

20 (5) To intimidate or threaten any person engaging in
21 activities designed to make other persons aware of, or



1 encouraging [~~such~~] other persons to exercise rights
2 granted or protected by this chapter; or
3 (6) To threaten, intimidate or interfere with persons in
4 their enjoyment of a housing accommodation because of
5 the race, sex, color, religion, marital status,
6 familial status, ancestry, disability, age, source of
7 income, or human immunodeficiency virus infection of
8 [~~such~~] the persons, or of visitors or associates of
9 [~~such~~] the persons."

10 SECTION 9. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

13 INTRODUCED BY: Gay L. Aaron

Report Title:

Discrimination in Real Property Transactions; Source of Income

Description:

Prohibits discrimination in real property transactions based on lawful source of income.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
1ST DISTRICT, HAWAII



COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator David H. Ige, Vice-Chair

Testimony for SB456 from
U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress

February 13, 2009
8:30 a.m. - Room 229

I am writing in support of SB 456, relating to "source of income" discrimination.

It's no secret that we have a housing crisis in Hawaii. Property values remain high making the average working family—even with two salaries—unable to afford a median-priced home. Homeless estimates in our state start at 15,000 people, but may increase under a newer definition of "homeless" that can include two, three or more families who are forced to live in the same house.

At the same time, landlords are closing their doors to individuals and families that qualify for government assistance programs, like Section 8 or Housing Choice vouchers. From January to March 2008, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development estimated that only 71% of Housing Choice Vouchers were being utilized. Many families who had Section 8 vouchers either couldn't find or were denied qualified housing and remained in crowded or unacceptable living conditions.

To protect the civil liberties of everyone seeking decent shelter and a place to call home, legislation to add "source of income" protection to our fair housing laws is vital. SB456 will help to provide improved access to housing for many individuals like seniors collecting social security; single parents receiving child support; veterans being paid for military service; and individuals with a chronic disease getting government assistance. SB456 is an equitable and just step in the effort to increase housing availability and improve our fair housing laws.

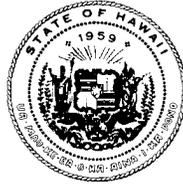
I urge Chairman Baker, Vice-Chair Ige and the members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee to support SB456 and the enforcement of fair housing practices for all. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

ORIGINATED FROM:

WASHINGTON OFFICE: 1502 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-2726 / 225-4580 FAX
 HOME OFFICE: ROOM 4-104, 300 ALA MOANA BLVD., HONOLULU, HAWAII 96850 (808) 541-2670 / 533-0133 FAX
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Statement of
Chad K. Taniguchi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

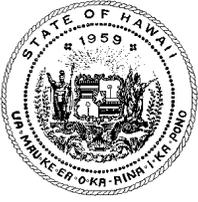
February 13, 2009 8:30 A.M.
Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
S. B. 456
RELATING TO DISCRIMINATION

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) opposes S.B. 456, which adds discrimination based on source of income, including the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program administered by HPHA, to the list of prohibited discriminatory practices under state law.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program exists to give people who cannot afford to pay market rates access to decent housing. It is funded through HPHA by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. The voucher recipients find housing on the open market, pay 30% of their income for rent, and the balance of the rent is paid by the voucher.

HPHA opposes this measure because experience has shown that it is better to deal with reluctant landlords through the use of incentives rather than the threat of penalties. If there is a perceived problem finding landlords who will accept Section 8 vouchers, having the landlord contact the agency for help in resolving problems is an effective way of encouraging cooperation. Voucher recipients should exercise personal responsibility and present themselves to prospective landlords in a positive manner as good potential tenants. Those who do so are able to obtain rentals providing they have good credit histories and sufficient rental deposit.



HAWAI`I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

February 13, 2009
Rm. 229, 8:30 a.m.

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

From: Coral Wong Pietsch, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai`i Civil Rights Commission

Re: SB No. 456

The Hawai`i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawaii's laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai`i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

The HCRC supports the intent of SB No. 456 which amends H.R.S. Chapter 515 to prohibit housing discrimination against persons based on their source of income, including government or private assistance. However, the HCRC suggests that only landlords who participate in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 program should be required to accept Section 8 vouchers. Participation in the Section 8 program imposes contractual inspection requirements and compliance with specific standards, so the amended statute should not be construed to require landlords to participate in the Section 8 program.

The HCRC cannot predict the potential impact of adding source of income as a protected basis to the housing discrimination law. Initially, it should be noted that this new protected basis is different in kind from the others covered under Chapter 515 and federal fair housing law. On its face, the added protected class would include not only recipients of welfare or AFDC, but also recipients of Social Security,

Supplemental Security Income and other government and non-government benefits or income. While the HCRC has taken inquiries from people complaining of discrimination based on source of income, these claims are presently not within HCRC's jurisdiction.

If the legislature decides to expand HCRC jurisdiction by adding this protected basis to Chapter 515, it should be cognizant of the impact it will have on HCRC investigation and enforcement resources.

Pursuant to Chapter 515 and federal fair housing law, fair housing discrimination cases are subject to shorter processing deadlines, including cases are most difficult to investigate and resolve. Therefore the HCRC requests that it be given additional investigation and staff attorney resources to process the increased number of cases that will result.

COUNTY COUNCIL
Bill "Kaipo" Asing, Chair
Jay Furfaro, Vice Chair
Tim Bynum
Dickie Chang
Daryl W. Kaneshiro
Lani T. Kawahara
Derek S. K. Kawakami



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Peter A. Nakamura, County Clerk
Ernesto G. Pasion, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone (808) 241-6371
Fax (808) 241-6349
Email cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Room 206
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii 96766-1371

February 10, 2009

TESTIMONY OF DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI
KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON

S. B. NO. 456, DISCRIMINATION IN REAL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
February 13, 2009
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Baker and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. No. 456 relating to discrimination in real property transactions based on lawful sources of income. My testimony is submitted as an individual Kauai County Councilmember.

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit discrimination based on a lawful source of income in real estate transactions, including advertisements of available rental units. Currently, the State of Hawaii does not prohibit discrimination in its advertisements of real estate based on a lawful source of income.

In recent years, the price of rentals in Hawaii were at a record high due to the strong economy. Although we are now experiencing an economic downturn, affordable housing and rentals are still difficult to come by. Those on government assistance programs, such as Housing Choice Vouchers, face many challenges in finding affordable rentals for themselves and their families. In many instances, this is because real estate advertisements state "no HUD" or "no section 8 accepted" in their classified ads, which does not allow people receiving government assistance to even be considered. However, government assistance programs are a lawful source of income and those who participate in such programs should have an equal opportunity to apply for real estate rentals and transactions.

I support the concept of prohibiting discrimination in real estate transactions and advertising and feel that people with any lawful source of income should be given the opportunity to apply for housing. I recognize this measure requires further scrutiny so that no unintended consequences occur as a result of the bill passing.

For the reasons stated above, I support S.B. No. 456 in concept and humbly request your further consideration of this measure.

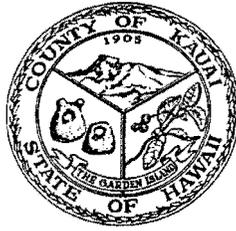
Sincerely,

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI
Councilmember

Ys/Lc
D:2009-478

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

COUNTY COUNCIL
Bill "Kaipo" Asing, Chair
Jay Furfaro, Vice Chair
Tim Bynum
Dickie Chang
Daryl W. Kaneshiro
Lani T. Kawahara
Derek S. K. Kawakami



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

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Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Room 206
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February 6, 2009

TESTIMONY OF DICKIE CHANG
KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON

S. B. NO. 456, DISCRIMINATION IN REAL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
February 13, 2009
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Baker and Members:

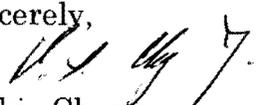
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. No. 456 relating to discrimination in real property transactions based on lawful sources of income. My testimony is submitted as an individual Kaua'i County Councilmember.

It is difficult for individuals of a lower or fixed income to find affordable rental units in Hawai'i. It is even more difficult when housing vacancy advertisements discourage potential renters from applying for housing by advertising "no HUD" or "no section 8 accepted." Currently, the State of Hawai'i does not prohibit discrimination in its advertisements of real estate based on lawful source of income. Renters who participate in government assistance programs such as Housing Choice Vouchers (section 8) should have an equal opportunity to apply for real estate rentals and transactions.

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit discrimination based on a lawful source of income in real estate transactions, including advertisement of available rental units. While I support the concept of prohibiting discrimination in real estate transactions and advertising, I recognize this measure requires further scrutiny so that no unintended consequences occur as a result of the bill passing.

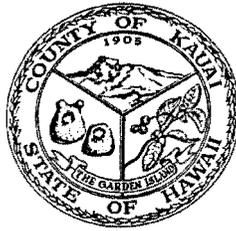
For the reasons stated above, I support S.B. No. 456 in concept and humbly request your further consideration of this measure.

Sincerely,


Dickie Chang
Councilmember

Ys/Lc
D:2009-464

COUNTY COUNCIL
Bill "Kaipo" Asing, Chair
Jay Furfaro, Vice Chair
Tim Bynum
Dickie Chang
Daryl W. Kaneshiro
Lani T. Kawahara
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February 12, 2009

TESTIMONY OF LANI KAWAHARA
KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON

S. B. NO. 456, DISCRIMINATION IN REAL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
February 13, 2009
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Baker and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. No. 456 relating to discrimination in real property transactions based on lawful sources of income. My testimony is submitted as an individual Kaua'i County Councilmember.

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit discrimination based on a lawful source of income in real estate transactions, including advertisements of available rental units. Currently, the State of Hawai'i does not prohibit discrimination in its advertisements of real estate based on a lawful source of income.

I support the concept of prohibiting discrimination in real estate transactions and advertising and feel that people with any lawful source of income should be given the opportunity to apply for housing. It is unfair that people who participate in government assistance programs are not allowed a chance to apply for rentals because of discrimination in classified ads. Many people who participate in government assistance programs already suffer economic hardships that make it difficult to acquire affordable housing and they should not have to endure additional challenges in trying to provide for themselves and their families.

For the reasons stated above, I support S.B. No. 456 in concept and humbly request your further consideration of this measure.

Sincerely,

Lani Kawahara
Councilmember

YS/wa2009-480b

COUNTY COUNCIL
Bill "Kaipo" Asing, Chair
Jay Furfaro, Vice Chair
Tim Bynum
Dickie Chang
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February 9, 2009

**TESTIMONY OF TIM BYNUM
KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

S. B. NO. 456, DISCRIMINATION IN REAL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
February 13, 2009
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Baker and Members:

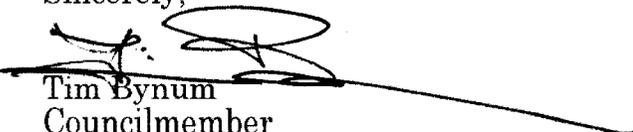
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. No. 456 relating to discrimination in real property transactions based on lawful sources of income. My testimony is submitted as an individual Kaua'i County Councilmember.

Residents who participate in government assistance programs, such as Housing Choice Vouchers, face many economic challenges in finding affordable housing for themselves and their families. Their challenges become greater when housing vacancy advertisements discourage them from applying for a rental or purchase by stating "no HUD" or "no section 8 accepted." As government assistance programs are a lawful source of income, those who participate in such programs should have an equal opportunity to apply for real estate rentals and transactions. Currently, the State of Hawai'i does not prohibit discrimination in its advertisements of real estate based on a lawful source of income.

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit discrimination based on a lawful source of income in real estate transactions, including advertisement of available rental units. I support the concept of prohibiting discrimination in real estate transactions and advertising and feel that people with any lawful source of income should be given the opportunity to apply for housing. I recognize this measure requires further scrutiny so that no unintended consequences occur as a result of the bill passing.

For the reasons stated above, I support S.B. No. 456 in concept and humbly request your further consideration of this measure.

Sincerely,


Tim Bynum
Councilmember

YS/wa2009-471b

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB456

CPN Committee

Senator Baker, Chair, Senator Ige, Vice Chair

February 13th, 8:30 am, Room 229

Senate, Re: SB456 Relating to Housing Discrimination based on source of income

The Institute for Human Services is the largest emergency homeless shelter on the island of Oahu. **IHS** is committed to working with the legislature in identifying strategic and realistic solutions to the homelessness crisis in the State of Hawaii. We appreciate the hard work your committee has done in exploring solutions to these critical problems.

The Institute for Human Services urges the members of the Committee on Consumer Affairs to vote **in favor** of SB456. Passing legislation that would prohibit outright discrimination against section 8 vouchers, disability, and Social Security would assist in opening up doors to individuals that are seeking housing. Twelve other states ban discrimination relating to housing based on source of lawful income, and this bill could help to continue to pave the way to housing for those in need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

George J. Zweibel, Esq.
President, Board of Directors

M. Nalani Fujimori, Esq.
Interim Executive Director

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB456 -
Relating to Discrimination

February 13, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

The Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i ("Legal Aid") hereby provides testimony to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection **in support of** HB456, relating to discrimination which provides added protections for individuals based on their source of income in rental housing.

Legal Aid is the largest non-profit, private legal services organization in the State. We provide legal services for individuals with low to moderate income and are one of the only legal service organizations to have a unit dedicated to housing and is also home to the State's only private fair housing enforcement program. Legal Aid works closely with individuals in both the housing and fair housing programs that receive various sources of income including section 8.

