

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Amendment and Compilation of Chapter 17-2031  
Hawaii Administrative Rules

SUMMARY

[DATE]

1. Chapter 17-2031, Hawaii Administrative Rules, entitled "Section 8 - Housing Choice Voucher and Project Based Voucher Program", is amended and compiled to read as follows:

"HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

TITLE 17

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

SUBTITLE 5

HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

CHAPTER 2031

SECTION 8 - HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER AND PROJECT BASED  
VOUCHER PROGRAM

## SUBCHAPTER 1 General Provisions

§17-2031-1	Purpose
§17-2031-2	Nondiscrimination
§17-2031-3	Definitions
§17-2031-4	Public notice to lower-income families
§17-2031-5	Participation by owners and others
§17-2031-6	Income limits
§17-2031-7	Assets
§17-2031-8	Subsidy and occupancy standards
§17-2031-9	Allowance for utilities and other services
§17-2031-10	Verification of information
§§17-2031-11 to 17-2031-20	(Reserved)

## SUBCHAPTER 2 Eligibility

§17-2031-21	Applications
§17-2031-22	Eligibility for admission and participation
§17-2031-23	Income targeting
§17-2031-24	Notification of eligibility
§17-2031-25	Local preferences
§17-2031-26	Waiting list
§17-2031-27	Removal from the waiting list
§17-2031-28	Closing and reopening the waiting list
§17-2031-29	Final application process - selection and certification
§17-2031-30	Exception for designated programs
<u>§17-2031-30.1</u>	<u>Special admission and exception for families with a special preference</u>
§17-2031-31	Annual income
§17-2031-32	Reexaminations
§17-2031-33	Interim rent adjustment
§17-2031-34	Continued assistance
§§17-2031-35 to 17-2031-40	(Reserved)

## SUBCHAPTER 3 Lease

§17-2031-41	Request for lease approval
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§17-2031-42 Dwelling unit inspection  
§17-2031-43 Lease requirements  
§17-2031-44 Lease approval  
§§17-2031-45 to 17-2031-50 (Reserved)

#### SUBCHAPTER 4 Housing Assistance Payments and Rent

§17-2031-51 Housing assistance payments  
§17-2031-52 Contract rents  
§17-2031-53 Total tenant payment  
§17-2031-54 Rent  
§17-2031-55 Payment standard  
§17-2031-56 Security deposits  
§17-2031-57 Ownership change  
§§17-2031-58 to 17-2031-60 (Reserved)

#### SUBCHAPTER 5 Operations

§17-2031-61 Inspections  
§17-2031-62 Overcrowded or under occupied dwelling  
units  
§17-2031-63 Portability  
§17-2031-64 Transfers  
§17-2031-65 Eviction - termination of tenancy by  
owner  
§17-2031-66 Termination of participation  
§§17-2031-67 to 17-2031-70 (Reserved)

#### SUBCHAPTER 6 Informal Reviews and Hearings

§17-2031-71 Informal review process for applicants  
§17-2031-72 Informal hearing process for  
participants  
§§17-2031-73 to 17-2031-80 (Reserved)

#### SUBCHAPTER 7 Family Self-Sufficiency Program

§17-2031-81 Family self-sufficiency program

§17-2031-82 Eligibility  
§17-2031-83 Recruitment and outreach  
§17-2031-84 Selection  
§17-2031-85 Termination or withholding of service  
§§17-2031-86 to 17-2031-90 (Reserved)

#### SUBCHAPTER 8 Project-Based Section 8 Program

§17-2031-91 Purpose  
§17-2031-92 Eligible projects  
§17-2031-93 Notification of project-based assistance  
§17-2031-94 Applications for project-based assistance; information required  
§17-2031-95 Review and screening of applications  
§17-2031-96 Selection of project applications  
§17-2031-97 Agreement to enter into housing assistance contract  
§17-2031-98 Selection of eligible tenants  
§17-2031-99 Dwelling unit cap on project-based dwelling units by building.  
§17-2031-100 Rental assistance demonstration  
§17-2031-101 Term of the RAD PBV contract  
§17-2031-102 Contract rents  
§17-2031-103 Re-determining rent to owner - rent reasonableness  
§17-2031-104 Conversion from public housing to RAD PBV  
§17-2031-105 Phase-in of tenant rent increases  
§17-2031-106 Termination notification requirements  
§17-2031-107 Grievance process  
§17-2031-108 Establishment of waiting list  
§17-2031-109 Resident participation and funding  
§17-2031-110 Voucher inventory cap

#### SUBCHAPTER 9 Miscellaneous Provisions

§17-2031-201 Severability  
§17-2031-202 Number

Historical Note: Chapter 2031 of Title 17, Hawaii Administrative Rules, is substantially based upon Chapter 17-511, Hawaii Administrative Rules [Eff 2/18/82; am 10/31/88; R 12/3/01]; and Chapter 15-185, Hawaii Administrative Rules. [Eff 12/3/01;  
R ]

SUBCHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

**§17-2031-1 Purpose.** These rules are adopted under chapter 91, HRS, and shall govern the implementation of the management requirements of the tenant based housing choice voucher program and the project based voucher program authorized by the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, the Quality Housing Work Responsibility Act (QHWRA) of 1998, and the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA) and establish the role and responsibility of the participants and the Hawaii public housing authority. These rules set forth some of the authority's administrative plan that a public housing agency is required to adopt pursuant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban development section 8 program regulations in 24 C.F.R. Chapter IX Part 982 ("Administrative Plan") as it existed on October 20, 2022. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; C.F.R. §982.54)

**§17-2031-2 Nondiscrimination.** (a) The authority shall not deny any family or individual the opportunity to apply for or receive assistance under this chapter on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, marital status, creed, national or ethnic origin, age, familial status, handicap or disability or HIV infection.

The authority shall comply with federal and state nondiscrimination laws and with rules and regulations governing fair housing and equal opportunity in the administration of the program.

The authority shall provide a family with the United States Department of Housing and Urban

Development discrimination complaint form and information on how to file a fair housing complaint if the family claims that discrimination prevented them from finding or leasing a suitable dwelling unit under the program. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ]  
(Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-7; 24 C.F.R. §§982.53, 982.304)

**§17-2031-3 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

"Adjusted income" means "annual income" of the members of the family residing or intending to reside in the dwelling unit minus any HUD allowable expenses and deductions as defined in 24 C.F.R. §5.611, as it existed on October 20, 2022, which is incorporated by reference and attached as exhibit A.

"Annual income" means the gross amount of income anticipated to be received by the family during the twelve months after certification or recertification. Gross income is the amount of income prior to any HUD allowable expenses or deductions and does not include income which has been excluded by HUD, as defined in 24 C.F.R. §5.609, as it existed on October 20, 2022.

"Applicant" means an individual or family that submits an application for admission to the program but is not yet a participant in the program.

"Assets" or "net family assets" means net cash value after deducting reasonable costs that would be incurred in disposing of real property, savings, stocks, bonds, and other forms of capital investment as defined in 24 C.F.R. §5.603, as it existed on October 20, 2022.

"Authority" means the Hawaii public housing authority.

"Board" means the board of directors of the Hawaii public housing authority.

"C.F.R. " means the United States Code of Federal Regulations.

"Child" means a person who is born alive and is less than eighteen years of age.

"Community wide" means inclusive of any location that is under the jurisdiction of the authority.

"Continuously assisted" means that the applicant is currently receiving assistance under any program of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, as amended, and there is no break in assistance to the family.

"Contract rent" means the total rent payable to the owner of a dwelling unit through a housing assistance payments contract.

"Covered families" means families who receive welfare assistance or other public assistance benefits ("welfare benefits") from a State or other public agency ("welfare agency") under a program for which federal, State, or local law requires that a member of the family must participate in an economic self-sufficiency program as a condition for such assistance.

"Criminal activity" means any conduct that is prohibited by any criminal laws, whether federal, state or county, regardless of whether there has been an arrest or conviction and without satisfying the standard of proof for a criminal conviction.

"Disability" means having a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, having a record of such an impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment, including persons who have human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or AIDs. The term does not include current illegal use or addition to a controlled substance or alcohol or drug abuse that threatens the property or safety of others. Disabled individual or family includes:

- (1) A single individual who or a family whose head or spouse is unable to engage in any substantial, gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in indefinite duration; or
- (2) A single individual who or a family whose head or spouse has a physical impairment which is expected to be of long, continued and indefinite duration and which

substantially impedes the ability to live independently, and which is of a nature that the ability could be improved by suitable housing conditions.

"Disabled family" means a family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person with disabilities; or two or more persons with disabilities living together; or one or more persons with disabilities living with one or more live-in aides.

"Domestic violence" means the actual or threatened physical violence directed against a family member by a spouse or other household member who lives in the dwelling unit with the family.

"Domiciled" means physically residing in the dwelling unit with intent to remain.

"Drug" means a controlled substance as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. §802) as it existed on October 20, 2022.

"Drug related criminal activity" means the manufacture, sale, distribution, use or possession with intent to manufacture, sell, distribute or use a controlled substance as defined in 21 U.S.C. 802, as it existed on October 20, 2022, and which activity is conducted on or near the premises of the assisted dwelling unit.

"Dwelling unit" means a residential unit accepted for lease in the program.

"Economic self-sufficiency program" means any program designed to encourage, assist, train, or facilitate the economic independence of HUD-assisted families or to provide work for such families.

"Elderly" or "elderly family" means a family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least sixty-two years of age; or two or more persons who are at least sixty-two years of age living together; or one or more persons who are at least sixty-two years of age living with one or more live-in aides.

"Eligible family" means a family that meets the qualifications and requirements of the program.

"Executive director" means the executive director of the authority or the executive director's designated representative.

"Extremely low income family" means a family whose annual income does not exceed thirty per cent of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD, with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than thirty per cent of the median income for the area [~~may be established~~ if] if HUD finds that such variations are necessary because of unusually high or low family incomes.

"Fair market rent" or "FMR" means the rent including the cost of utilities (except telephone or cable television), as established by HUD for dwelling units of varying sizes (by number of bedrooms), that must be paid in the housing market area to rent privately owned, existing, decent, safe and sanitary rental housing of modest (non-luxury) nature with suitable amenities.

