
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF THE RESIDENTS OF ITS HOUSING PROJECTS AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE AUTHORITY'S PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE TENANT MONITOR PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, recent outbreaks of violence between residents of
2 Kuhio Park Terrace and Kalihi Valley Homes, two of the State's
3 largest public housing projects, are believed to be the result
4 of longstanding conflict between gangs or residents of the
5 housing projects; and

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7 WHEREAS, the escalating violence has prompted discussions
8 at the community and policy levels on how to improve the safety
9 and quality of life within the housing projects; and

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11 WHEREAS, although a 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. curfew that was
12 imposed on the residents of Kalihi Valley Homes following a
13 recent shooting received a favorable reaction from many
14 residents, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing
15 Authority and others have emphasized that the curfew is a
16 temporary solution and that more permanent solutions should be
17 explored by the community; and

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19 WHEREAS, the problems that occur on public housing projects
20 are often induced or exacerbated by the consumption of alcohol
21 on the project grounds, a lack of accountability and oversight
22 for guests of public housing residents, insufficient personnel
23 to work with police officers to handle disturbances when they
24 occur on the projects, and a lack of authority to quickly evict
25 public housing residents who repeatedly violate laws; and

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27 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Public Housing Authority has already
28 begun exploring some of these solutions, including a Tenant
29 Monitor Program to designate resident managers as points of
30 contact who are immediately available for emergency situations
31 when property management is unavailable and who may authorize



1 police or other emergency responders to enter the property,
2 direct police or other emergency responders to appropriate units
3 or sections of the housing projects, and confirm whether
4 individuals do or do not reside on the property; and
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6 WHEREAS, under the proposed Tenant Monitor Program,
7 designated resident managers will not be employees of the Hawaii
8 Public Housing Authority but will receive community police
9 training from the Honolulu Police Department and other safety
10 awareness training from the Department of the Attorney General;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, as part of the proposed Tenant Monitor Program,
14 the Hawaii Public Housing Authority plans to provide free rent
15 to individuals who are designated as resident managers; and
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17 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Public Housing Authority is awaiting
18 approval from the United States Department of Housing and Urban
19 Development on the Authority's Tenant Monitor Program plan to
20 provide free rent to the designated resident managers and
21 expects approval of the plan by July 1, 2010; and
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23 WHEREAS, to help address the issues listed above, the
24 Legislature finds that stricter laws and administrative rules
25 should be imposed, including banning the possession of an open
26 liquor container on any sidewalk or common area of a public
27 housing project, imposing harsher penalties for individuals who
28 enter or remain unlawfully on the premises of public housing
29 projects, and authorizing the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to
30 quickly evict residents who repeatedly violate laws; now,
31 therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
35 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Public
36 Housing Authority is requested to:
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- 38 (1) Adopt administrative rules or recommend legislation to
39 ban the possession of any open liquor container on any
40 sidewalk or common area of a public housing project
41 under its jurisdiction; and
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1 (2) Adopt administrative rules to impose greater oversight
2 over individuals who enter or remain unlawfully on the
3 premises of public housing projects; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports the
6 Hawaii Public Housing Authority's plan to implement the Tenant
7 Monitor Program; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Public Housing
10 Authority will provide an option of either free rent or partial
11 rental assistance, in lieu of compensation, to a designated
12 resident manager under the proposed Tenant Monitor Program so
13 that:
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15 (1) The value of the rental assistance is commensurate
16 with the resident manager's duties, which may differ
17 from the duties of another resident manager in the
18 Tenant Monitor Program depending on factors such as
19 the size of the housing project for which a resident
20 manager is responsible; and
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22 (2) The Hawaii Public Housing Authority may designate more
23 than one resident manager per housing project to
24 ensure adequate or improved coverage throughout the
25 day; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Public Housing
28 Authority is requested to report to the Legislature no later
29 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
30 of 2011. The Authority is requested to address the following in
31 the report:
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33 (1) Whether or not the United States Department of Housing
34 and Urban Development has approved the proposed Tenant
35 Monitor Program;
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37 (2) If the Tenant Monitor Program is not approved, the
38 reasons for the disapproval; and
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40 (3) If the Tenant Monitor Program is approved, an update
41 on the status of implementation of the Program; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director
3 of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.
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