We are in support of this bill as it prohibits income discrimination. The Hawaii State Legislature adds such protections for individuals who are likely to be discriminated but deserve to have an equal opportunity to secure a home. By amending the law to include protections for individuals with lawful income sources such as section 8, the Legislature is acknowledging the increasingly difficult situation many individuals and families face in an already economically challenged housing market. When housing authorities can discriminate against those with income sources such as section 8, such individuals are further marginalized.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jennifer La'a
Fair Housing Program Manager



RE: SB SB456- RELATING TO DISCRIMINATION

To: Chair, Consumer Affairs Committee

From: Malama Kaua`i

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony to support SB456

Dear Honorable Senator Baker,

Malama Kaua`i would like to state our support for Senate Bill 456, which will prohibit housing discrimination based on lawful sources of income. Thirteen other states have already led the way with similar legislation that prohibits this type of discrimination, and we urge you to do the same.

Housing issues are already difficult enough for individuals and families with low incomes, which comprise a large part of our service industry working-class community. I know too many families that were dropped from the HUD list because they could not find rentals within the short period of allotted time. Had these families had a higher income and not been on HUD, I do not doubt that the same renters would have considered their applications.

This blatant discrimination has no place in our community, and should not be tolerated by the law. With homelessness rising, jobs being lost, food and basic living costs skyrocketing, can we afford to continue to allow negative stereotyping of those that struggle economically? This bill will send a clear message that our state is one of tolerance and acceptance, where community members take care of one another and truly practice the aloha spirit.

Mahalo nui loa,

Andrea Brower
Project Manager

Keone Kealoha
Executive Director



OAHU CHAPTER

National Association of Residential Property Managers

February 12, 2009

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: S.B. 456 Relating to Discrimination

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Ige, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of B.Y. Realty Management and Sales I would like to express my concerns as a Property Manager regarding S.B. 456 which prohibits the discrimination in real property transactions based on lawful source of income.

The solution is not making Section 8 a protected class but rather correcting the system that operates it. For example:

- (1) A requirement is that the rental property is inspected by an inspector at Section 8 to determine if the rental is "up to standards". If the rental is not up to standards then no payment is made on behalf of the tenant until everything is corrected. Once it has been corrected another inspection needs to be done and not always by the same inspector. If all items have been corrected but the inspector sees something else then again no payment is made till it is corrected and re-inspected. The inspection and re-inspection is at the inspectors timing not the property manager. On a personal note this has happened to us a couple of times.
- (2) If the cutoff date for the payment of rent is passed then the rental company and/or property owners needs to wait till the next cycle and sometimes longer for payment. The final rental receipt can become a really delayed process because of the home inspections and re-inspections. On a personal note, we had to wait 2 rent cycles before we received rent due to the inspections and re-inspections. One cycle is one month.
- (3) Section 8 contracts are very long and cumbersome even to the professional Property Manager it can be very difficult to understand. The problem is the "moms and pops" who do their own management for themselves or their family who are accustomed to the original "green rental agreement"-2 pages versus the current rental agreement of produced by HAR-5 pages. Whichever one is used, that needs to be then incorporated into the Section 8 contract which can then become an overwhelming situation.
- (4) On an annual inspection, the same thing has occurred as in #1 above. No payment till everything is corrected.

I believe if you correct the process you can easily get more participants into the Section 8 program.

Thank you the opportunity in testifying and expressing my concerns.

Mahalo,

Steven S. Saito
B.Y. Realty Management & Sales
Principal Broker/Property Manager
NARPM Member

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL SB456
HOUSING – DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SOURCE OF INCOME -
Anne Punohu, organizer Kauai Fair Housing Law Coalition, HUD OK NOW!!
4417 Maka Rd #3A, Kalaheo, HI 96741 (808)332-0341 email: coalitionkauai@yahoo.com**

**Hearing Re: SB456
Friday, February 13, 2009
8:30 am Rm 229**

**Chair: Senator Baker
Vice-Chair: Senator Ige
Committee Members et al:**

The Kauai Fair Housing Law Coalition, a small advocacy group testifies today in support of SB456 which would prohibit landlords from discriminating against potential tenants based on the source of their income.

Decent housing is a fundamental right. The protection of the human dignity of every person and the right to a decent home require both individual action and structural policies and practices. Our concern is not simply for houses or programs but for the people who inhabit these dwellings or are affected by these programs. The statistics we cite are not simply numbers or points on a graph; they are individual human tragedies.

Governor Linda Lingle has estimated that as many as 15,000 people may be homeless in our state. According to a recent national study, in regards to housing discrimination faced by Asians and Pacific Islanders, the discrimination rates held at 37% percent, the same rate as for African Americans. The statistics in large part came from the state of Hawaii. HUD Choice Voucher lists are currently closed on O'ahu, due to not enough people moving off the lists to make way for new people to sign up. Reports have been stated that up to 60% percent of individuals who obtained HUD Choice Vouchers were unable to use them. Not because they suddenly found a rental on their own, or came into a lot of money but because they simply could not find a rental that, in many cases would accept HUD Choice Vouchers.

Our coalition made over 250 calls to individuals who placed rental ads in our local newspaper on Kauai. At times, the rates of ads stating "No Hud" was at 40%, not including vacation rentals.

Cold calls were made, sometimes 4 and 5 times to the same phone number, using different voices and personalities. 80% of the time, the caller would originally site one of three main options for their discrimination. They were: Ignorance of the HUD program, not liking HUD paperwork or inspections, or a previous bad renter.

(However, although we realize that a minute percentage of these reasons may be legitimate, we are of the opinion that these are superficial and unsubstantiated reasons for discrimination. HUD has paperwork, yes, but it is no more cumbersome than anyone elses, and the inspections are based on current codes. As for bad renters they happen without someone being on HUD.)

After these initial responses were brought forth, we continued to engage the landlords in conversation,

and were able to obtain numerous statements that were made verbally stating preferences, prejudices and opinions which violated the Federal Law, such as familial status, race, age and disability, the four most frequently mentioned categories.

(In addition, after we held a public meeting, we received calls from individuals that stated that they were discriminating, but may be willing to pull their ads which made the “No HUD, or No Section 8”, voluntarily, and we also heard of some success stories where individuals which had been adverse to renting to HUD were now willing to try it.)

Our coalition is of the strong opinion that even though these may be some improvements, this law is necessary to ensure a continuing “safety net” during these most difficult of economic times for these individuals and families.

The assumption that at this time some people may be more willing to rent to HUD clients does not erase the cold hard fact that during most of these phone calls we made, the majority of those who would consider it were more concerned with how to evict the tenants rather than how to keep them. This is a red flag to all concerned, and accurately reflects what will happen to those who may have benefited in the short term, and may suffer in the long term.

(Our coalition does want to express our general opinion that there are many rental agents and rental companies that have an excellent working relationship both with HUD agencies and clients. This law is not aimed at rental agents and rental companies. We wish to make that case very clear. This law is in the name of equity, across the board, and would involve any rental regardless of whether it came from a rental agent, a rental company or a private sector landlord.)

To give you two examples of the types of answers we received over the phone, here follows two different quotes from landlords :

(Again we wish to clarify that these were private individuals, and not rental agents or rental companies).

CALL #1

“This is an upscale neighborhood.(Wailua house lots, typically an area full of local Hawaii residents of mixed ancestry).We are getting rid of these people here, and we are making our neighborhood nice now. You can park a car here and not get it broken into now. We don't have those people around here, so don't worry, you will like it.”*This was a woman who responded, for this call we were assuming the personality of someone who had recently moved here from California, had a job, and was inquiring about the rental.