"Family" means regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status:

- (1) Two or more persons who live or intend to live together and whose income and resources are available to meet the family's needs and who may be related by blood, marriage, or operation of law and whose head of family has reached the age of majority. A child who is temporarily away from the home because of placement in foster care is considered a member of the family. Family may include foster children and hanai children or a child who is domiciled with, and for whom an adult member of the current household is caring for with written or unwritten permission from the legal parent or other person having legal custody, or child domiciled with, and for whom an adult member of the current household is in the process of securing custody;
- (2) An elderly family;

- (3) A disabled family;
- (4) A displaced family;
- (5) The remaining member of a tenant family who is recorded as an authorized occupant on the current list of household members and who has reached the age of majority; or
- (6) A single person who is not an elderly or displaced person, or a person with disabilities, or the remaining member of a tenant family.

"Family self sufficiency program" or "FSS program" means the program establish by the authority in accordance with 24 C.F.R. Part 984 to promote self-sufficiency of assisted families, including the coordination of supportive services.

"Foster child" or " Foster children" means a person or persons under eighteen years of age who is or are provided foster care by a foster parent pursuant to Chapter 587A, HRS.

"Foster parent" means any adult person licensed by the department of human services or another authorized agency to provide foster care services for a child or children under Chapter 587A, HRS.

"Gender identity or expression" includes a person's actual or perceived gender, as well as a person's gender identity, gender-related self-image, gender-related appearance, or gender-related expression, regardless of whether that gender identity, gender-related self-image, gender-related appearance, or gender-related expression is different from that traditionally associated with the person's sex at birth.

"Gross rent" means the contract rent plus allowances for utilities and other services.

"Hanai child" or "Hanai children" means a child who is taken permanently to reside, be educated, and reared by someone other than the natural parents, traditionally a grandparent or other relative, with the written or unwritten permission of the natural parents.

"HAP" means the monthly housing assistance payment by the authority as defined in 24 C.F.R.

\$982.4, as it existed on October 20, 2022, which includes:

- (1) A payment to the owner for rent under the family's lease and
- (2) Any additional payment to the family if the total assistance payment exceeds the rent to the owner.

"HAP contract" means housing assistance payments contract.

"HCV" means Housing Choice Voucher

"Household" means the family and the authority-approved live-in aide.

"HRS" means Hawaii Revised Statutes.

"Housing quality standards" means the HUD minimum quality standards for housing assisted under the tenant-based programs.

"HUD" means the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"Imputed welfare income" means the amount of annual income not actually received by a family, as a result of a specified welfare benefit reduction, that is nonetheless included in the family's annual income for purposes of determining rent.

"Involuntarily displaced" means an applicant who has vacated or may have to vacate the dwelling unit where the applicant lives because of one or more of the following:

- (1) Displacement by disaster;
- (2) Displacement by governmental action; or
- (3) Displacement by action of housing owner for reasons beyond the applicant's control and despite the applicant meeting all previously imposed conditions of occupancy. The action taken by the owner is for reasons other than rent increase.

"Landlord" means either the owner of the property or his or her representative or the managing agent or his or her representative, as shall be designated by the owner.

"Live-in aide" means a person who resides with one or more elderly persons, or near elderly persons, or persons with disabilities, and who:

- (1) Is eighteen years of age or older;
- (2) Is determined by the authority to be essential to the care and well-being of the elder or elderly family member or the family member with disabilities;
- (3) Is not obligated for the support of the elder or the elderly family member or family member with disabilities;
- (4) Would not be living in the dwelling unit except to provide the necessary support services;
- (5) Is not a tenant; and
- (6) Notwithstanding any other rule, has no rights of tenancy, continued occupancy of dwelling unit, and is not a remaining member of the household and shall cease to be an occupant therein upon the recovery of the dwelling unit by the authority, or removal from the project of the elder or elderly family member or a family member with disabilities who required the live-in aide.

"Near elderly" means a family whose head, spouse, or solo member is at least fifty years of age but below the age of sixty two.

"Owner" means any persons or entity having the legal right to lease or sublease a residential dwelling unit to a participant and includes, when applicable, a mortgagee.

"Participant" or "tenant" means a person or family that is receiving rental assistance in the program. Participation begins on the first day of the approved lease term.

"Payment standard" means the maximum monthly assistance payment for a family assisted in the voucher program before deducting the total tenant payment by the family.

"PBRA" means Project-Based Rental Assistance.

"PBV" means Project-Based Voucher.

"Portability" means the right to receive Section 8 tenant-based assistance outside of the jurisdiction of the initial public housing agency.

"Program" means the tenant-based Section 8 rental and voucher programs.

"RAD" means Rental Assistance Demonstration.

"Resident" for the purpose of conducting eligibility means a United States citizen or national or an eligible immigrant under one of the categories set forth in 42 U.S.C. §1436a(a), as it existed on October 20, 2022, also known as "noncitizen", who is able to demonstrate his or her intent to reside in Hawaii. Under one of these categories, one eligible immigrant is an alien who is a lawful resident in the United States and its territories and possessions under section 141 of the Compacts of the Free Association between the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federal States of Micronesia (48 U.S.C. 1901 note), and the Republic of Palau (48 U.S.C. 931 note) while the applicable section is in effect, also known as "COFA" resident. Intent to reside in Hawaii may be demonstrated by the following: length of time spent in Hawaii; leasing or renting of a home in Hawaii; filing of personal Hawaii income tax returns; registering to vote in Hawaii; Hawaii driver's license; record of Hawaii motor vehicle registration; notification of hire to work in Hawaii; record of employment in Hawaii; military records substantiating Hawaii residency; record of Hawaii residency; enrollment of minor children in Hawaii schools; establishment of bank accounts and other accounts in Hawaii; written reference from Hawaii residents, relatives, or social agencies; and any other indicia which could substantiate a claim of an intent to reside in Hawaii.

"Security deposit" means the deposit required by an owner from a participant as defined in the Residential Landlord-Tenant Code, §521-44, HRS, as it existed on October 20, 2022.

"Sexual orientation" means having a preference for heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality, having a history of any one or more of the preferences, or being identified with any one of more of these preferences, "sexual orientation" shall not

be construed to protect conduct otherwise proscribed by law.

"Utility allowance" means the value of utilities such as electricity, gas, and water costs that are included in the gross rent of the participant. This does not include telephone or cable TV services.

"Veteran" means a person who has served in the active military or naval service of the United States at any time and who shall have been discharged or released from active service under conditions other than dishonorable.

"Violent criminal activity" means any criminal activity that has as one of its elements the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force substantial enough to cause, or be reasonably likely to cause, serious bodily injury or property damage.

"Voucher" means a document issued by the authority to a family selected for admission to a voucher program.

"Voucher holder" means an applicant who has a valid voucher but not an approved lease.

[Eff 12/31/22; am and comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 982)

**§17-2031-4 Public notice to lower-income families.** The authority shall inform the public of the availability and nature of housing assistance for families within allowed income limits through publications of general circulation and shall ensure wide and appropriate coverage. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §982.206)

**§17-2031-5 Participation by owners and others.** The authority shall invite eligible owners, including owners of suitable dwelling units located outside of poverty or racially concentrated areas, to make

dwelling units available for leasing by eligible families and to expand opportunities for disabled persons. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §§ 982.1, 982.54, 982.306)

**§17-2031-6 Income limits.** (a) Income limits for a family's participation in the program shall be the same income limits established by HUD for its section 8 tenant-based housing choice voucher program, which are incorporated by reference and attached as exhibit C.

(b) Applicable income limits as provided in subsection (a) shall be published once per year in a publication with wide circulation, be posted at all times in a conspicuous place at the authority's offices that accept applications, on the authority's website, and printed in the [corporation's] authority's informational materials on eligibility for the programs. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §982.201)

**§17-2031-7 Assets.** All assets held by each member of an eligible family shall be used to determine annual income. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §5.609)

**§17-2031-8 Subsidy and occupancy standards.** (a) The authority shall establish subsidy standards that shall provide for a minimum commitment of subsidy while avoiding overcrowding. The subsidy standards are incorporated by reference and attached as exhibit D.

(b) The standards determine the number of bedrooms to be entered on the voucher and not a family's actual living arrangement.

(c) The authority's occupancy standards follow the occupancy codes of the County in which the dwelling unit is located. The occupancy standards are incorporated by reference and attached as exhibit E. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-31; 24 C.F.R. §§982.54(d)(9), 982.401, 982.402)

**§17-2031-9 Allowance for utilities and other services.** (a) The authority shall maintain a utility allowance schedule for utilities and other services that shall be coordinated with the allowance schedules of the respective counties. The utility allowance schedules are incorporated by reference and attached as exhibit F.

(b) On request from a family that includes a person with disabilities, the authority shall approve a utility allowance which is higher than the applicable amount in the utility allowance schedule if a higher utility allowance is needed as a reasonable accommodation in accordance with 24 C.F.R. part 8, as it existed on October 20, 2022, to make the program accessible to and usable by the family member with a disability.

(c) A participant shall receive a utility reimbursement when the utility allowance exceeds the total tenant payment. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §982.517)

**§17-2031-10 Verification of information.** (a) The authority shall require an applicant or participant to provide documentation verifying information provided by the family relating to the program.

(b) An applicant or participant who fails to provide documentation to verify information requested by staff shall be ineligible for participation in the program.

(c) Verification documents shall be valid for the following lengths of time:

- (1) For applicants, sixty days before the voucher is issued to the applicant.
- (2) For participants, one hundred twenty days from the date received by the authority.  
[Eff 12/31/22; comp \_\_\_\_\_ ] (Auth:  
HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R.  
S§982.201, 982.551; 982.552; 982.553)

## SUBCHAPTER 2

### ELIGIBILITY

**§17-2031-21 Applications.** (a) A family seeking to participate in the program shall submit a completed pre-application form prepared by the authority. The applicant is permitted to file a pre-application on the authority's application portal, or through reasonable accommodation in person, by mail, or at any of the authority's section 8 applications offices for any and all waiting list areas prescribed in section 17-2031-26.

(b) The initial pre-application review shall not require an interview. Only applicants who are determined eligible in the initial review shall be placed on the waiting list. A final eligibility review shall be conducted when the applicant reaches the top of the waiting list.

