



WAIKIKI IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Statement of
Rick Egged
President, Waikiki Improvement Association
Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Thursday, March 19, 2009
2:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
in consideration of

HB 1187
RELATING TO THE HOMELESS

Good afternoon Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the Committee:

I am Rick Egged testifying on behalf of the Waikīkī Improvement Association. WIA is a nonprofit organization representing 150 leading businesses and stakeholders in Waikīkī.

HB 1187 assists the homeless in reuniting their families. The Waikīkī Improvement Association strongly supports this measure. The Waikīkī business community has played an active supporting role in what is surely a community wide issue addressing the very human tragedy of homelessness.

We are not experts in this field but it is apparent that there are many different reasons a person becomes homeless, this bill would provide another important tool in the effort to provide solutions. It does not appear to be an attempt to merely export the problem but rather to assist individuals in rejoining their families and the support both psychologically and materially ones family can provide that can not be duplicated.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide these comments.

Senate Committee on Human Services
Thursday, March 19, 2009 at 2:00 pm CR 016
In support of HB 1187 - Relating to Homelessness

Aloha Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Les Ihara and members of the Human Services Committee

I am Dr. Inam Rahman, a medical doctor practicing in the State of Hawaii for 15 years, testifying in strong support of House Bill 1187.

This bill will serve several purposes. First, it will help reunite homeless members in our community who have become stranded in Hawaii with close family members in the Mainland. Hawaii is also faced with a dilemma of public housing shortage. This bill will alleviate the escalating cost of maintaining shelter, medical care, crime and other social issues associated with homelessness. Increasing amount of homeless coming from the mainland that are not prepared to live here, without possible jobs, and other resources that will support them will become a burden to our staggering economic condition. This bill will provide significant solution to assist stranded homeless reunite with their families.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify.

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