

MAR 11 2022

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ORDER EXECUTIVE AGENCIES TO REVIEW
AND REVISE THEIR POLICIES AND RULES TO PROHIBIT
DISCRIMINATION IN RENTAL TRANSACTIONS AND ADVERTISEMENTS
FOR RENTAL TRANSACTIONS BASED ON SOURCE OF INCOME OR
PARTICIPATION IN HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

1 WHEREAS, the federal Fair Housing Act, title 42 United
2 States Code sections 3601-3619, and chapter 515, Hawaii Revised
3 Statutes, regarding discrimination in real property
4 transactions, do not prevent landlords from discriminating
5 against rental applicants with federal Housing Choice Vouchers
6 (Section 8 housing vouchers); and
7

8 WHEREAS, Honolulu is one of the largest cities in the
9 United States that does not prohibit source of income
10 discrimination in housing; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the extreme difficulty that low-income individuals
13 experience in finding affordable rentals is exacerbated when
14 housing vacancy advertisements proclaim "no Section 8 accepted"
15 or "Section 8 need not apply" in an effort to prevent low-income
16 individuals with housing vouchers from being considered as
17 tenants; and
18

19 WHEREAS, studies have shown that when there are policies to
20 prevent discrimination against rental applicants with housing
21 vouchers, those applicants are twelve percent more likely to
22 find housing; and
23

24 WHEREAS, source of income discrimination is currently
25 prohibited in sixteen states and the District of Columbia, as
26 well as numerous cities and counties throughout the United
27 States; and
28

29 WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic
30 has impacted many residents' ability to make rental payments,



S.C.R. NO. 162

1 which adds additional pressure on low-income residents who have
2 lost their jobs and income, and those who are struggling to
3 secure more affordable rental housing; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the reluctance of landlords to rent to individuals
6 that participate in housing assistance programs during the
7 ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has adversely impacted the utilization
8 of new federal resources, such as the Emergency Housing Voucher
9 Program, as well as the Emergency Rental Assistance Program; and
10

11 WHEREAS, with twenty-two thousand single mothers residing
12 in the State and ninety-two percent of single mothers in Hawaii
13 reporting having lost financial independence during the COVID-19
14 pandemic, allowing landlords to consider a rental applicant's
15 source of income or participation in housing assistance programs
16 is a proxy for discrimination against women; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the State should adopt policies and rules that
19 encourage access to housing for all people, regardless of their
20 source of income; now, therefore,
21

22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
24 House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor be
25 requested to order all executive agencies to review their
26 policies and rules and make any revisions necessary to prohibit
27 discrimination in rental transactions and advertisements for
28 rental transactions based on source of income or participation
29 in housing assistance programs; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all executive agencies are
32 requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than
33 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
34 2023, on the status of its review and any revisions of their
35 policies and rules necessary to prohibit discrimination in
36 rental transactions and advertisements for rental transactions
37 based on source of income or participation in housing assistance
38 programs; and
39
40



S.C.R. NO. 162

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor.

3
4
5

OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Ken", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.