(c) An applicant who has misrepresented material information in a pre-application, application, or other inquiry for any of the authority's programs shall not be eligible to file an application with the authority for twelve months from the date of written notification from the authority. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §§982.201, 982.202)

**§17-2031-22 Eligibility for admission and participation.** (a) To be eligible for participation in the program, an applicant and family members shall meet all of the requirements of the pre-application and final-application phases as set forth below:

- (1) During the pre-application phase, the applicant and adult family members shall:
  - (A) Qualify as a family;

- (B) Be income eligible as determined under section 17-2031-6;
- (C) Not have an outstanding debt owed to the authority as a participant in any of its programs;
- (D) Not have an outstanding liability for unpaid rent or damages incurred while previously participating in any section 8 rental subsidy program;
- (E) Provide a social security number for all family members who are at least six years of age or under the age of six and has an assigned social security number. If a family member is under the age of six and has not been assigned a social security number, the applicant or participant shall provide for each new child within ninety calendar days of being added to the household, a valid social security number issued by the social security administration, or an original document issued by a federal or state government agency, which contains the name of the individual and the social security number, along with other identifying information of the individual;
- (F) Not have been evicted since March 1, 1985 from a public housing program administered by the authority or any of its predecessors, the housing and community development corporation of Hawaii or Hawaii housing authority with the exception of evictions solely due to failure to pay a debt to the authority, in which case, the applicant can be admitted upon payment in full of the unpaid amounts due to the agency;
- (G) Not have been terminated for assistance under the program;
- (H) Not have committed fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in

connection with any federal housing program;

- (I) Within one year of the projected date of voucher award, not have been engaged in any drug-related or violent criminal activity or other criminal activity which would adversely affect the health, safety, right of peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents, the owner, or authority employees;
- (J) Not be illegally using a controlled substance or give the authority a reasonable cause to believe that the illegal use (or pattern of illegal use) of a controlled substance or abuse of alcohol (or pattern of abuse) may interfere with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of a rental premises by other residents;
  - (i) For the purposes of this subsection, "reasonable cause to believe" means by a preponderance of the evidence;
  - (ii) For the purposes of this subsection, in determining whether to deny eligibility based on a pattern of illegal use of a controlled substance or a pattern of abuse of alcohol, the authority may consider rehabilitation as provided for under 42 U.S.C. §13661(b)(2)(A)-(C), as it existed on October 20, 2022, which is incorporated by reference and attached as exhibit G;
- (K) Not be engaged in any drug-related criminal activity or violent criminal activity which would adversely affect the health, safety, right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other

- residents, the owner, or authority employees;
- (L) Not have been convicted of the manufacture, production, or distribution of methamphetamines; and
  - (M) Not subject to lifetime registration requirements under any State sex offender's registration program.
- (2) During the final application phase the applicant and all adult household members shall meet the requirements set forth in subsection 17-2031-22(a)(1), as well as the following requirements:
- (A) Not have engaged in or threatened abusive or violent behavior toward the authority's personnel. For purposes of this subsection, "threatened" means an oral or written threat or physical gestures that communicate an intent to abuse or commit violence. Abusive or violent behavior may be verbal or physical and include use of expletives that are generally considered insulting, racial epithets, or other language, written or oral, that is customarily used to insult or intimidate; and
  - (B) Furnish evidence of citizenship or eligible immigrant status as provided for in 24 C.F.R. §5.508, as it existed on October 20, 2022, which is incorporated by reference and attached as exhibit H.

(b) An applicant who is continuously assisted under the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 shall be admitted to the program as though the applicant was already a program participant.

(c) A participant shall not receive a voucher at the same time as other rent supplement or housing benefits including state rent supplement payments authorized under section 356D-151, HRS.

(d) Before the authority denies or terminates assistance on the basis of a criminal record, the authority shall provide the applicant or participant with a copy of the criminal record and an opportunity to dispute the accuracy and relevance of that record pursuant to section 17-2031-71 or 17-2031-72.

[Eff 12/31/22; comp \_\_\_\_\_ ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §§5.216, 982.201, 982.202, 982.307, 982.551, 982.552, 982.553)

**§17-2031-23 Income targeting.** At least seventy five per cent of families admitted to the program during the fiscal year from the waiting list shall be extremely low income families. [Eff 12/31/22; comp \_\_\_\_\_ ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §982.201)

**§17-2031-24 Notification of eligibility.** (a) An applicant shall be mailed or sent a written or electronic notification after an eligibility determination is made. The notification shall specifically state the reasons for the determination.

(b) An eligible applicant shall be placed on the waiting list.

(c) An applicant determined to be ineligible for admission or participation in the program shall be accorded an opportunity to request for an informal review as set forth in section 17-2031-71. [Eff 12/31/22; comp \_\_\_\_\_ ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §§982.201, 982.204, 982.554)

**§17-2031-25 Local preferences.** (a) ~~[Eligible applicants shall be given preference for certification in the program if, at the time they are seeking housing assistance, they fall within the following~~

preference categories] A local preference which gives priority to certain families in the placement and ordering of the housing choice voucher waiting list shall be given to an applicant if:

- (1) ~~[The following preferences shall be given first priority but have equal weight within this group:]~~ At any time within the twelve months preceding the application date an applicant experienced homelessness.
  - ~~[(A) Involuntarily displaced, including public housing families subject to relocation due to modernization activity, or based on an emergency where conditions of the public housing dwelling unit, building, or project pose an immediate, verifiable threat to life, health or safety of the family, and the family cannot be relocated to another public housing dwelling unit in the same program, meeting their needs;~~
  - ~~(B) Victims of domestic violence, including public housing tenants that are victims of stalking, or reprisals, or hate crimes, and cannot be safely transferred to another public housing dwelling unit in the same program; or~~
  - ~~(C) Homeless; or~~
  - ~~(D) Public housing families that exceed the largest public housing dwelling unit size on the island where they reside; or Public housing tenants who are approved for a reasonable accommodation for a dwelling unit with special features and have not been offered a dwelling unit in the public housing program that meets the family's needs and have waited over one year.~~
- ~~(2) The following preferences shall be given second priority but have equal weight within this group:~~
  - ~~(A) Living in substandard housing; or~~

~~(B) Paying more than fifty per cent of annual income for rent.~~

~~(3) The following are other preferences that have equal weight:~~

~~(A) Working families and those unable to work because of age or disability;~~

~~(B) Veterans and veterans' surviving spouse;~~

~~(C) Residents who live or work in the jurisdiction (by county); or~~

~~(D) Victims of reprisals or hate crimes.]~~

(b) ~~[Each preference in each priority group is of equal weight and an]~~ An applicant who qualifies for ~~[any of the preferences]~~ a local preference shall receive assistance before any other applicant who is not so qualified regardless of:

- (1) Place on the waiting list;
- (2) Date or time of submission of an application; or
- (3) Lottery position.

(c) An applicant shall not receive preference if any adult member of the applicant family is a person who was evicted or terminated from any housing program operated by the authority during the past three years because of drug-related criminal activities unless the adult member has successfully completed a rehabilitation program approved by the authority.

[Eff 12/31/22; am and comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §982.203, 982.207)

**§17-2031-26 Waiting list.** (a) The authority shall maintain a separate waiting list for each of its housing choice voucher or project-based voucher programs.

- (b) Placement on the waiting list may be by:
- (1) Date and time; or
  - (2) Random lottery selection, so long as all adopted preferences are considered.

(c) Applicants shall be notified of the opportunity to apply for vouchers and of the procedure to be used to be placed on the waiting lists through notices posted in a conspicuous place at the authority's offices that accept section 8 applications, the authority's website, and in a printed statement in the authority's information material on its application process.

(d) The notice to open the waiting list shall include information on what procedure shall be used to place applicants on the waiting list, how to apply, the date and time of the lottery selection and the number of applicants that will be selected by the lottery, if applicable.

(e) The authority may accept applications from applicants with and without a preference, or solely based on preference, which will be specified in the notice of opening of the wait list.

(f) Applicants who are selected for placement on the waiting list shall be notified in writing, through mail or electronic communication, of their selection on the waiting list approximately ten business days after the waiting list has closed.

(g) Selection of applicants from the waiting list shall be based upon:

- (1) A randomly assigned number based on the number of applicants that were selected by the lottery; or
- (2) Date and time of the application; and
- (3) Applicable local preference.

(h) An applicant must notify the authority, at least annually, of any change that may affect the applicant's place on the waiting list and the authority's ability to contact applicant. Changes include, but are not limited to, familial status, financial status, mailing address and current residence.

(i) An applicant may continue to be on the waiting list even though the applicant is a tenant in or receiving housing assistance from another housing program.

(j) Applications for the housing choice voucher program will be active for eighteen months from the date of placement on the waiting list and then will expire. Applicants on the waitlist at eighteen months will receive a letter informing them that their application has expired within ten business days.

(k) When the authority opens the waiting list for applicants and limits applications to those with local preferences, any applicant who is unable to verify their preference within ten business days shall be removed from the waiting list.

(l) Applicants who were either not selected to participate in the lottery, or whose application has expired, will not qualify for an informal hearing. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §982.204, 982.205, 982.206)

**§17-2031-27 Removal from the waiting list.** An applicant shall be removed from the waiting list for any one of the following reasons:

- (1) The applicant requests that applicant's name be removed;
- (2) The applicant fails to notify the authority of applicant's continued interest for housing at least once every twelve months;
- (3) The applicant no longer meets the eligibility criteria set forth in section 17-2031-22;
- (4) The applicant fails to respond to the authority's reasonable contact efforts. Two written or electronic notices to the last known address shall constitute reasonable effort to contact;
- (5) The applicant fails without good cause to keep a scheduled interview or to provide requested information necessary to determine eligibility;
- (6) The applicant refuses a voucher for housing assistance; or

- (7) The applicant misrepresents any material information to the authority on the application or otherwise. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §982.204)

**§17-2031-28 Closing and reopening the waiting list.** (a) The authority may suspend the acceptance of applications and close the waiting list, in whole or in part, when it is determined that there are enough applicants on the waiting list to fill anticipated openings for the next twenty-four months.

(b) The authority may publicly announce any closure and reopening of the application taking process pursuant to section 17-2031-4. If the list is opened for only a limited time, the opening announcement shall include the closing date and not require further notice. Publicly announce may include, but is not limited to, publishing notices in a newspaper of general circulation and minority newspapers or notifying social service organizations.

(c) During periods when the waiting list is closed, the authority is not required to maintain a list of persons to be notified when application taking is reopened. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §982.206)

**§17-2031-29 Final application process - selection and certification.** (a) Selection for certification shall be from the established waiting list and shall be based on:

- (1) Applicable local preferences; and
- (2) Lottery placement; or
- (3) Date and time of receipt of application.

(b) The authority shall contact applicants selected off the waiting list in writing through mail, electronic or other virtual written communication.

(c) Completed applications will be processed as they are returned on a first come, first served basis.

(d) Following initial contact with an applicant from the waiting list, housing assistance will be offered to applicants in the order in which they completed the application process.

