



MARCH 15, 2010 AMENDMENT
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Public Testimony on 2010 ARRA Amendment to the 2009 PHA Plan:

Notice of public hearing on the proposed amendment to HPHA's 2009 5-Year and Annual Plan was published in newspapers of general circulation in each county, per Under 24 CFR Part 903.21 as modified by PIH Notice 2009-12(HA) issued March 18, 2009. Hearings were held in each county on March 10, 2010. No comments were received.

Original Summary for 2009 5-Year And Annual Plan:

Notice of a public hearing was published in newspapers in each county on February 24, 2009. On April 9, 2009 hearings were held on Kauai, Oahu, Maui and the Big Island. The vast majority of testimony centered on the \$25 fee for late payment of rent.

No members of the public attended the hearings on Kauai, but written testimony was submitted by 8 people, all in opposition to charging a late fee without a grace period.

No one attended or submitted testimony on Maui.

At the Big Island hearing in Kailua Kona, 9 people attended but no testimony was received. In Hilo 2 people attended and one of them gave oral testimony against the proposal to raise the minimum rent to \$50, stating it was wrong to do so without regard to income or circumstances.

On Oahu approximately 30 to 35 people attended the hearing and 25 presented oral testimony.

Late Fee on Rent

The fee for late rent was not opposed in principle, for the most part; what created opposition was that it did not expressly allow for a grace period. Most testimony made the point that the current rental agreement has a 7 day grace period, and that residents don't get their income on the first of the month. Social Security comes on the 3rd, welfare comes on the 3rd or the 5th, and paychecks are throughout the month. The majority of testimony acknowledged the duty to pay rent and the idea that a late fee is appropriate, but only with a grace period.

In all, 10 people submitted written testimony about the late fee, another 18 presented oral testimony, and 407 people signed petitions against it.



Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Annual and Five-Year Plan
Fiscal Years 2010-2014

HPHA proposes to clarify in the 2009-2014 5-Year and Annual Plan that the late fee will be assessed only if rent is not paid within the existing 7 business day grace period.

Other Plan Components

1. Designation of elderly-only housing: several people testified in support and a couple in opposition, noting that having younger people around assists the elderly and keeps them more physically and mentally active than they might otherwise be.
2. Three people expressed concern that the published draft plan did not contain the change to a \$50 minimum rent that was presented as a Plan component to the Resident Advisory Board. This was an oversight in converting the old HUD format to the new one, and has been added to the draft before the Board today.
3. Tenant Monitors: several people said that tenant monitors should be tested in more than one housing project, preferably at all locations. One said resident police officers are a bad idea.
4. Mixed-Use Redevelopment: two testifiers expressed concern that mixed-use redevelopment will drive out the poorest residents, those who need public housing the most.
5. Several people expressed concern that interim rent changes are not processed quickly, and that redeterminations take too long.
6. Two people asked that HPHA give more assistance to those wanting to start resident management corporations.
7. Two testified that home ownership programs should be established on other islands.
8. One testified that Resident Association leaders need more training.

Other Comments

A number of people presented oral testimony on matters not pertaining to the PHA Plan specifically, but similar to the public testimony received at month HPHA Board of Directors meetings. Topics included:

- oversight of property managers and HPHA;
- managers should be evaluated by the tenants
- failure to enforce pet policies consistently;
- the need for more ADA-compliant units;
- vacant units need to be fixed and rented more quickly; “the 20-day turnaround is not happening.”
- Some tenants need to be evicted more quickly
- Honolulu Police do not enforce the law
- Honolulu Police violate civil rights