Same woman, second time calling different personality:

“No, no, no, no, we don't accept HUD. No. You are from here? Anahola, oh I see. Yes, well, you know we don't have a lot of room, here its only a two bedroom, we are not set up for HUD people here. And you know, you people have big families, and they all come over here with their cars and things. Do you work or have a job? Then why do you need that HUD thing? Well, we don't accept HUD here, no so sorry. Goodbye.”*The caller was responding to a personality claiming to be from Anahola, an area populated heavily with Native Hawaiians, and using a heavy pigeon accent.

CALL #2

“Hello? What? HUD? No, no, no, no, no, we don't accept those people here. No no, you have to be working to rent over here. No we don't want any lazy people here, and all those local guys they have too many cars and kids running all around, no, no way. Why are you calling me? I said no HUD in the ad. Is it legal for you to call me? Yea, I know thats against the Federal law, thats why I put that in there. That way I don't get calls from those bums.”*This in response to a call using our coalition name, and inquiring as to why the landlord stated no HUD.

Same man, second time calling different personality:

“What? Oh, yes, OK do you work? Oh, you have a kid? What is it boy or girl? Girl? Thats good, girls are quieter. Yes, thats the rent. Do You work? Thats good. You have HUD? Oh we don't accept that here. Oh, you cant find a place huh. Where are you from.? California? Oh you just moved here? Oh well you sound nice. Do you do drugs? Well, I might consider it. Do you have parents? What do they do? Did you get a divorce or something? Well, I cant have any guys running around here, you know this is a respectable neighborhood. Well,I'm not sure, I dont ussually accept HUD. Well, Ill let you know. Give me your number.”*The man is responding to a different personality claiming to be a single mother, recently moved here from California and employed, on HUD.

The case for “source of icome” legislation

These households are more than a figure in a table. They are real families experiencing the tragedies of homelessness or inadequate housing. The households are made up of parents and children, brothers and sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews. Each is affected by their family’s difficulty in affording an adequate place to live. Adults worry about how to pay utility, clothing, and food bills when the great majority of their income goes toward rent. When they can’t pay their rent, they strategize on moving between hotels, friends’ sofas, and shelters. Children suffer from exposure to unsafe and unstable living conditions.

The coalition holds that one of government’s primary responsibilities is to ensure that the most basic needs of its people are met. In the United States, our federal government does this, in part, through the Section 8 Rental Choice Voucher Program. Hawaii serves the housing needs of its lowest-income residents through the State’s Rental Allowance Program . However, though a family may be successful in accessing assistance through Section 8, or some other program, in most parts of Hawaii, they face yet another hurdle in their search for housing. Hawaii residents receiving housing assistance are often discriminated against in their search for housing.

It is common to see newspaper or internet ads that contain the words, “No Section 8.” It is more common for low-income Hawaii residents to hear this refrain when they inquire into available housing. Such discrimination is also faced by people who base their income, in part or in total, on disability assistance, cash assistance, child support, or alimony. To anyone who encounters it, the discrimination is frustrating and demoralizing.

Individuals and families having the lawful means to rent or buy housing should not be denied that housing based on where those means come from. Those with the income, credit-worthiness, and other applicable credentials to rent or buy – the single mom depending on child-support

payments, the low-income family depending on a Section 8 voucher, the man depending on disability assistance, the elderly couple depending on a pension – none should be denied the opportunity to rent or buy because their incomes don't come entirely from a job. Recognizing housing as a fundamental human right, and also the severe hardships – including discrimination – low-income Hawaii residents face in finding housing they can afford, we respectfully ask that you give SB456 a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

SB456 HOUSING - DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SOURCE OF INCOME

Sponsor: Senator Gary Hooser

What does SB 456 do?

SB456 prohibits “source of income” discrimination against those seeking housing. That is, the bill prohibits landlords/sellers from discriminating against potential renters/buyers based on the source of their income.

What does “source of income” mean?

“Source of income” means any lawful source of money to be used in the rental or purchase of housing. It includes money from: (1) any lawful profession or occupation; (2) any government or private assistance, grant, loan, or rental assistance program, including Section 8 vouchers; (3) any gift, inheritance, pension, annuity, alimony, child support, or other consideration; (4) and any sale of property.

What does SB456 NOT do?

SB 4561 does NOT prohibit a landlord/seller from determining the ability of a potential renter/buyer to pay a rent/purchase price, by: (1) verifying the source and amount of income of the renter/buyer; and (2) evaluating the stability, security, and credit-worthiness of the renter/buyer or their source of income.

SB 456 does NOT prevent a landlord/seller from refusing to consider income derived from any criminal activity.

Who would benefit from the passage of SB 456?

Individuals and families planning to rent/buy housing, in part or in full, with income from Section 8 vouchers, Rental Allowance Program subsidies, disability payments, Temporary Cash Assistance grants, pensions, alimony, child support, and other lawful sources of income.

Why should SB456 be passed?

Individuals and families having the lawful means to rent/buy housing should not be denied that housing, based on where those means come from. Those with the income, credit-worthiness, and other applicable credentials to rent/buy – the single mom depending on child-support

payments, the low-income family depending on a Section 8 voucher, the man depending on disability payments, the elderly couple depending on a pension – none should be denied the opportunity to rent/buy because their incomes don't come entirely from a job.

Does source of income discrimination happen?

Yes. It is common for landlords to refuse to consider applicants who will use a Section 8 voucher as part of their rental payment. This makes it difficult for Section 8 recipients – who may have spent years on waiting lists before receiving the vouchers – to find places where they can be used. It may also have the effect of clustering voucher users in the poorest sections of a community, where landlords receive few rental applicants.

Is source of income discrimination already prohibited in other places?

Yes. In Maryland, Howard and Montgomery Counties have laws prohibiting source of income discrimination, as does the city of Frederick. Nationwide, twelve states (CA, CT, ME, MA, MN, NJ, ND, OK, OR, UT, VT, WI) and the District of Columbia have housing laws that prohibit source of income discrimination. Several cities and counties – including, as of last month, New York City, and now the State of New York– also have such laws.

Kauai Fair Housing Law Coalition
C/O
Anne Punohu
4417 Maka Rd #3A
Kalaheo, HI 96741
Phone: (808)332-0341
email: coalitionkauai@yahoo.com

Testimony by JoAnn A. Yukimura

In support of SB 456

Before the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

February 13, 2009

Conference Room 229

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I speak in favor of SB 456. I want to thank Senator Hooser who introduced this bill and Annie Punohu for initiating this effort. Annie is a courageous and passionate single mother of two beautiful girls. She has been homeless herself in the past and knows first hand what it is like to struggle against discrimination. Annie Punohu is not able to be here today, but representing her is her lovely soon-to-be 17-year old daughter, Kaulana, who will be testifying. Kaulana is a participant in the Leadership Kaua`i youth program. Also testifying from Kaua`i is Pua Vidinha. We feel very privileged to be able to speak before you.

