

TO: The Honorable Rida T.R. Cabanilla, the Honorable Pono Chong, Vice Chair and other Members of the Senate Committee on Housing

DATE: Wednesday, February 2, 2011
8:30 a.m., Room 325

RE: HB 231 Relating to Housing

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

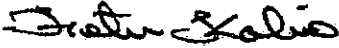
My name is Fetu Kolio, and I am a resident of Mayor Wrights Homes. I also serve as a Neighborhood Board Member, and a Weed & Seed Resident participant in my community. My neighbors and I are testifying today in strong support of HB 231. We are asking for the safety of our families and all Public housing residents.

HB 231 would require all visitors to public housing projects to receive a visitor pass from authorities of the public housing project. The bill would also establish that non-possession of a visitor pass as prima facie evidence of criminal trespass in the first degree.

We have gangs, drugs, public drinking, shootings, and attacks on residents. While the federal weed and seed program was in effect, we had pretty good security at Mayor Wright Homes. Since that program ended, conditions have deteriorated which is why we are testifying today. We need improved security and we need the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to be accountable for the progress in security improvements.

Please help us restore trust in the security of public housing of Mayor Wright Homes for all residents. Please pass HB 231 so that all the residents can live in safety and peace.

Thank you for hearing this bill and reading my testimony. I hope you will pass HB 231.

Fetu Kolio, 
Mayor Wright Homes
1235 Pua Lane, 34-D
Honolulu, HI 96817

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



DENISE M. WISE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Statement of
Denise M. Wise
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

February 2, 2011 8:30 A.M.
Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
H.B. 231
RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING

~~Madam Chair and Members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding House Bill 231, relating to public housing.~~

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) appreciates the intent of this measure; however, we oppose enactment of the measure since it would be administratively difficult to enforce and would have adverse budgetary impacts. While the HPHA appreciates legislative concern for increasing security protocols at our developments, we do not believe that this bill offers the most effective solution to controlling access to our properties.

Requiring all visitors to an HPHA property to obtain a guest pass would be an administratively onerous policy for the agency to initiate and enforce. Many of our housing developments are large properties, with open pedestrian and vehicular connections to neighboring communities. Such a policy would require the enclosure of vast open spaces or impact to natural landscapes and would result in the physical separation of our residential communities from their neighborhoods.

Further, impact to the HPHA's budget would be disproportionate to the benefits of this policy change. Many of our developments are small and are located in rural, remote areas. The required construction of access controls and the additional staff necessary to provide constant supervision of guest ingress and egress would defeat any public safety cost savings incipient to this measure.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Housing with the agency's position opposing H.B. 231. We respectfully request the Committee to hold this measure.