(e) Applicants shall be provided with a briefing packet containing all required materials and shall be informed of their responsibilities prior to acceptance of a voucher. A voucher shall not be issued unless the applicant or an authorized representative attends a briefing and signs the voucher.

(d) A voucher holder shall be responsible for finding a qualified dwelling unit of appropriate size prior to the expiration of the voucher.

(e) A voucher shall expire at the end of sixty days from issuance unless within that timeframe, the family submits a request for lease approval, in which case the sixty day time limit shall be suspended while the authority determines whether to approve the lease.

(f) An applicant may request an extension to the initial sixty day time period if the voucher is about to expire. The request for extension shall be in writing and be received by the authority or postmarked no later than the last day of the voucher term. The extension request shall include an explanation for the request and a progress report on efforts made to locate a suitable dwelling unit.

(g) An applicant may request an extension beyond one hundred twenty days provided there are verifiable circumstances beyond the applicant's control that hinder the applicant from locating a suitable dwelling unit. The request for extension shall be in writing and be received by the authority or postmarked no later than the last day of the voucher term. The extension request shall include an explanation for the request and a progress report on efforts made to locate a suitable dwelling unit. If an extension is granted, the authority shall recertify the applicant's eligibility and income.

(h) Upon request from a prospective landlord, the authority may furnish the current address and the

name and address of any current or prior landlord of the voucher holder as shown in the authority's records. Also upon request from the prospective landlord, the authority may furnish other information about the tenancy history of family members, or about drug trafficking by family members, provided that there has been a criminal conviction. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §§ 982.204, 982.301, 982.302, 982.303, 982.305, 982.306, 982.307)

**§17-2031-30 Special admission and exception for designated programs.**

(a) The authority may admit families not on the established waiting list, or without considering the family's waiting list position, that are targeted for specific funding awards from HUD, including, but not limited to:

- (1) A family displaced because of modernization, demolition or disposition of a public or Indian housing project;
- (2) A family residing in a multifamily rental housing project when HUD sells, forecloses or demolishes the project;
- (3) Housing covered by the Low Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990;
- (4) A family residing in a project covered by a section 8 project-based housing assistance payment contract at or near the end of the housing assistance payment contract term; or
- (5) A non-purchasing family residing in a HOPE 1 or HOPE 2 project; or
- (6) A family that resides or will reside in a dwelling unit covered by a project-based section 8 housing assistance payment contract.

(b) The authority shall admit families on the established waiting list who qualify for special funding awards from HUD including, but not limited to:

- (1) The Mainstream Housing Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities program and
- (2) The Welfare-to-Work or similar self-sufficiency programs.
- (c) This section shall also apply to a family displaced because of demolition or disposition of an authority owned housing project that is not federally assisted.
- (d) A family may be admitted under this section without qualifying for any preferences, or without being on the program waiting list.
- (e) The authority shall maintain records showing the family was admitted through HUD-targeted assistance. [Eff 12/31/22; comp \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
(Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §982.203)

**§17-2031-30.1 Special admission and exception for families with a special preference.** (a) Subject to the availability of funding, the authority may admit families with a special preference into the program without consideration of the status of the housing choice voucher waiting list. A special preference shall be given to:

- (1) A federal public housing family that is involuntarily displaced for reasons such as:
  - (A) Relocation due to modernization activity; or
  - (B) An emergency where the conditions of a public housing dwelling unit, building, or project pose an immediate, verifiable threat to the life, health, or safety of the family, and the family cannot be relocated to another public housing dwelling unit in the same program that meets their needs;
- (2) A federal public housing family that is approved for a transfer as a reasonable accommodation to a dwelling unit with special accessibility features, but the

authority does not have an appropriate dwelling unit within its inventory that meets the family's needs, and the family has waited over one year;

- (3) A federal public housing family that includes a member who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, reprisal, or a hate crime and who cannot be transferred safely to another public housing dwelling unit;
- (4) A federal public housing family that is under-housed, and the authority does not have an appropriately sized public housing dwelling unit available or within its inventory; or
- (5) A family that was previously issued a special purpose voucher and experienced a loss of rental assistance because of:
  - (i) Insufficient funding; or
  - (ii) The eligible family member exceeded the maximum allowable age under the applicable special purpose voucher.

(b) The authority shall ensure that a family admitted to the program through a special preference meets the eligibility requirements set forth in section 17-2031-22 before issuing a housing choice voucher. [Eff and comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: 24 C.F.R. 982.206, 982.207, HRS §356D-13)

**§17-2031-31 Annual income.** The authority shall determine each applicant's and participant's annual income pursuant to 24 C.F.R. §5.609, as it existed on October 20, 2022, which is incorporated by reference and attached as exhibit B. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. § 5.609)

**§17-2031-32 Reexaminations.** (a) At least once every [~~twelve~~] twenty-four months, the authority may reexamine a participant family's income, composition, and any other matter necessary to determine the [~~participant's~~] participant family's rent contribution and eligibility for continued housing assistance.

(b) If at the time of admission or reexamination, a family's income cannot be reasonably anticipated for the next twelve-month period, the authority may schedule a special reexamination at any time prior to the next [~~annual~~] biennial reexamination when deemed necessary.

(c) The participant family and owner shall be notified in writing by the authority of the results of any reexamination within a reasonable time. [Eff 12/31/22; am and comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R §982.516)

**§17-2031-33 Interim rent adjustment.** (a) The authority may adjust a participant's rent between reexaminations if a participant reports a change in income.

(b) Adjustments reflecting a lower rent shall be made effective on the first day of the month following the month the report was made. A participant who has obtained a decrease in rent under this section, shall report all income increases which occur prior to the next reexamination and rent may be readjusted accordingly.

(c) A rent adjustment shall be made between reexaminations when a participant's income increases as a result of the inclusion of additional persons with income to the family, and such adjustment shall be made effective on the first day of the second month following the inclusion.

(d) The participant and owner shall be notified in writing by the authority of the results of any reexamination within a reasonable time. [Eff

12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13)  
(Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §982.516)

**§17-2031-34 Continued assistance.** (a) When one family splits into two eligible families, both families wish to continue assistance, and there is no court order, the authority shall decide to continue assistance to one family instead of the other if that family:

- (1) Retains the children or includes any disabled or elderly members. Children subject to a joint custody agreement but live with one parent for a cumulative period of at least one hundred eighty three days of the year shall be considered a member of that household;
- (2) Includes the family member that applied as head of household;
- (3) Excludes the responsible party for domestic violence which caused the split of the family;
- (4) Is subject to other factors specified by the authority; or
- (5) Is recommended by social service agencies or qualified professionals to retain assistance. [Eff 12/31/22;  
comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13)  
(Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §982.315)

## SUBCHAPTER 3

### LEASE

**§17-2031-41 Request for lease approval.** Upon finding a dwelling unit that an owner is willing to lease, the family shall submit a request to have the lease approved by the authority. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §982.305)

**§17-2031-42 Dwelling unit inspection.** (a) Prior to approving a lease, the authority shall inspect the dwelling unit within a reasonable time after receipt of the owner's inspection request.

(b) Dwelling units approved for lease in the program shall meet minimum housing quality standards.

(c) Inspections will occur every other year, except in circumstances where the authority may determine a need for an annual inspection. Situations may include, but not be limited to:

- (1) If a dwelling unit does not pass an initial or annual inspection the first time;
- (2) The dwelling unit fails a quality control inspection; or
- (3) The participant or landlord requests a special inspection between the scheduled inspection. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §§982.305, 982.401)

**§17-2031-43 Lease requirements.** (a) The authority shall review the lease, particularly noting compliance with HUD regulations and state and local

law. The participant also must have legal capacity to enter a lease under state and local law.

(b) The family and owner must submit a standard form lease used in the locality and that is generally used for other unassisted tenants in the premises by the owner. The terms and conditions of the lease must be consistent with state and local law. The lease must specify what utilities and appliances are to be supplied by the owner, and what utilities and appliances are to be supplied by the family. The HUD prescribed tenancy addendum must be included in the lease word-for-word before the lease is executed. The HUD tenancy addendum is incorporated by reference and attached as exhibit I. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §982.308)

**§17-2031-44 Lease approval.** (a) If the authority determines that a dwelling unit is suitable for the program and the lease meets the requirements of the program, the owner and family shall be notified, and a contract executed.

(b) The initial lease shall be for at least one year.

(c) If the authority determines that a lease cannot be approved for any reason, the owner and family shall be notified in writing. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §§982.308, 982.309)

SUBCHAPTER 4

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS AND RENT

**§17-2031-51 Housing assistance payments.** The authority shall make housing assistance payments to the owner on behalf of an eligible family. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §982.311)

**§17-2031-52 Contract rents.** (a) The contract rent for a dwelling unit in the program shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. The approved rent shall be reasonable in comparison to rent for other comparable unassisted dwelling units in the housing market.

(b) Contract rents may be adjusted at each annual anniversary date of the HAP contract at the request of the owner. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §982.507)

**§17-2031-53 Total tenant payment.** (a) The authority shall compute the total tenant payment.

(b) There shall be an established minimum rent of \$50.00 per month. Exception to the application of the minimum monthly rental amount shall apply if the family is unable to pay because of financial hardship which is determined pursuant to 24 C.F.R. §5.630, as it existed on October 20, 2022, and includes the following situations:

- (1) The family has lost eligibility or is awaiting an eligibility determination for federal, state, or local assistance;



that is higher or lower than the basic range subject to HUD approval or waiver.

(b) The authority may approve a higher payment standard within the basic range to reasonably accommodate a family that includes a person with disabilities which may be subject to HUD approval. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §982.503)

**§17-2031-56 Security deposits.** (a) The participant shall be responsible for the payment of a security and utility deposit as directed by their lease.

(b) The authority shall not be responsible for the payment of security and utility deposits. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §§356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §982.313)

**§17-2031-57 Ownership change.** (a) A change in ownership of a dwelling unit under a HAP contract does not require execution of a new contract or lease. The authority may approve the assignment of the HAP contract at the previous owner's request.

(b) The owner who is selling the dwelling unit shall provide written notice to the authority at least thirty days prior to the sale closing.

(c) The new owner shall provide documents to verify the sale and other information requested by the authority.

(d) Housing assistance payments to the owner who is selling the dwelling unit shall be suspended effective the first of the month following the receipt of the notification of the sale of the dwelling unit and when the assignment of the HAP contract to the new owner is approved by the authority. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §§982.305, 982.306)

SUBCHAPTER 5

OPERATIONS

**§17-2031-61 Inspections.** (a) The authority shall annually inspect each dwelling unit leased to a participant of the program utilizing inspection standards required by HUD.