Last month, we all celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. A week after Dr. King was tragically assassinated in 1968, the Fair Housing Act was passed by Congress as a way to honor and advance Dr. King's agenda for freedom and equality. Today, over forty years later, we still struggle to make Dr. King's dream a reality. Against the reality of his time, he saw people finding decent housing and living in good neighborhoods no matter what their race, source of legal income, sex or age. SB 456 would help move us in this direction.

Let us be clear what SB 456 does and doesn't do.

SB 456 prohibits discrimination against renters based on source of legal income.

For example, it prohibits a landlord or realtor from refusing to accept applications for rental units based on categories of income—such as HUD vouchers, social security or SSI payments, etc. It will prevent landlords and realtors from advertising rentals with outright prohibitions against HUD voucher applicants, which essentially stops them from even applying. It will also prevent some landlords who don't understand what HUD is, from stating in their ads that they won't accept HUD voucher applications, simply because "that's what other landlords are doing."

In all likelihood, the greatest impact of this bill will be to stop overt discrimination. Covert discrimination will be harder to detect, prove or stop, though if enough proof is amassed, it will be possible. But stopping overt discrimination itself will have benefits! It will set the tone. It will make clear to all what is not acceptable. It will at least allow HUD voucher holders to go through the process of applying, which in and

of itself, could help the landlord see an applicant as an individual rather than a stereotype. Apparently, in states where a law similar to SB 456 is in place, HUD voucher holders seem to have a better rate of finding housing.

What SB 456 does not do is to dictate that a landlord must rent to a certain HUD voucher holder. It will not prohibit landlords from refusing to rent to individual applicants based on past performance, bad references, bad payment records. Please see section 4 of Bill 456 on page 10, which allows a landlord to make an evaluation of a potential renter's ability to pay and stability.

In other states, where there are laws similar to SB 456 in place, overt discrimination is clearly reduced. This bill will not solve all problems of housing discrimination, but it will help to create a more even playing field for renters—especially those in the lower incomes who have struggled to find decent housing and who sometimes become the homeless.

It is Time to Stop Overt Discrimination against Certain Legal Sources of Income

It is clear that we need this law on Kaua'i. A survey of classified ads in the local paper, The Garden Island, shows that overt discrimination against HUD voucher holders is significant. While some argue that the slowing economy will make such a law unnecessary because we are moving toward a "renters" market, the slow economy is also creating more people with financial, and consequently, housing problems. So the problem of accessing affordable housing remains even in the slow economy.

Furthermore, the "down" economy will not last forever. We are all familiar with the "boom and bust" cycles that occur in Hawai'i's economy periodically, and we must be prepared for the return of the terrible affordable housing stresses that we recently experienced over the past 5-6 years of a boom economy.

HUD voucher holders are not the only ones who will be protected. Elderly, who are growing in proportion to population, and the disabled will also be protected against landlords who discriminate against limited income sources such as social security or SSI.

Please pass this law which will prohibit, and which has been shown to effectively prevent, overt discrimination based on income categories such as HUD vouchers. It will increase the chances for law-abiding, sincere, often hard-working families and single people to access affordable housing in Hawai'i.

Mahalo.

Senator Baker, Chair Senator Ige, Vice Chair

CPN Committee, February 13th, 2009 8:30 am room 229

RE:SB456, relating to discrimination in housing, "source of Income"

Written testimony, oral to follow:

Aloha. My name is Shanarae Kaulananapuaikaikamaolino Donovan, and I am the daughter of Anne Punohu, who started the Kauai Fair Housing Law Coalition on Kauai, and I am here to testify on her behalf, and also to represent the children's side of this issue. I will be 17 in a few days, and I will be able to vote for the first time in the next election in Hawaii. As a future voter, and a child who has been homeless before, I can tell you that it is very hard to see our parents when they try to get a place to live, and can't because people say no. If you have a HUD Voucher, it takes a long time to get one. At first your parents can be very excited to go out and find a rental. Maybe they will find a house with a yard, and maybe the kids can have their own rooms. Maybe there will be a nice kitchen where you can cook your food, and a bathroom with a nice, hot shower. Those are the things you think about when you are homeless and a kid. You are not thinking about how you can damage the house, you think about how you can fix it up nice.

All your parents can think about is us kids being safe, and your mom, being able to sleep finally because she doesn't have to keep one eye open all the time, because when you are homeless your parents will never sleep so they can protect you. It's also easier to keep your job, because you can stay cleaner and get more rest and eat better. So, after you are all excited, your parents are all excited, reality sets in. Your parents start to make phone calls and look in the newspaper. Sometimes you help them. And then you see the ads that say: NO HUD. Your parents make phone calls, and start to hear all of the excuses over the phone, some are not very nice. Some people tell our parents they don't rent to HUD, because HUD people will trash their house, or they don't want kids there, or they just don't want HUD people there, or their house is not going to pass a HUD inspection. After awhile, everyone starts to get sad, and cranky, and stressed out. Soon, our parents know their time to find a rental will run out. Soon, they will lose the voucher, and we will have to stay homeless even longer. Sometimes kids have a real hard time being homeless, but our parents are the ones that have it even harder, because they are trying so hard, but they can't find places to rent. I think that is wrong. I think it's morally wrong, and I think it's against human rights. Everyone has the right to a decent, safe house to live in, even if you are poor, even if you are disabled, even if you need help to pay for your rent, even if you may not be perfect.

People who have places for rent, should not be able to discriminate against people just because sometimes help is needed to pay for the rent. Think about all of the children who you are turning away. Think of all those great people you didn't even give a chance to apply for your rental. Most of us kids, who have been homeless have really great parents, they try really hard and do their best. But everything is so expensive. I am born and raised here, and I feel that people that are from here should not have to leave, so that other people can move here and get the rentals because they don't need help. They get to live inside, while the rest of us have to live outside, just because we don't matter or count as much as they do. We are not as good as them.

I think that is very wrong. My mom, and my sister and I have a place to live. But lots of other people don't. That's because they can't find anywhere they can afford. If they get help so that they can get a place, they should have a chance to get it. It's not right to have it legal that you don't even have to give them a chance.

That's why my mom asked Senator Hooser if he would be willing to write a bill to stop this, and he did. In the house, Representatives Mina Morita, Representatives Har, Herkes, Chang, Cabanilla and Tokioka introduced a mirror bill in the house called HB1274. My mom made phone calls and emails to everyone and got people to send in testimony. Joann Yukimura paid for me to come today, and my Auntie Pua is here too. There are a lot of people who support this bill.

Our new President, Barack Obama, said this about equal rights, and civil rights. He said:

The teenagers and college students who left their homes to march in the streets of Birmingham and Montgomery; the mothers who walked instead of taking the bus after a long day of doing somebody else's laundry and cleaning somebody else's kitchen -- they didn't brave fire hoses and Billy clubs so that their grandchildren and their great-grandchildren would still wonder at the beginning of the 21st century whether their vote would be counted; whether their civil rights would be protected by their government; whether justice would be equal and opportunity would be theirs.... We have more work to do."

