

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of
DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

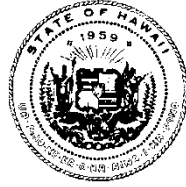
February 4, 2020 at 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

In consideration of
S.B. 2658
RELATING TO HOUSING.

HHFDC *supports the intent* of S.B. 2658, a bill to establish the position of Director of Housing to focus efforts toward addressing the housing shortage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII

HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Tuesday, February 4, 2020
1:15 PM - Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 2658
RELATING TO HOUSING

Honorable Chair Chang, Honorable Chair Thielen, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 2658, relating to housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **appreciates the intent and requests amendments**, of SB 2658, which creates the position of Governor's Director of Housing who has the duties of gathering information about housing in Hawaii and collaborating with various state agencies in order to increase the current housing supply at all price points and offers the following comments.

In order to receive federal funds, the HPHA entered into an Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) which provides the terms and conditions between the HPHA and the United States of America, by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and covers all federal public housing projects and programs. The HPHA is required to operate these programs in compliance with federal rules and laws. SECTION 2 (b)(9) of the bill is unnecessary, will add an administrative burden and would interfere with the federally mandated grievance process that is currently in place which would cause the HPHA to be in violation of the ACC, rendering the HPHA federally non-compliant and put federal funding at risk.

Similarly, SECTION 2 (11) of the bill would interfere with the ACC mandated roles and responsibilities of the agency's Board of Directors. HUD mandates that the HPHA Board of Directors is the "legally and financially responsible governing body of a Public Housing Authority (PHA) and the first line of accountability for the PHA's performance". The HPHA is a single purpose entity, governed by an eleven-member Board of Directors that are appointed by the governor, and it provides policy guidance to the Agency in accordance to federal law and the ACC contract. Conflict with this important role between the Board and the Director of Housing will interfere with the board's obligations.

Therefore, the HPHA would like to humbly request that SECTION 2 (b)(9) and SECTION 2 (b)(11) be removed from the measure.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committees with the HPHA's testimony regarding SB 2658. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

SB-2658

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 2:35:05 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louise Storm	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Could part of this person's duties include gathering demographic info on the homeless persons being impacted by this initiative? News reports indicate hundreds are being placed in housing, but with hundreds more becoming identified as newly homeless, the problem of homelessness remains significant.

Also, it seems "logical" that the cause is lack of affordable housing, but if there was more affordable housing, what's to prevent people from out of state moving here to take advantage of this opportunity instead of "local" people with limited income acquiring these units?



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committees on Government Operations, and Housing
Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 1:15 P.M.
Conference Room 225, State Capitol**

RE: SB 2658, RELATING TO HOUSING

Chairs Thielen and Chang, Vice Chairs Inouye and Kanuha, and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") is in **support** of SB 2658 which proposes to create the position of Governor's director of housing who has the duties of gathering information about housing in Hawaii and collaborating with various state agencies in order to increase the current housing supply at all price points.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The State, at this time, does not have an expert who understands real estate development and the government land process. This has resulted in "silos" being created by agencies who have control of land (i.e. lease or Executive Order) but limited understanding of the state's overall goal to increase the supply of housing at all price points. Agencies generally accommodate their own specific goals/mission on the lands they control and as a result these lands are redeveloped for uses that do not necessarily achieve a greater public purpose. Also, as a part of the Governor's office, this position will be able to move projects forward that will increase the supply of housing at all price points.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2658.

SB-2658

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:46:05 AM

Testimony for GVO on 2/4/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Robinson-Onderko	Individual	Support	No

Comments: