
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FAIR AND
EQUAL ACCESS TO PUBLIC HOUSING BY REMOVING PREFERENCES IN
THE APPLICATION PROCESS.

1 WHEREAS, in these recessionary times, there is less
2 revenues and resources to provide a safety net for those in need
3 of state assistance to survive; and
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5 WHEREAS, with the down turn in the economy, many residents
6 are losing their jobs and can no longer afford to pay their rent
7 or mortgage and are in greater need for public supported
8 housing; and
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10 WHEREAS, the waiting list for public housing consist of
11 14,000 families and it is taking up to six years to get into
12 public housing that could be the result of the use of these
13 preferences; and
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15 WHEREAS, people are getting smarter by getting themselves
16 registered as "homeless" to bypass the long waiting list for
17 public housing jumping in front of those who have been patiently
18 waiting for years; and
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20 WHEREAS, the inclusion of certain preferences is creating a
21 loophole for some to jump to the head of the line; and
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23 WHEREAS, native Hawaiians and other Hawaii residents who
24 may have some friends and family here and living in a house with
25 several families for many years may NOT be classified as
26 homeless; and
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28 WHEREAS, a newcomer can jump off a plane and then go
29 directly to a homeless shelter for a week to be classified as
30 "homeless" and can jump to the head of the public housing
31 waiting list; and
32



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1 WHEREAS, in theory, some preference may sound like a good
 2 idea, they are instead counterproductive and producing
 3 unintended negative outcomes instead; and
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5 WHEREAS, in certain cultures, women are expected to be
 6 subjected to domestic violence and their men have an incentive
 7 to dump them off at homeless shelters with black and blue
 8 bruises in order to bolster their chances of getting public
 9 housing quickly;
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11 WHEREAS, the 2006 audit, the Hawaii Public Housing
 12 Authority has been rated as a "troubled performance;" and
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14 WHEREAS, in the 2006 audit recommended that the Hawaii
 15 Public Housing Authority should admit tenants who are working
 16 poor who could pay the rent and refrain from accepting tenants
 17 who have criminal records and bad rental payment histories; now,
 18 therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 21 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 22 of 2009, that the Hawaii Public Housing Authority provide fair
 23 and equal access to public housing by removing preferences in
 24 the application process; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 27 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Hawaii Public
 28 Housing Authority.
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