-- Barack Obama, Speech at Howard University, September 28, 2007

Mahalo for the opportunity to speak here today.

Aloha no,

Shanarae K. Donovan

(representing self, and Anne Punohu, Kauai Fair Housing Law Coalition)

4417 Maka red, #3a

Kalaheo, HI 96741

8083320341

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 10:40 AM
To: CPN Testimony
Cc: mauibrad@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB456 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for CPN 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM SB456

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brad Parsons
Organization: Individual
Address: Hanalei, HI 96722
Phone:
E-mail: mauibrad@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:
Committee Members,

I support SB 456 regarding fair housing on HUD issues, and ask that your committee move it forward.

Mahalo, Brad

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 8:07 PM
To: CPN Testimony
Cc: fith4th@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB456 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for CPN 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM SB456

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Fithian Jones
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: fith4th@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2009

Comments:

Public access to the Waipouli beaches have been greatly hindered on the east side of Kauai by the new developments along the Coconut coast. It is impossible to reach the ocean along this heritage coastline.

We all need to have access to our beaches and our ocean.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 12:36 PM
To: CPN Testimony
Cc: ahgakau@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB456 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for CPN 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM SB456

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Healani Akau
Organization: Individual
Address: 4621 Kailewa St. Apt. B Hanamaulu, Hawaii 96766
Phone: 808-431-4547
E-mail: ahgakau@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/9/2009

Comments:

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL SB456 HOUSING - DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SOURCE OF INCOME

January 09, 2009

TO: Consumer Affairs Committee, (Senate)
FR: Ms. Healani Akau, HUD Voucher Recipient
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1690, Kapaa, Hawaii 96746

RE: SB456 RELATING TO DISCRIMINATION

DATE; Friday, February 13, 2009
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY TO SUPPORT SB456

Dear Senator Baker, Chair; Senator Ige, Vice-Chair; Committee Members:

I am in support of SB456, and HB 1274 that would prohibit landlords from discriminating against potential tenants based on the source of their income.

I was homeless for 3 years and finally received a HUD Voucher in February 2008. It was a difficult period in my life, but I survived it in spite of the rain, the cold and getting sick in nature's elements. When I received my HUD voucher, they gave me 60 days to find a place. But every time I located a prospective home, it was either too much for HUD to sponsor or the advertisements would indicate that HUD was not allowed. I struggled in those months to find a Landlord that would accept my HUD voucher. Luckily there are still some good people out there. I hope SB456 passes. This will definitely help other people who are homeless, have a fixed-income or are disabled.

I recognize that housing is a fundamental human right, and I realize that some people have severe hardships - including discrimination that low-income Hawaii residents face in finding housing they can afford. I respectfully ask that you give SB456 a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (808)431-4547 or via e-mail at ahgakau@hawaii.edu.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 9:43 PM
To: CPN Testimony
Cc: kealiagirl2004@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB456 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for CPN 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM SB456

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Puanani Rogers
Organization: Ho`okipa Network & Kupuna o Kealia
Address: 4702 Mailihuna Rd. Kapaa, HI
Phone: (808) 821-2267
E-mail: kealiagirl2004@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:
RE: SB SB456- RELATING TO DISCRIMINATION

To: Consumer Affairs Committee
From: Puanani Rogers - Kupuna o Kealia
DATE: Febuary 13, 2009
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in strong support SB456

Dear Honorable Senate Members,

I stand in strong support for Senate Bill 456, which will prohibit housing discrimination based on lawful sources of income. Thirteen other states have already led the way with similar legislation that prohibits this type of discrimination, and we urge you to do the same.

Housing issues are already difficult enough for individuals and families with low incomes, which comprise a large part of our service industry working-class community. I know too many families that were dropped from the HUD list because they could not find rentals within the short period of allotted time. Had these families had a higher income and not been on HUD, I do not doubt that the same renters would have considered their applications. This blatant discrimination has no place in our community, and should not be tolerated by the law. With homelessness rising, jobs being lost, food and basic living costs skyrocketing, can we afford to continue to allow negative stereotyping of those that struggle economically? This bill will send a clear message that our state is one of tolerance and acceptance, where community members take care of one another and truly practice the aloha spirit.

Mahalo nui loa,

Puanani Rogers

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 12:32 PM
To: CPN Testimony
Cc: jsacher@kona.net
Subject: Testimony for SB456 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for CPN 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM SB456

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeff Sacher
Organization: Individual
Address: Laninui Dr. Kamuela, HI
Phone: 808-936-9983
E-mail: jsacher@kona.net
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 12:12 PM
To: CPN Testimony
Cc: johncons@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB456 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for CPN 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM SB456

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Constantino
Organization: Kauai Community College
Address: 3-1901 Kaunualii Hwy. Lihue, HI 96766-9500
Phone: 808-245-8245
E-mail: johncons@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/9/2009

Comments:
STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL SB456 HOUSING - DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SOURCE OF INCOME

January 09, 2009

TO: Consumer Affairs Committee, (Senate)
FR: Mr. John Constantino, Single Parent and Displaced Homemaker Coordinator, Kaua`i CC
Bridge to Hope Coordinator, Assistant Professor in Counseling and Advising, Kaua`i Fair
Housing Law Coalition
ADDRESS: Kauai Community College, 3-1901 Kaunualii Hwy. Lihue, HI 96766-9500

RE: SB456 RELATING TO DISCRIMINATION

DATE: Friday 13, 2009
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol, 415
South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY TO SUPPORT SB456

Dear Senator Baker, Chair; Senator Ige, Vice-Chair; Committee Members:

I am in support of SB456, and HB 1274 that would prohibit landlords from discriminating against potential tenants based on the source of their income. As a counselor and coordinator to Single Parents and Displaced Homemakers, I have seen my fair share of students who have faced discrimination and humiliation.

Decent housing is a fundamental right. The protection of the human dignity of every person and the right to a decent home require both individual action and structural policies and practices. Our concern is not simply for houses or programs but for the people who inhabit

these dwellings or are affected by these programs. The statistics are not simply numbers or points on a graph; they are individual human tragedies.

Governor Linda Lingle has estimated that as many as 15,000 people may be homeless in our state. According to a recent national study, in regards to housing discrimination faced by Asians and Pacific Islanders, the discrimination rates held at 37% percent, the same rate as for African Americans. The statistics in large part came from the State of Hawai'i. HUD Choice Voucher lists are currently closed on O'ahu, due to not enough people moving off the lists to make way for new people to sign up. Reports have been stated that up to 60% percent of individuals who obtained HUD Choice Vouchers were unable to use them. Not because they suddenly found a rental on their own, or came into a lot of money but because they simply could not find a rental that, in many cases would accept HUD Choice Vouchers.

These households are real families experiencing the tragedies of homelessness or inadequate housing. The households are made up of parents and children, brothers and sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews. Each is affected by their family's difficulty in affording an adequate place to live. Adults worry about how to pay utility, clothing, and food bills when the great majority of their income goes toward rent. When they can't pay their rent, they strategize on moving between hotels, friends' sofas, and shelters. Children suffer from exposure to unsafe and unstable living conditions.

