
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL
AUDIT OF THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY'S MAINTENANCE
CONTRACTS.

1 WHEREAS, in December 2008, federal and state class action
2 law suits were filed on behalf of residents of two of the Hawaii
3 Public Housing Authority's largest and oldest public housing
4 properties; and

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6 WHEREAS, numerous problems and safety concerns were cited
7 by residents, including but not limited to:

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9 (1) Disabled or missing fire alarms;

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11 (2) Corroded garbage chutes, which are inoperable and
12 backed up with rubbish;

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14 (3) Pest infestations;

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16 (4) Elevators in a continual state of disrepair affecting
17 the mobility of residents; and

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19 (5) Lack of compliance with the federal Americans with
20 Disabilities Act regarding accessibility for residents
21 who have mobility problems; and

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23 WHEREAS, many of these problems are long-standing and
24 extend to other facilities operated by the Hawaii Public Housing
25 Authority; and

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27 WHEREAS, the State has an obligation and duty to provide
28 public housing facilities that are properly maintained to ensure
29 the safety and well-being of facility residents; and

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31 WHEREAS, while the Hawaii Public Housing Authority has
32 embarked on a "turnaround plan" to address the backlog of repair



1 and maintenance problems at public housing facilities throughout
2 the State, just correcting current deficiencies will not
3 necessarily lead to improved ongoing maintenance; and
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5 WHEREAS, that ongoing maintenance and the larger day-to-day
6 management of every facility fall in the scope of
7 responsibilities of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority; and
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9 WHEREAS, the authority has contracted out the management of
10 its facilities to private vendors for as much as \$3 million a
11 year but the ultimate responsibility for performance on those
12 contracts rests in the hands of the Hawaii Public Housing
13 Authority; now, therefore
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
16 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
17 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is requested to
18 conduct a management and financial audit of the Hawaii Public
19 Housing Authority's maintenance contracts and the management of
20 those contracts and to investigate reports of disrepair,
21 noncompliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and
22 other concerns of residents, and that the Auditor take into
23 account the newly implemented HUD Deficiency Report Checklist
24 when reviewing Hawaii Public Housing Authority; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor prioritize the
27 audit efforts, focusing first on those contracts and facilities
28 representing such characteristics as high contract dollar value,
29 large volume of complaints, contract terms not strong enough to
30 protect the State's interests, serious lack of internal
31 controls, and any other screening approaches deemed appropriate
32 by the Auditor to scope the audit into a manageable size; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
35 report findings and recommendations to the Legislature,
36 including any necessary legislation, not later than twenty days
37 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
40 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
41 Director of Human Services, the Director of the Hawaii Public
42 Housing Authority, and the Auditor.
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