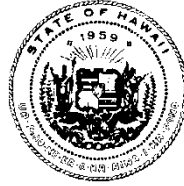


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



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IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Before the
Senate Committee on Housing
&
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

1:00 p.m., March 14, 2023
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 225

In consideration of
HB 224, HD 2
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

Honorable Chair Chang, Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the Senate Committee on Housing, and Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 224, HD2, relating to human services.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) is in **strong support** of HB 224, HD 2, which would establish an Upward Mobility Pilot Program for our public housing residents.

The HPHA's mission is to provide Hawaii's residents with adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity, and suitable living environments that are free from discrimination through both its public housing and rental assistance programs. The HPHA serves our state's most disadvantaged populations, including families earning less than thirty percent of the Area Median Income, the disabled, and the elderly.

The HPHA has found that some public housing residents lack adequate training or the work experience needed to find gainful employment. This pilot program will empower our residents,

enabling them to learn valuable work skills and earn an income to enhance their family's wellbeing. With our recent Moving to Work (MTW) designation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), we believe this general funded pilot program can lead the way for a future expansion enabled by federal funding. This approach is similar to what will be accomplished with the landlord incentives the Legislature approved last year as Act 287, SLH 2022.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committees with its testimony regarding HB 224, HD2. We thank you very much for your dedicated and continued support.

HB-224-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 2:26:04 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Empowering bill. Please support.

LATE

HB-224-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 5:48:37 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Garcia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support of HB224, HD2

The State has determined that some public housing residents lack adequate training or the work experience needed to find gainful employment in Hawaii. This pilot program will train and empower our public housing residents, giving them the job skills they need to excel in life.

By providing these essential job skills, the State will enable many residents in public housing to learn valuable work skills and earn an income to enhance their family's wellbeing. Moreover, this would likely lead to many public housing residents, eventually being able to leave public housing and purchase a house on their own.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important bill.

LATE

HB-224-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 7:38:56 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in support of HB224, HD2 - I support this measure because it establishes an upward mobility workforce development pilot program for lower-income individuals of public housing.

Many families and individuals residing in public housing may not have the means or abundant opportunity to secure sound job training. This measure will allow the public housing authority the ability to contract with outside parties to implement a first of its kind workforce development training program for public housing residence. If successful this measure could be the means of many public housing residents to secure quality employment and eventually help to get them off public assistance, which will be a great benefit to these individuals, their families, the state and the economy.

LATE

HB-224-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 8:59:19 PM
Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Sims	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB224, HD2

This bill will establish a pilot program permitting the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to contract with outside parties to implement a workforce development program. This is a key to success for many low-income families and individuals as many will now be given the opportunity to secure quality jobs skills through this upward mobility program which will allow them to excel in higher paying jobs and helping our economy move forward. Ultimately, this will reduce public welfare and equip many people in need of a quality job skill.

LATE

HB-224-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 9:16:46 PM

Testimony for HOU on 3/14/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB224, HD2

Public housing along with a workforce development program at the housing units can be an essential tool for upward mobility, ultimately giving families a strong foundation to move out of poverty.

I believe that individuals and families in public housing would benefit from the employment training program proposed under this measure that can teach the professional skills needed to maintain part-time or full-time employment.