I believe that one of government's primary responsibilities is to ensure that the most basic needs of its people are met. In the United States, our federal government does this, in part, through the Section 8 Rental Choice Voucher Program. Hawaii serves the housing needs of its lowest-income residents through the State's Rental Allowance Program. However, though a family may be successful in accessing assistance through Section 8, or some other program, in most parts of Hawaii, they face yet another hurdle in their search for housing. Hawaii residents receiving housing assistance are often discriminated against in their search for housing. It is common to see newspaper or internet ads that contain the words, "No Section 8." It is more common for low-income Hawaii residents to hear this refrain when they inquire into available housing. Such discrimination is also faced by people who base their income, in part or in total, on disability assistance, cash assistance, child support, or alimony. To anyone who encounters it, the discrimination is frustrating and demoralizing. Individuals and families having the lawful means to rent or buy housing should not be denied that housing based on where those means come from. Those with the income, credit-worthiness, and other applicable credentials to rent or buy - the single mom depending on child-support payments, the low-income family depending on a Section 8 voucher, the man depending on disability assistance, the elderly couple depending on a pension - none should be denied the opportunity to rent or buy because their incomes don't come entirely from a job.

Recognizing housing as a fundamental human right, and also the severe hardships - including discrimination - low-income Hawaii residents face in finding housing they can afford, I respectfully ask that you give SB456 a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (808)651-4151 or via e-mail at johncons@hawaii.edu.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 5:05 PM
To: CPN Testimony
Cc: dalton@aloha.net
Subject: Testimony for SB456 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for CPN 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM SB456

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Judy Dalton
Organization: Individual
Address: 4330 Kauai Beach Drive Lihue, HI 96766
Phone: 808-246-99067
E-mail: dalton@aloha.net
Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:

Respected Senator Baker, Chair, Senator Ige, Vice Chair, and members of the CPN Committee,

Because of the current economic crisis facing the nation and our state, more and more people - including family members and friends - will need public housing assistance. They will face the same hardships other economically depressed families have experienced over the years: housing discrimination for people receiving assistance from Section 8, or HUD.

This unfair practice of discrimination against source of income must end immediately and cannot wait until next year's session to pass.

Please vote YES on this critical measure affecting the lives of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Judy Dalton

RE: SB SB456- RELATING TO DISCRIMINATION

To: Consumer Affairs Committee

From: Suzanne Messinger's fifth and sixth grade students at Kula Elementary in Kilauea, Kauai

DATE: February 12, 2009

TIME: 2:09 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony to support SB456

Dear Honorable Senate Members,

Aloha, my name is Jordan Grainger. I am fifth grader at Kula Elementary in Kilauea, Kauai. My class, my teacher Sue and I would like to express our support for Senate Bill 456.

A couple months ago, Suzanne took us to the Eco-Roundtable in Lihue. At this meeting we met a kind and motivated woman who taught us the difference between equal and unequal housing in Hawaii. We learned about HUD, too. We hope that Senate Bill 456 will guarantee that people who receive for HUD benefits are not treated unfairly when they try to rent a house on Kauai.

During the past two months our teacher has been helping us to learn more about discrimination, human rights prejudice and racism. In our inquiry unit called "Fair Play for All." We learned about social injustice. We studied about the horrible segregation and prejudice that happened from Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement. I was disheartened by the hateful and unfair treatment of some people in our country. People like Harriet Tubman, Ruby Bridges and Rosa Parks who fought for change, have shown it is possible and all people can be treated equally.

When I learned that some families on our island who have lower incomes than others are not able to rent a house as easy as a family with more money, I was infuriated. How people not rent their houses to people without even knowing them, just because they are on HUD? It really bothers me that discrimination is still happening today. It is not right that there are people who work hard, but because they received HUD can not find a house to rent. Our whole class thinks all people on Kauai should have an equal opportunity to rent a house as long as

RE: SB SB456- RELATING TO DISCRIMINATION

To: Consumer Affairs Committee

From: Suzanne Messinger's fifth and sixth grade students at Kula Elementary in Kilauea, Kauai

DATE: February 13, 2009

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony to support SB456

Dear Honorable Senate Members,

My name is Marina Mireles. I am sixth grader at Kula Elementary in Kilauea, Kauai. My class and I would like to show our support for Senate Bill 456.

A couple months ago, Suzanne took our class to the Eco-Roundtable in Lihue. At this meeting, I was shocked and disappointed to learn about the unequal housing opportunities on Kauai. An inspirational woman named Anne taught us about how some people struggle when trying to rent a house on Kauai. When Suzanne told us about the Senate Bill 456 that could help to make sure that people who receive HUD are not discriminated against, our class decided we had to do something to make sure this bill passed.

During the past two months our teacher has been helping us to learn more about discrimination, human rights, prejudice and segregation. In our inquiry unit we studied "Fair Play for All." When studying the history of prejudice in America from the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement, I became ashamed of the hateful and unfair treatment of certain people in our country. People like Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks and Abraham Lincoln have taught us that change is possible and all people should be treated equally.

I found out that some people who don't have as much money as others can get another form of income like HUD from the government. I was disappointed to learn that people who receive HUD benefits are often discriminated against when they try to rent a house. This is not right. I think that people who work hard, pay their bills and have jobs should have equal opportunities to housing.

Suzanne has told us that it is important to stand up for what we believe in. I am writing to you because I believe that our class can make a difference. Even though we are only kids, if we take action, we can make a difference. I, Marina,

strongly feel that all people on Kauai who can pay rent deserve a home here. I am very grateful for my home here. I feel very lucky to be able to live on this majestic island. Please, please fight to stop discrimination here. I really hope these words are read by someone who cares about change and I hope I have convinced you that I am sending this letter from the bottom of my heart!

Mahalo nui loa,

Marina Mireles

Sixth Grader

Suzanne Messinger, Teacher

Kula Elementary

Kilauea, Hawaii

.

RE: SB SB456- RELATING TO DISCRIMINATION

To: Consumer Affairs Committee

From: Suzanne Messinger's fifth and sixth grade students at Kula Elementary in Kilauea, Kauai

DATE: February 13, 2009

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony to support SB456

Dear Honorable Senate Members,

Aloha, my name is Sam Goldberg. I am fifth grader at Kula Elementary in Kilauea, Kauai. My class, my teacher and I would like to express our support for Senate Bill 456.

A couple months ago, Suzanne took our class to the Eco-Roundtable in Lihue. It was there, that we met a motivated woman who taught us the difference between equal and unequal housing. We also learned a lot about HUD. We hope that Senate Bill 456 will guarantee that people who qualify for HUD are not discriminated against when they try to rent a house on Kauai.

During the past two months our teacher has been helping us to learn more about discrimination, human rights prejudice and segregation in our inquiry unit called "Fair Play for All." When studying the history of prejudice in America from the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement, I was mortified by the hateful and unfair treatment of people in our country. People like Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King, Jr., have shown us that change is possible and all people should be treated equally.

