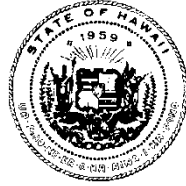


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



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HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
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IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Before the
House Committee on Finance

11:30 a.m., February 24, 2023
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 308

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

Honorable Chair Yamashita and members of the House Committee on Finance, 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 Committee with its testimony regarding HB 224, HD2. We thank you very much for your dedicated and continued support.

HB-224-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 5:25:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 11:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB224, HD2, because this measure 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.

HB-224-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 7:24:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 11:30:00 AM

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 a 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 the state and the economy.

HB-224-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 11:29:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inam Rahman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha! I am in support of HB224, 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.
respectfully**

Inam Ikeda Rahman Perreira