

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

168

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 19 2009

RE: S.B. No. 734

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Education and Housing, to which was referred S.B. No. 734 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish a special master and an advisory council to develop a comprehensive plan to assist the Hawaii Public Housing Authority in resolving the health and safety violations at public housing projects statewide, and to appropriate funds from the public housing revolving fund.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by one private organization. Testimony in opposition to this measure was submitted by two state agencies.

Your Committee has heard that this measure would seemingly create a dual line of authority over a broad range of issues, including health and safety violations, at public housing projects. In addition, testimony pointed to two actions that were recently filed against the Hawaii Public Housing Authority alleging various claims related to health and safety violations at Kuhio Park Terrace and Kuhio Homes against, among others, the Authority.

Your Committee believes that given past instances of state agencies that were not meeting their obligations under state and federal laws, there is a very real possibility that the courts may appoint a special master to assist in resolving the violations

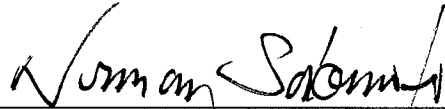


raised in the federal and state class action lawsuits. Rather than waiting for that possibility to occur, this measure takes a proactive approach to assisting the Authority in meeting its obligations.

Your Committee further notes that the Chair requested and was willing to consider amendments to address the concerns raised, but no amendments were presented. Your Committee believes this measure offers a timely alternative to a court-ordered special master and urges its continued discussion by all parties involved.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education and Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 734 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Education and
Housing,

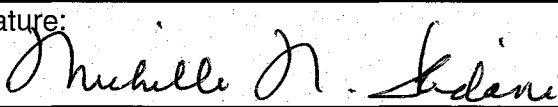


NORMAN SAKAMOTO, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Fifth Legislature
 State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Education and Housing
EDH

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 734	EDH, WAM	2-9-09		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAKAMOTO, Norman (C)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	✓			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	✓			
GALUTERIA, Brickwood	✓			
TSUTSUI, Shan S.	✓			
HEMMINGS, Fred			✓	
TOTAL	5	0	1	0
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes