

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

February 8, 2012 9:10 A.M.
Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
House Bill No. 1398
Relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Honorable Chair and Members of the House Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding House Bill No. 1398, relating to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA).

The HPHA supports enactment of the measure, which would add a section to Chapter 356D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to explicitly authorize our agency to enter into public-private partnerships for the increased development of new public housing developments, as well as the improvement of existing public housing units. The public-private partnership model for the improvement of public housing projects is currently being encouraged by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the HPHA has demonstrated the success that is possible through such agreements with the mixed finance public-private partnership at Kuhio Park Terrace, which successfully removed \$150 million in capital repairs from the agency's backlog of physical needs. This statutory amendment would provide the agency with greater flexibility and control over the process by providing certain limited exemptions from the procurement code and allowing the exercise of rulemaking authority to go forward to other housing developments statewide and further reduce our capital needs.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Housing with the agency's position regarding H.B. No. 1398. We respectfully request the Committee to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.