When I learned that some families on our island who have lower incomes than others are not able to rent a house as easy as a family with more money, I became angry and confused. How could this discrimination still be happening today? We found out that there are people who work hard, but because they received HUD could not find a house to rent. We think all people on Kauai should have an equal opportunity to rent a house as long as they work hard and pay their bills.

I am writing to you because I believe in this issue. Suzanne inspires us to try to do something about what we believe in. She says, kids have important ideas and

strong voices and we should take action when we feel frustrated. I, Sammy, believe in Senate Bill 456. I strongly feel that all people on Kauai are equal and should be treated fairly. If someone who gets HUD is able to pay rent, they should be able to rent a house just as easy as someone who does not. I am so thankful for my home here in Kilauea. I want to live in a place where all people are treated equally and there is no prejudice. Please try to stop this discrimination. Please listen to what I am saying, because it truly means a lot to me.

Mahalo nui loa,

Sam Goldberg

Fifth Grader

Suzanne Messinger, Teacher

Kula Elementary

Kilauea, Hawaii

.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:00 AM
To: CPN Testimony
Cc: klrose@earthlink.net
Subject: Testimony for SB456 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for CPN 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM SB456

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Katy Rose
Organization: Individual
Address: 5-5495 Kuhio hwy Hana;ei, HI
Phone:
E-mail: klrose@earthlink.net
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:
Testimony to support SB456

Dear Honorable Senate Members,

I would like to state our support for Senate Bill 456, which will prohibit housing discrimination based on lawful sources of income. Thirteen other states have already led the way with similar legislation that prohibits this type of discrimination, and we urge you to do the same.

Housing issues are already difficult enough for individuals and families with low incomes, which comprise a large part of our service industry working-class community.

Discrimination against low-income families has no place in our community, and should not be tolerated by the law. With homelessness rising, jobs being lost, food and basic living costs skyrocketing, can we afford to continue to allow negative stereotyping of those that struggle economically? This bill will send a clear message that our state is one of tolerance and acceptance, where community members take care of one another and truly practice the aloha spirit.

Mahalo nui loa,
Katy Rose

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 1:01 PM
To: CPN Testimony
Cc: lanirae.garcia@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB456 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for CPN 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM SB456

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lani Rae Suiso Garcia
Organization: coalitionkauai
Address: S Ulster St. Greenwood Village, CO
Phone: 720-951-5031
E-mail: lanirae.garcia@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:
Disenfranchising Hawaiians...Again

As a native Hawaiian who left the 50th state, I am shocked, but not surprised that HUD vouchers will no longer be available for residential housing. Some beaches on the west side of Oahu are tent cities. One wonders what the cleanliness quotient of this habitat is?

To deny any human being safe and clean housing is unconscionable and an outrage. This reinforces the absurd notion that "have nots," in Hawaii and nationwide, are not quite people. Now that's a legacy for posterity. Especially in a state known for the "Aloha spirit."

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 7:16 PM
To: CPN Testimony
Cc: lorensr11@webtv.net
Subject: Testimony for SB456 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for CPN 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM SB456

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: LOREN
Organization: Individual
Address: 3600 WAHA RD. KALAHEO, HI 96741
Phone: 808-332-7401
E-mail: lorensr11@webtv.net
Submitted on: 2/9/2009

Comments:

I support this bill. I have felt the sting of discrimination when scanning ads for rentals on Kauai. I am a very reliable Sec. 8 HUD renter. I have completed a one year lease and my landlord considers me his best tenant and he has several. I am thankful to have this opportunity to show my support for a bill that would eliminate ads with discriminatory language. Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 5:06 PM
To: CPN Testimony
Cc: ktakahashi@kauai.gov
Subject: Testimony for SB456 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for CPN 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM SB456

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ludvina K. Takahasi
Organization: Agency on Elderly Affairs
Address: 4444 Rice Stree, Suite 330 Lihue, Hawaii
Phone: 808-241-4470
E-mail: ktakahashi@kauai.gov
Submitted on: 2/9/2009

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 9:37 AM
To: CPN Testimony
Cc: tracey@kauaioutcallmassage.com
Subject: Testimony for SB456 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for CPN 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM SB456

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tracey Schavone
Organization: Individual
Address: Anahola, HI
Phone: 808-822-4465
E-mail: tracey@kauaioutcallmassage.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:

Please support this bill which will prohibit discrimination in regards to housing. It is already difficult, if not close to impossible, to find affordable rental property. Individuals and families are already facing enough challenges without having to deal with discrimination.

Aloha,
Tracey Schavone
Anahola, Kaua`i

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 8:59 AM
To: CPN Testimony
Cc: kehaulani.watson@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB456 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for CPN 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM SB456

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Trisha Kehaulani Watson
Organization: Individual
Address: PO Box 61395 Honolulu, HI 96839
Phone: (808) 392-1617
E-mail: kehaulani.watson@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:

I am strong support of this bill. I believe that eliminating discrimination in housing is a critical issue. It would not only create a more just society, but it is likely that it may help ease some of our other related social ills, like homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Trisha Kehaulani Watson, JD, PhD

From: Kauai Coalition [coalitionkauai@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2009 8:20 PM
To: CPN Testimony
Cc: wrusaw@kauaifoodbank.org; coalitionkauai@yahoo.com
Subject: Fw: Support for SB456

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

> From: Wendi Rusaw <wrusaw@kauaifoodbank.org>
> Subject: Support for SB456
> To: senbaker@capitol.hawaii.gov
> Cc: coalitionkauai@yahoo.com
> Date: Friday, Feb.6 Senator Baker, CPN Chair
>
>
>
> I wish to write in support of Senate Bill 456.
>
>
>
> We here at the Kauai Food Bank are well aware that two of the three
> most necessities of life are Food, Shelter, & Clothing. We believe
> that this bill will assist the needy of Hawaii that have valid HUD
> vouchers to get adequate housing.
>
>
>
> Please feel free to contact me.
>
>
>
> Mahalo,
>
>
>
> Wendi Rusaw
>
> Food Stamp Outreach Coordinator
>
> The Kaua'i Food Bank, Inc
>
> 3285 Waapa Road, Ste. A
>
> Lihue, HI 96766
>
> (808) 246-3809
>
> (808) 246-4737 (Fax)
>

> E-mail: <<mailto:wrusaw@kauaifoodbank.org>> wrusaw@kauaifoodbank.org
>
> <<http://www.kauaifoodbank.org>>
> <http://www.kauaifoodbank.org>

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 12:24 PM
To: CPN Testimony
Cc: kauairider@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB456 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for CPN 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM SB456

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: R. E. Flora
Organization: Individual
Address: 3906 Ho'ohuki St. Lihue, Hi
Phone: 639-3888
E-mail: kauairider@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:

As a renter, I have seen so many "for rent" ads that have stated "no hud". Some of the people do not know what it means and are just copying another ad. I believe that Hawaii is discriminating against HUD and section 8. Thank you for bringing this to the forefront.
Rich