(b) The authority may conduct special inspections upon written notification by the participant or owner that the dwelling unit does not meet housing quality standards or based on information from third parties such as neighbors or public officials. [Eff 12/31/22; comp \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
(Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §982.405)

**§17-2031-62 Overcrowded or under occupied dwelling units.** A participant shall be issued a new voucher if the authority determines that the dwelling unit does not meet the authority's subsidy standards for occupancy. [Eff 12/31/22; comp \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
(Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §982.403)

**§17-2031-63 Portability.** (a) The authority may require applicants who were nonresidents at the time of application to live in its jurisdiction during the first twelve-month period.

(b) The authority shall not absorb a family under portability assistance into its program unless funds are available and there is no applicant with a preference on the applicable waiting list. [Eff 12/31/22; comp \_\_\_\_\_ ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13)

(Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §§982.353, 982.354, 982.355)

**§17-2031-64 Transfers.** (a) A family may terminate its lease with the landlord at any time after the first twelve months as provided by the rental agreement with the landlord and shall provide a copy of the notice to the authority.

(b) The authority shall deny permission to move if:

- (1) There are insufficient program funds for continued assistance;
- (2) The participant has violated a family obligation listed on the voucher;
- (3) The participant owes the authority money; or
- (4) The participant has moved or has been issued a voucher within the last twelve months.

[Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §§982.354, 982.552)

**§17-2031-65 Eviction - termination of tenancy by owner.** (a) If the owner wishes to terminate the lease, the owner is required to provide proper notice as provided in the lease and the Hawaii Residential Landlord-Tenant Code.

(b) During the term of the lease the owner may only evict for:

- (1) Serious or repeated violations of the lease, including but not limited to failure to pay rent or other amounts due under the lease, or repeated violation of the terms and conditions of the lease;
- (2) Violations of federal, state or local law that imposes obligations on the tenant in connection with the occupancy or use of the premises, such as failure to comply with all obligations, restrictions, whether

demonstrated by the landlord as rules or otherwise, which are in accordance with section 521-52, HRS, and which the landlord can demonstrate are reasonably necessary for the preservation of the property or protection of the persons of the landlord, other tenants, or any other person;

(3) Criminal activity by the tenant, any member of the household, a guest or another person under the tenant's control that threatens the health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by the other residents, or persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises or any drug-related criminal activity on or near the premises; or

(4) Other good cause.

(c) During the initial term of the lease, the owner may not terminate the tenancy for "other good cause" unless the owner is terminating the tenancy because of something the family did or failed to do.

(d) The owner shall provide the tenant a written notice specifying the grounds for termination of tenancy pursuant to chapter 521, HRS, before the commencement of the eviction action. The notice of grounds provided in 982.310(e)(1)(ii), CFR, as it existed on October 20, 2022, may be included in, or may be combined with, any owner eviction notice to the tenant. The owner eviction notice means a notice to vacate, or a complaint, or other initial pleading used under State or local law to commence an eviction action.

(e) Housing assistance payments are paid to the owner under the terms of the HAP contract. If the owner has begun eviction and the family continues to reside in the dwelling unit, the authority shall continue to make housing assistance payments to the owner until the owner has obtained a court judgment or other process allowing the owner to evict the tenant. The authority may continue housing assistance payments until the family moves or is evicted from the dwelling unit. If the action is finalized in court, the owner

must provide the authority with the documentation, including notice of the date of physical eviction.

(f) The authority shall continue making housing assistance payments to the owner in accordance with the contract as long as the tenant continues to occupy the dwelling unit in accordance with the terms of the lease. By endorsing the monthly check from the authority, the owner certifies that the tenant is still in the dwelling unit, and that the rent is reasonable and in compliance with the contract.

(g) If an eviction is not due to a serious or repeated violation of the lease, and if the authority has no other grounds for termination of assistance, the authority may issue a new voucher so that the family can move with continued assistance.

(h) The family is not responsible for payment of the portion of the rent to owner covered by the housing assistance payment under HAP contract between the owner and the authority. The authority's failure to pay the housing assistance payment to the owner is not a violation of the lease between the tenant and the owner. During the term of the lease, the owner may not terminate the tenancy of the family for nonpayment of the authority's housing assistance payment. [Eff 12/31/22; comp \_\_\_\_\_] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §§982.310, 982.455)

**§17-2031-66 Termination of participation.** (a)

The authority shall terminate a family's participation in the program when:

- (1) The family has been evicted from housing assistance under the program for serious violation of the lease;
  - (2) Any member of the family fails to sign and submit consent forms for obtaining information in accordance with the program;
- or

- (3) The family does not submit required evidence of citizenship or eligible immigration status.
- (4) Any family member fails to meet the eligibility requirements concerning individuals enrolled at an institution of higher education as specified in 24 C.F.R. 5.612, as it existed on October 20, 2022.
- (b) The authority may terminate a family's participation in the program when:
  - (1) The family fails to fulfill their obligations under the program;
  - (2) Any member of the family has committed fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program;
  - (3) The family is under contract and one hundred and eighty days have elapsed since the last housing assistance payment was made due to housing assistance payment being zero dollars, or other participant related reason;
  - (4) The family has not reimbursed any public housing agency for amounts paid to an owner under a HAP contract on behalf of the family for rent, damages to the dwelling unit, or other amounts owed by the family under the lease;
  - (5) The family breaches an agreement with the authority to pay amounts owed to the authority, or amounts paid to an owner by the authority;
  - (6) Any member of the family has engaged in or threatened abusive or violent behavior toward the authority's personnel. Threatened means an oral or written threat or physical gestures that communicate an intent to abuse or commit violence. Abusive or violent behavior may be verbal or physical and include use of expletives that are generally considered insulting, racial epithets, or other language, written or

oral, that is customarily used to insult or intimidate;

- (7) Any member of the family has engaged in any drug-related criminal activity or violent criminal activity. For the purpose of this subsection, "violent criminal activity" means any illegal criminal activity that has as one of its elements the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the person or property of another;
- (8) Any member of the family is illegally using a controlled substance or whose illegal use or pattern of abuse of a controlled substance, or whose abuse of alcohol or pattern of abuse of alcohol is determined by the authority to interfere with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of a rental premises by other residents. In determining whether to terminate assistance based on a pattern of illegal use of a controlled substance or a pattern of abuse of alcohol by a household member, the authority may consider rehabilitation as provided for under 42 U.S.C. §13661(b)(2)(A)-(C), as it existed on October 20, 2022, which is incorporated by reference and attached as exhibit G;
- (9) A family participating in the family self-sufficiency program fails to comply, without good cause, with the family's family self-sufficiency contract of participation; or
- (10) Welfare-to-work family fails, willfully and persistently, to fulfill its obligations under the welfare-to-work voucher program.

(c) The authority may implement a lottery system to terminate a family's participation in the program if the authority must terminate housing assistance payment contracts due to insufficient funds. Families will be randomly chosen to be terminated from the housing choice voucher program. Individuals who are elderly, disabled, victims of domestic violence, or VASH participants shall be excluded from the lottery.

(d) A participant found to be ineligible for continued participation in the program shall be notified in writing by the authority and be accorded an opportunity to request an informal hearing as set forth in these rules. Such notice shall state the reasons for the authority's determination and that the participant has the opportunity to request an informal hearing. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §§982.551, 982.552, 982.553)

SUBCHAPTER 6

INFORMAL REVIEWS

**§17-2031-71 Informal review process for applicants.** (a) An applicant who has been denied assistance by the authority shall have an opportunity for an informal review pursuant to 24 C.F.R. §982.554, as it existed on October 20, 2022.

(b) The applicant shall provide the authority with a request for an informal review within fifteen days from the date of the authority's notification of denial of assistance.

(c) The informal review shall be scheduled within fifteen days from the date the written request is received by the authority and shall be conducted by any person or persons designated by the authority, but shall not be a person who made or approved the decision under review or a subordinate of this person.

(d) The applicant shall be given the opportunity to present oral or written objections to the authority's denial of assistance. Both the authority and the applicant may present evidence and witnesses. The applicant may be assisted by an attorney or other representative at his or her own expense.

(e) The informal review may be conducted by mail, video conference or telephone if acceptable to both parties.

(f) A written notice of the review of findings shall be provided to the applicant within thirty days after the review. The notice shall include the decision of the hearing officer and an explanation of the reasons for decision.

(g) An applicant who is denied assistance for citizen or immigrant status shall have an opportunity for an informal hearing pursuant to 24 C.F.R. §5.514, as it existed on October 20, 2022. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §§982.54(d)(12), 982.554)

**§17-2031-72 Informal hearing process for participants.** (a) The authority shall give a participant an opportunity for an informal hearing to consider whether the following authority decisions relating to the individual circumstances of a participant family are in accordance with the law, HUD regulations and authority rules pursuant to:

- (1) A determination of the family's annual or adjusted income and the use of such income to compute the housing assistance payment;
- (2) A determination of the appropriate utility allowance, if any, for tenant-paid utilities from the authority's utility allowance schedule;
- (3) A determination of the family dwelling unit size under the authority's subsidy standards;
- (4) A determination that a family is residing in a dwelling unit with a larger number of bedrooms than appropriate for the family dwelling unit size under the authority's subsidy standards, or the authority's determination to deny the family's request for an exception from the standards;
- (5) A determination to terminate assistance for a participant family because of the family's action or failure to act;
- (6) A determination to terminate assistance because the participant family has been absent from the assisted dwelling unit for longer than the maximum period permitted; or
- (7) A determination to terminate a family's family self-sufficiency contract, withhold supportive services, or propose forfeiture of the family's escrow account.

(b) The opportunity for informal hearing shall be provided to participants prior to the termination of assistance.

(c) The participant shall provide the authority with a written request for an informal hearing within fifteen days of the authority's notification of determination.

(d) The informal hearing shall be scheduled within fifteen days from the date the written request is received and shall be conducted by any person or persons designated by the authority, but shall not be a person who made or approved the decision under review or a subordinate of this person.

(e) Prior to the informal hearing:

(1) The participant shall be given the opportunity to examine any authority documents that are directly relevant to the hearing. The participant may copy any relevant document at the participant's expense.

(2) The authority shall be given the opportunity to examine any family documents that are directly relevant to the hearing. The authority may copy any relevant document at the authority's expense.

