

SCR11



SCR 11

**Urging the Department of Education to Encourage the Public
Elementary Schools to Establish Resource Centers on Their
Campuses in Order to Combat Homelessness**

Date: March 16, 2009 Time: 2:00pm
Room: 225

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **supports SCR 11.**

In the recent, Homeless Service Utilization Report 2008, there are many keiki statewide that are experiencing homelessness.

There are over 2,000 keiki who receive sheltered services statewide; and 1,300 keiki who receive outreach homeless services. Homeless keiki who are unsheltered may live with their family at the beaches or in parks.

There are still more undocumented homeless individuals that are not captured in data sets. These individuals or family members may be experiencing eviction, or living with other friends or family.

This report informs that a large percentage of homeless children, who reside in a shelter, or receive outreach homeless services (unsheltered homeless), are between the ages of zero to five. At such a young age, keiki are unable to experience the comforts of a protective dwelling that can shelter them from harsh weather conditions, and access to basic living necessities such as showers, toilets, and kitchen. Another group that is rarely documented is homeless teens.

The purpose of SCR 11 is to support children who are homeless. The start of resource centers within the school system can gather information, identify trends, and be the catalyst to develop meaningful programs that produce healthy outcomes, educational success, and strengthen communities.

The resource centers in school can assist to decrease various stressors of homelessness; and develop protective factors and resiliency within children.

OHA would like to supports SCR 11. Mahalo nui loa for allowing us to provide testimony.