(f) The participant and the authority shall be given the opportunity to present evidence and may question witnesses. Evidence may be considered without regard to admissibility under the rules of evidence applicable to judicial proceedings.

(g) The participant may be assisted by an attorney or other representative at the participant's expense.

(h) A written notice of the findings of the hearing officer shall be provided to the authority and participant within ten days upon conclusion of the informal hearing. The notice shall include:

(1) A summary of the decision and reasons for the decision;

(2) The amount owed and documentation of the calculation of monies owed and

(3) The effective date of the decision.

(i) The authority shall not be bound by the decision of the hearing officer that:

- (1) Concerns matters in which the authority is not required to provide an opportunity for a hearing or that otherwise exceeds the authority of the hearing; or
- (2) Is contrary to HUD regulations or requirements, or otherwise contrary to federal, State, or local law.
- (3) If the authority determines that it is not bound by a decision of the hearing officer, the authority shall send a letter to the participant within thirty days of its determination. The letter shall state the reasons for the determination.

(j) A participant who is determined to be ineligible for assistance due to citizen or immigration status shall have an opportunity for an informal hearing pursuant to 24 C.F.R. §5.514, as it existed on October 20, 2022. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: 356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §§5.514, 982.54(d)(13), 982.555)

SUBCHAPTER 7

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM

**§17-2031-81 Family self-sufficiency program.**

The objective of the authority's family self-sufficiency ("FSS") program is to reduce the dependency of low-income families on welfare assistance and to reduce Section 8, public housing, or any federal, state, and local rent or homeownership subsidies. Under the family self-sufficiency program, low-income families are provided opportunities for education, job training, counseling, and other forms of social service assistance, while living in assisted housing, so that they may obtain the education, employment, and business and social skills necessary. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. Part 984)

**§17-2031-82 Eligibility.** (a) Participants in the authority's Section 8 tenant-based program are eligible to participate in the family self-sufficiency program.

(b) Preference shall be given to applicants who already receive family self-sufficiency-related support services for fifty per cent or less of the allocations. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. Part 984)

**§17-2031-83 Recruitment and outreach.** (a) The authority shall conduct outreach programs to recruit family self-sufficiency participants.

(b) Outreach efforts may include the following:

- (1) Sending informational brochures to each family participating in the authority's Section 8 program;
- (2) Conducting orientation sessions for families who express an interest in participating in the family self-sufficiency program; and
- (3) Identifying and targeting potential families in the authority's caseloads. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. Part 984)

**§17-2031-84 Selection.** (a) Families shall be selected without regard to race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin.

(b) Families may be selected by date of receipt of application.

(c) In the event there are more applicants than family self-sufficiency allocations, the authority shall conduct a lottery to determine placement on the waiting list.

(d) Initially, up to one hundred thirty-six Section 8 participants shall be selected to participate in the family self-sufficiency program. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. Part 984)

**§17-2031-85 Termination or withholding services.**

(a) The authority shall monitor and assess the family self-sufficiency participant's progress and compliance with the goals set forth in the contract of participation. When the authority determines that the family self-sufficiency participant is not making progress or complying with the goals set forth in the contract of participation, the authority shall notify the family self-sufficiency participant of such determination and provide the family self-sufficiency

participant six months to demonstrate compliance with the plan of the contract of participation.

(b) If no progress has been made or the family self-sufficiency participant is still not complying with the contract of participation after the six-month period, the authority shall provide the family self-sufficiency participant with a written notice of intent to terminate or withhold services and of the opportunity to request an informal hearing. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. Part 984)

SUBCHAPTER 8

SECTION 8 PROJECT-BASED VOUCHER PROGRAM

**§17-2031-91 Purpose.** The purpose of this subchapter is to establish a procedure for the selection of dwelling units to which the authority may attach Section 8 voucher assistance. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. Part 983)

**§17-2031-92 Eligible projects.** (a) The authority may attach Section 8 voucher assistance to dwelling units in newly constructed and existing structures of various types including single-family housing and multifamily structures.

(b) The authority may not attach Section 8 voucher assistance to dwelling units in the following types of housing:

- (1) Owner occupied dwelling units; however, cooperatives are considered to be rental housing for purposes of this subchapter;
- (2) Mobile or manufactured homes;
- (3) Shared housing, nursing homes, and facilities providing continual psychiatric, medical, nursing services, board and care or intermediate care;
- (4) Except for existing dwelling units, housing for which the construction or rehabilitation has started prior to execution of an agreement with the authority;
- (5) Dwelling units within the grounds of penal, reformatory, medical, mental, and similar public or private institutions;
- (6) Housing located in an area that has been identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as having special flood

- hazards unless the community in which the area is situated is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program;
- (7) Housing located in the coastal barrier resources system designated under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act;
  - (8) College or other school dormitories;
  - (9) Dwelling units subsidized under other federal housing programs including:
    - (i) Public housing;
    - (ii) A dwelling unit subsidized by any other form of section 8 assistance;
    - (iii) A dwelling unit subsidized with any local or state rent subsidy;
    - (iv) A section 236 project or a dwelling unit subsidized with section 236 rental assistance payments;
    - (v) A Rural Development Administration section 515 project;
    - (vi) A dwelling unit subsidized with rental assistance payments under section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949 (a Rural Development Administration Program);
    - (vii) Housing assisted under former section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (before amendment by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974);
    - (viii) A section 221(d)(3) project;
    - (ix) A project with a section 202 loan;
    - (x) A section 202 project for non-elderly persons with disabilities;
    - (xi) Section 202 supportive housing for the elderly;
    - (xii) Section 811 supportive housing for persons with disabilities;
    - (xiii) A section 101 rent supplement project;

(xiv) A dwelling unit subsidized with tenant-based assistance under the HOME program, or any dwelling unit with any other duplicative federal, state, or local housing subsidy, as determined by HUD. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §§983.52, 983.53)

**§17-2031-93 Notification of project-based assistance.** (a) The authority shall publish requests for proposals to participate in the Section 8 project-based voucher program in a newspaper of general circulation once a week for three consecutive weeks. The advertisement shall state the number of vouchers available for project-based assistance; whether proposals will be accepted for rehabilitation, new construction, or existing dwelling units; state the selection criteria; and specify an application deadline of at least thirty days after the date the advertisement is last published.

(b) The authority may select dwelling units to which assistance is to be attached, without advertising under paragraph (a) of this section and without applying the selection factors otherwise required under section 17-2031-95, if attachment of project-based assistance would further the purposes of the sale of a public housing project to a resident management corporation under section 21 of the United States Housing Act of 1937. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §983.51)

**§17-2031-94 Applications for project-based assistance; information required.** (a) Housing providers or agencies desiring Section 8 project-based

voucher assistance shall submit to the authority a proposal, in the format prescribed by the authority, along with any additional information that the authority determines to be applicable.

(b) Housing provider or agency information may include, but is not limited to the following:

- (1) Name and address of the eligible housing provider or owner and other project principals and officers and principal members, shareholders, investors, and other parties having a substantial interest in the ownership of the project, and evidence of the applicant's status as a corporation, partnership, joint venture or other business organization;
- (2) Certification showing that the above-mentioned parties are not on the United States General Services Administration list of parties excluded from federal procurement and non-procurement programs or the State list of parties debarred or suspended; a disclosure of any possible conflict of interest by any of these parties that would be a violation of the agreement or the housing assistance payments contract;
- (3) To the extent available, certified copies of the housing provider's or owner's organizational documents, including its articles of incorporation and bylaws, declaration of trust, partnership or limited partnership agreement, together with all amendments thereto and, in the case of nonprofit organizations, a copy of the determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service as to recognition of exemption from federal income taxation;
- (4) A resume of the housing provider's experience in the construction or rehabilitation of rental housing projects including a list and a brief description of the projects in which the applicant participated;

- (5) A resume of the housing provider's or owner's experience in the management of rental housing projects including a list and a brief description of the projects which the applicant manages;
- (6) The name, title, address, and telephone number of the person to whom communications should be addressed;
- (7) Evidence of the housing provider's or owner's legal authority to incur obligations and to sign and deliver such documents as may be necessary to finance, construct, or rehabilitate the project;
- (8) A current certificate of good standing from the State department of commerce and consumer affairs and tax clearance from the State department of taxation;
- (9) Evidence of the housing provider's or owner's ability to develop, own, market, manage, and provide appropriate services in connection with housing project;
- (10) Evidence of the housing provider's or owner's financial ability to complete the project;
- (11) The housing provider's or owner's ties to the community and support from local community groups;
- (12) A description of any financial default, modification of terms and conditions of financing, or legal action taken or pending against the applicant or its principals;
- (13) A description of the housing provider's or owner's experience or involvement in the provision of supportive services;
- (14) A statement of the housing provider's or owner's past or current involvement with the authority or its predecessors, the housing finance and development corporation, the Hawaii housing authority or the housing and community development corporation of Hawaii, and the assistance, if any, received from those entities.

(c) Project information may include, but is not limited to the following:

- (1) A description of the proposed housing project, including the number of dwelling units by square footage, bedroom count, bathroom count, sketches of the proposed building, dwelling units plans, listing of amenities and services, and the estimated date of completion;
- (2) Identification and description of the proposed site, site plan, and neighborhood characteristics;
- (3) Identification of the census tract in which the project is located;
- (4) Evidence of site control, such as a deed, agreement of sale, commitment letter, or development agreement;
- (5) Availability of public services and facilities, such as schools, sewers, parks, and fire protection, and the adequacy thereof;
- (6) If applicable, evidence that the proposed new construction is permitted by current zoning ordinances or regulations or evidence to indicate that the needed re-zoning is likely and will not delay the project;
- (7) The proposed contract rent per dwelling unit, including an indication of which utilities, services, and equipment are included in the rent and which are not included. For those utilities that are not included in the rent, an estimate of the average monthly cost for each dwelling unit type for the first year of occupancy;
- (8) A signed certification of the owner's intention to comply with all applicable federal requirements referenced in 24 CFR 983.4, as it existed on October 20, 2022;
- (9) A statement from the owner certifying the number of persons, businesses, non-profit corporations occupying the property on the date of submission of the application; the

number of persons displaced, temporarily relocated or moved permanently within the building complex; estimated cost of relocation payments and services; the funding source of relocation activities; and the name of the organization that will carry out the relocation activities;

- (10) The owner's plan for managing and maintaining the dwelling units;
- (11) Evidence of financing or lender interest and the proposed terms of financing;
- (12) The proposed term of the housing assistance payments contract;
- (13) If applicable, a relocation plan that includes steps that will be taken to minimize the displacement of households, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and farms as a result of the project; and
- (14) Such other information as the authority deems necessary. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §§983.3, 983.6, 983.51)

**§17-2031-95 Review and screening of applications.**

(a) Applications shall be time and date stamped and assigned a number.

(b) Applications shall be screened for completeness, i.e., submission of information required under sections 17-2031-92 and 94. Applications that do not meet the application submission deadline or information requirements shall be rejected by the executive director.

(c) The authority shall review each application and any additional information submitted by the applicant or obtained from other sources in its review of each application. Additional information or data may be requested and the authority may independently verify any or all information supplied by the applicant. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ]

(Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §983.51)

**§17-2031-96 Selection of project applications.**

(a) Based upon the review of the applications, documents, and any additional information submitted by the applicants or obtained from other sources by the authority, the executive director shall prepare a recommendation to the board to attach Section 8 voucher assistance to specific projects.

(b) The board shall review the recommendation of the executive director and, if the board determines that the project-basing of Section 8 voucher assistance for a specific project is consistent with the public housing agency plan and the goals of deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities, it may approve the application and authorize the executive director to allocate an appropriate amount of Section 8 voucher funding, subject to such terms and conditions as it deems necessary or appropriate to assure compliance with 24 C.F.R. part 983, as it existed on October 20, 2022 and these rules.

(c) Upon the board's approval to allocate Section 8 voucher funding to an applicant, the executive director shall notify the applicant of the allocation. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ]  
(Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §983.52)

**§17-2031-97 Agreement to enter into housing assistance contract.** (a) The authority shall enter into an agreement with the selected project owner prior to the start of any new construction or rehabilitation.

(b) After the agreement has been executed, the owner shall promptly proceed with the construction or rehabilitation work as provided for in the agreement.

If the work is not promptly commenced, diligently continued, or completed, the authority may terminate the agreement or take other appropriate action. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §983.101; Pub. Law 106-377, 114 Stat. 1441)

**§17-2031-98 Eligibility and selection of tenants.** (a) Tenants in a section 8 project-based voucher assisted dwelling unit shall meet the eligibility criteria set forth in section 17-2031-22. (b) The authority may use the section 8 tenant-based waiting list as set forth in section 17-2031-26. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §983.203)

**§17-2031-99 Dwelling unit cap on project-based dwelling units by project** (a) The authority may not select a proposal to provide project-based voucher assistance for dwelling units in a project or enter into an agreement or HAP contract to provide PBV assistance for dwelling units in a project, if the total number of dwelling units in the project that will receive PBV assistance during the term of the PBV HAP is more than 25 percent of the number of dwelling units, either assisted or unassisted, in the project. (b) Exceptions to the 25 percent cap per project are permitted, where PBV dwelling units are not counted against the cap, when:

- (1) The dwelling units are in a single-family project, comprising one to four dwelling units; or
- (2) The dwelling units are excepted dwelling units in a multifamily project because they are made available for elderly or disabled families receiving supportive services, also known as qualifying families.

(c) The approved services are not required to be provide at or near the project.

(d) To qualify, a family must have at least one member receiving at least one qualifying supportive service. The authority shall not require participation in medical or disability-related services other than drug and alcohol treatment in the case of current abusers as a condition of living in an excepted dwelling unit, although such services may be offered. The following services may be offered to families for a project to qualify for the 25 percent cap, depending on the needs of the family:

- (1) Palolo Valley Homes, Ohana Learning Center, 2170 Ahe Street, Honolulu, HI 96816; Owner: Mutual Housing Association of Hawaii:
  - (A) Computer access for the community to use for job search, printing documents, internet access, etc;
  - (B) University student assist children with homework;
  - (C) Resident services department provides referrals to available services in the community;
  - (D) Music lab;
  - (E) Reading room;
  - (F) Demonstration kitchen for children's cooking lessons;
  - (G) Nurses station/health room;
  - (H) HCAP education programs;
  - (I) Iolani School programs, STEM, Kai program; and
  - (J) Foodbank;
- (2) Towers of Kuhio Park, 1475 Linapuni Street #100, Honolulu, HI 96819; Owner: Michaels Development Company:
  - (A) Early childcare development preschools;
  - (B) Case management and referral services;
  - (C) Food bank and food programs;
  - (D) Out of school teen programming;
  - (E) Mental and behavioral health;
  - (F) Domestic violence prevention and intervention;

- (G) Child abuse prevention and intervention;
- (H) Child sex trafficking intervention;
- (I) Community computer and resource centers;
- (J) Educational and vocational financial aid;
- (K) Parenting training;
- (L) Job training and placement;
- (M) Emergency financial support;
- (N) Financial literacy;
- (O) Housing navigation;
- (P) Gang and bullying prevention;
- (Q) Interpretation services;
- (R) Skills training and makers space;
- (S) Substance abuses referral services;
- (T) Community building and family engagement;
- (U) Acculturation services;
- (V) Walking school bus; and
- (W) English as a second language.

(e) A dwelling unit shall continue to count as an excepted dwelling unit for as long as the family resides in the dwelling unit, if a family at the time of initial tenancy is receiving, and while the resident of an excepted dwelling unit has received, FSS supportive services or any other supportive services as defined by the rules above, and successfully completes the FSS contract of participation or the supportive services requirement.

(f) On an annual basis, the authority will monitor all families receiving services to determine if such families will be allowed to continue receiving PBV assistance.

- (1) The authority will require families receiving services to provide written evidence from each provider confirming that the family has received all of the required services in the statement of family obligations or FSS contract of family participation; or

- (2) Alternatively, each service provider will submit a report to the management of the property, identifying the services received by each family. The property owner will submit the report to the authority, who will verify that all services required in the statement of family obligation or FSS contract of participation received. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; 24 C.F.R. §983.56)

**§17-2031-100 Rental assistance demonstration.**

Where the authority chooses to convert public housing projects to Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Section 8 Project Based Voucher (PBV) the provisions of this section and its subsections will apply. In the event of a conflict between applicable RAD notices and guidance issued by HUD and the following provisions, applicable RAD notices and guidance apply. When future notices or amendments are issued by HUD and create a conflict, the authority shall amend its rules to comply with the new HUD requirements. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; HUD Notice H-2019-09 PIH-2019-23(HA) issued 9/5/2019 (RAD Notice))

**§17-2031-101 Term of the RAD PBV contract. (a)**

The initial contract will be for a period of at least fifteen years. The initial contract may be up to twenty years upon request of the project owner and with approval by the authority.

(b) Upon expiration of the initial contract, the authority must offer, and the project owner must accept, renewal of the contract subject to the terms and conditions applicable at the time of renewal and the availability of appropriated funds and the owner's satisfactory RAD PBV program performance, for such

periods as the authority deems appropriate and in accordance with HUD instructions. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; HUD Notice H-2019-09 PIH-2019-23(HA) issued 9/5/2019 (RAD Notice) section 1.6.B.1-2)

**§17-2031-102 Contract rents.** The initial rent to project owner will be provided by HUD based on the level of public housing capital and operating subsidies and tenant rents, and shall be further constrained by the reasonable rent and as otherwise provided in RAD program requirements. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; HUD Notice H-2019-09 PIH-2019-23(HA) issued 9/5/2019 (RAD Notice) section 1.6.B.5)

**§17-2031-103 Re-determining rent to owner - rent reasonableness.** (a) Contract rents will be adjusted only by HUD's OCAF at each anniversary of the HAP contract, subject to the availability of appropriations for each year of the contract term.

(1) OCAF means "an operating cost adjustment factor established by HUD that is applied to the current contract rent, less the portion of the rent paid for debt service".

(b) The rent to project owner may at no time exceed the reasonable rent charged for comparable unassisted dwelling units in the private market, as determined by the authority in accordance with 24 CFR 983.303, as it existed on October 20, 2022. However, the rent to project owner shall not be reduced below the initial rent to owner for dwelling units under the initial HAP contract. [Eff 12/31/22;

comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; HUD Notice H-2019-09 PIH-2019-23(HA) issued 9/5/2019 (RAD Notice) section 1.6.B.6)

**§17-2031-104 Conversion from public housing to RAD.**

(a) At conversion, current public housing households are not subject to rescreening, income eligibility, or income targeting. These households will be grandfathered for conditions that occurred prior to conversion, but will be subject to any ongoing eligibility requirements for actions that occur after conversion.

(b) Once any such household moves out, the dwelling unit must be leased to an eligible family. To facilitate the right to return to the assisted property, this provision shall apply to current public housing residents of the converting project that will reside in non-RAD PBV dwelling units placed on a project site that contains RAD PBV dwelling units or PBRA dwelling units. Such families and such contract dwelling units otherwise will be subject to all requirements of the PBV program, except as may be modified by any RAD requirements.

(c) Households at project sites converting to RAD who were not public housing residents that will reside in non-RAD PBV dwelling units also will be subject to any applicable RAD requirements, to the extent such requirements modify otherwise applicable PBV requirements. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ]  
(Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; HUD Notice H-2019-09 PIH-2019-23(HA) issued 9/5/2019 (RAD Notice) section 1.6. C.1)

**§17-2031-105 Phase-in of tenant rent increases.**

(a) If a tenant's monthly rent increases by more than the greater of ten percent or \$25 purely as a result of conversion, the rent increase will be phased in over 3 or 5 years.

(b) For each RAD transaction, the authority shall specify prior to conversion whether the length of the tenant rent phase-in will be 3 or 5 years, or a combination depending on circumstances. The authority

will communicate the policy in writing to affected residents.

(c) The public housing dwelling units at Kuhio Park Towers, owned and managed by project owner KPT Towers 1, LLC, located at 1475 Linapuni Street #100, Honolulu, HI 96819, are converting to RAD. Upon conversion to RAD, if the tenant's monthly rent increases by more than the greater of ten percent or \$25 purely as a result of conversion, the rent increase shall be phased in over three (3) years. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; HUD Notice H-2019-09 PIH-2019-23(HA) issued 9/5/2019 (RAD Notice) section 1.6. C.3)

**§17-2031-106 Termination notification requirements.** (a) In addition to the regulations at 24 CFR 983.257, as it existed on October 20, 2022, related to project owner termination of tenancy and eviction, the termination procedure for RAD conversions to PBV will require adequate written notice of termination of the lease which shall be:

- (1) A reasonable period of time, but not to exceed 30 days:
  - (A) If the health or safety of other tenants, project owner employees, or persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises is threatened; or
  - (B) In the event of any drug-related or violent criminal activity or any felony conviction;
- (2) Not less than fourteen days in the case of nonpayment of rent;
- (3) Not less than thirty days in any other case, except that if a State or local law provides for a shorter period of time, such shorter period shall apply. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; HUD Notice H-2019-09

**§17-2031-107 Grievance process.** (a) For the termination of assistance and several other authority determinations, the PBV program rules require the authority to provide an opportunity for an informal hearing, as outlined in 24 CFR 982.555, as it existed on October 20, 2022. RAD specifies alternative requirements for 24 CFR 982.555(b), as it existed on October 20, 2022, in part, to require that:

- (1) In addition to reasons that require an opportunity for an informal hearing given in 24 CFR 982.555(a)(1)(i)-(vi), as it existed on October 20, 2022, an opportunity for an informal hearing must be given to families for any dispute that a family may have with respect to a project owner action in accordance with the family's lease or the authority in accordance with RAD PBV requirements that adversely affect the family's rights, obligations, welfare, or status.
  - (A) For any hearing required under 24 CFR 982.555(a)(1)(i)-(vi), as it existed on October 20, 2022, the authority will perform the hearing, as is the current standard in the program. The hearing officer must be selected in accordance with 24 CFR 982.555(e)(4)(i), as it existed on October 20, 2022.
  - (B) For any additional hearings required under RAD, the project owner will perform the hearing.
- (1) There is no right to an informal hearing for class grievances or to disputes between families not involving the project owner or the authority.
- (2) The project owner gives families notice of their ability to request an informal hearing

as outlined in 24 CFR 982.555(c)(1), as it existed on October 20, 2022, for informal hearings that will address circumstances that fall outside of the scope of 24 CFR 982.555(a)(1)(i)-(vi), as it existed on October 20, 2022.

- (3) The project owner provides opportunity for an informal hearing before an eviction. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; HUD Notice H-2019-09 PIH-2019-23(HA) issued 9/5/2019 (RAD Notice) section 1.6. C.6)

**§17-2031-108 Establishment of waiting list. (a)**

For public housing projects converting to Section 8 assistance through the RAD program, there shall be a preference established on the RAD waiting list for applicants currently on the public housing waiting list wishing to be added to the RAD or PBV site based waiting list for the converting dwelling units.

(b) Individuals on the public housing waiting list who wish to be added to the RAD waiting list shall maintain their original public housing application date. The authority considers this the best means to transition applicants from the current public housing waiting list as provided by RAD Notice 2019-23 as amended or superseded from time to time.

(c) At conversion, the authority will inform applicants on the applicable geographic or site based public housing waiting list via electronic or written notice of the availability of the PBV waiting list. The authority will inform individuals of the opening of the waiting list consistent with 24 CFR 983.251, as it existed on October 20, 2022, and these rules.

(d) The authority shall maintain its waiting list in accordance with all applicable civil rights and fair housing laws and regulations. [Eff ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; HUD Notice H-2019-09 PIH-2019-23(HA) issued 9/5/2019 (RAD Notice) section 1.6. D.4)

**§17-2031-109 Resident participation and funding.**

For public housing conversions to long-term, project-based Section 8 voucher rental assistance contracts, including RAD, residents will have the right to establish and operate a resident organization for the purpose of addressing issues related to their living environment and be eligible for resident participation funding. Project owners must provide \$25 per occupied replacement PBV dwelling unit annually for resident participation, of which at least \$15 per occupied dwelling unit shall be provided to the legitimate resident organization at the property. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; HUD Notice H-2019-09 PIH-2019-23(HA) issued 9/5/2019 (RAD Notice) section 1.6. C.5)

**§17-2031-110 Voucher inventory turnover cap.**

The authority shall not have a voucher turnover cap. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13; HUD Notice H-2019-09 PIH-2019-23(HA) issued 9/5/2019 (RAD Notice) section 1.6. D.8)

SUBCHAPTER 9

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

**§17-2031-201 Severability.** If any part, section, sentence, clause, of phrase of this chapter, of its application to any person or transaction of other circumstances is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts, sections, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this chapter, or the application of this chapter to other persons or transactions or circumstances shall not be affected. [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §356D-13)

**§17-2031-202 Number.** The use of all words used in the singular shall extend to and include the plural." [Eff 12/31/22; comp ] (Auth: HRS §356D-13) (Imp: HRS §1-17)

2. Material, except source notes and other notes, to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New material is underscored.

3. Additions to update source notes and other notes to reflect these amendments and compilation are not underscored

4. These amendments to and compilation of chapter 17-2031, Hawaii Administrative rules shall take effect ten days after filing with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

I certify that the foregoing are copies of the rules, drafted in the Ramseyer format pursuant to the requirements of section 91-4.1, Hawaii Revised

Statutes, which were adopted on August 2, 1982, and  
filed with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

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Robert J. Hall, Chairperson  
Board of Directors  
Hawaii Public Housing  
Authority

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Deputy Attorney General

EXHIBIT A

Adjusted Income (24 C.F.R. §5.611)

EXHIBIT B

Annual Income (24 C.F.R. §5.609)

EXHIBIT C

Income Limits for Admission  
(Effective May 15, 2023)

	1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons	7 Persons	8 Persons
City & County of Honolulu	\$45,850	\$52,400	\$58,950	\$65,500	\$70,750	\$76,000	\$81,250	\$86,500
County of Hawaii	\$35,300	\$40,350	\$45,400	\$50,400	\$54,450	\$58,500	\$62,500	\$66,550
County of Kauai	\$42,250	\$48,300	\$54,350	\$60,350	\$65,200	\$70,050	\$74,850	\$79,700
County of Maui	\$40,550	\$46,350	\$52,150	\$57,900	\$62,550	\$67,200	\$71,800	\$76,450

EXHIBIT D

Subsidy Standards

In determining the appropriate dwelling unit size to be entered on the voucher, the following criteria shall be applied:

1. The smallest dwelling unit suitable for the family size shall be assigned.
2. Each bedroom shall be occupied by at least one person and no more than two persons shall be assigned to a bedroom.
3. Every member of the family, regardless of age, shall be counted as a person; except that a child not yet born by a pregnant household member shall not be counted as a person in determining dwelling unit size.
4. Persons of the opposite sex (other than spouses) over the age of three, and unrelated adults shall be allocated separate bedrooms;
5. A foster child shall be included in determining dwelling unit size only if the child shall remain in the dwelling unit for more than six months.
6. A live-in aide shall be provided a separate bedroom; however, no additional bedrooms shall be provided for a live-in aide's family.
7. Exceptions are allowed for verifiable health and safety reasons.

Application of the above criteria results in the following subsidy standards:

Voucher Size	Minimum Number of Persons in Household	Maximum Number of Persons in Household
0	1	1
1	1*	2
2	2	4
3	4	6
4	6	8
5	8	10

\*A voucher for a 1-bedroom dwelling unit would be issued to a single person household only when there are no (0/studio) bedroom dwellings available in the area.

In the inspection of a dwelling unit before leasing, the dwelling unit must meet the Occupancy Standards set by the respective county. See Exhibit E, "HPHA OCCUPANCY STANDARDS", which shall be incorporated as part of this subsection.

EXHIBIT E

Occupancy Standards  
(Building Code Guidelines for Determining Occupancy)

- I. City and County of Honolulu (Oahu)
  - A. One (1) or more bedrooms
    - 1. Living Room (minimum size is 150 sq. ft.)  
Measure living room area (do not include kitchen area, but may include dining space if in one area)
      - 1st 70 sq. ft. 2 persons
      - each additional 50 sq. ft. 1 person per 50 sq. ft.
    - 2. Bedrooms  
Measure bedroom area ( do not include closet, halls, bathrooms)
      - 1st 70 sq. ft. 2 persons
      - each additional 50 sq. ft. 1 person per 50 sq. ft.
  - B. Efficiency Units (Studios)  
Measure living room area ( do not include kitchen area, but may include dining space if in one area)
    - 1st 70 sq. ft. 2 persons
    - each additional 100 sq. ft. 1 person per 100 sq. ft.
- II. County of Maui (Maui, Lanai, and Molokai)
  - A. One (1) or more bedrooms
    - 1. Living Room - Cannot be used as a sleeping area
    - 2. Bedrooms  
Measure bedroom area (do not include closet, halls, bathrooms)
      - 1st 70 sq. ft. 2 persons

each additional 50 sq. ft. 1 person per  
50 sq. ft.

B. Efficiency Dwelling Units (studios)  
Measure living room area (do not include kitchen  
area, but may include dining space if in one  
area)

1st 70 sq. ft. 2 persons  
each additional 100 sq. ft. 1 person per  
100 sq. ft.

### III. County of Kauai

A. One (1) or more bedrooms

1. Living Room - Cannot be used as a sleeping  
area

2. Bedroom #1  
Measure bedroom area (do not include closet,  
halls, bathrooms)

1st 120 sq. ft. 2 persons  
each additional 50 sq. ft. 1 person per  
50 sq. ft.

3. Bedroom #2  
Measure bedroom area (do not include closet,  
halls, bathrooms)

1st 70 sq. ft. 2 persons  
each additional 50 sq. ft. 1 person per  
50 sq. ft.

4. Bedroom #3 and on  
Measure bedroom area (do not include closet,  
halls, bathrooms)

1st 80 sq. ft. 2 persons  
each additional 50 sq. ft. 1 person per  
50 sq. ft.

B. Efficiency Dwelling Units (studios)  
Measure living room area (do not include kitchen  
area, but may include dining space if in one  
area)

1st 70 sq. ft. 2 persons  
each additional 100 sq. ft. 1 person per 100  
sq. ft.

IV. County of Hawaii

A. One (1) or more bedrooms (Housing Code states that overcrowding is prohibited)

1. Living Room - (must be 120 sq. ft. minimum)
2. Bedroom #1 - (must be 120 sq. ft. minimum)
3. Bedroom #2 - (must be 80 sq. ft. minimum)

B. Efficiency Dwelling Units (studios)

Measure living room area (do not include kitchen area, but may include dining space if in one area)

1st 70 sq. ft.	2 persons
each additional 100 sq. ft.	1 person per 100 sq. ft.

EXHIBIT F

Utility Allowance Schedule

EXHIBIT G

Rehabilitation U.S.C. §13661(b)(2)(A)-(C)

EXHIBIT H

Evidence of Citizenship or Eligible Immigrant Status  
(24 C.F.R. §5.508)

EXHIBIT I

Tenancy Addendum