

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



CHAD K. TANIGUCHI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Statement of
Chad K. Taniguchi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

February 4, 2009 9:00 a.m.
Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
H.B. 1580
RELATING TO DATA COLLECTION

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the intent of H.B. 1580, which requires the Department of Human Services, in cooperation with the Department of Health, to form a task force to evaluate what types of data would help homeless advocates provide services to the homeless, how the data should be collected, and how it should be reported.

HPHA would like the committee to be cognizant of the fact that HPHA Homeless Services Branch already utilizes a data collection system called the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) that is mandated by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for homeless services. Any service provider receiving federal HUD funds and all outreach agencies contracted with the State are required to enter data into this system. This system is not optional for HPHA, so must be taken into account by the panel that would be established under this measure.

February 2, 2009

To: Representative Rida Cabanilla, Chair
Representative Pono Chong, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Housing

From: Teresa L. Gonsalves, MSW
Perinatal Support Supervisor
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

RE: **Testimony in support of HB 1580**

I would like to thank Representative Rida Cabanilla, Representative Pono Chong and the members of the House Committee on Housing for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1580. The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) has been providing services to those who are homeless or at risk for homelessness from Makua to Honokai Hale for the past 20 years, and to Kalaeloa for the past 5 years. A variety of changes have occurred in the community throughout these years including: an increase in the number of homeless individuals, peaking in 2006, an increase in the acuity level (complexity) of individuals served, increase in the number of shelters being built and dramatic movement of homeless individuals between beaches or geographic areas, primarily through forced re-location. With these tough economic times it is important more than ever to get accurate information about our State's Homeless population. I believe having a unified data system will allow this to occur.

Developing a task force to look at what type of data is needed to help the State and community agencies better serve the Homeless community and design programs and services that will produce desired outcomes is a must. Such data could be used for planning housing projects, shelter locations, medical and educational needs, mental health services and employment. Accurate and uniform data is very valuable to all Homeless advocates.

The Homeless program at WCCHC is working hard to meet the increased needs of the homeless during these tough economic times. With the many beach closures, staff is finding themselves providing services in the bushes, brush, caves and non-park areas. This is a very challenging task as we have experienced a reduction in State funding for homeless services. Thus, targeting our efforts is a very important strategy for our program and data is used in this process.

I believe having a multi-disciplinary team to sit on this task force brings credibility and validity to the process for which data will be collected and used. I urge you to please pass HB 1580 and help the State and community agencies provide the best services possible to the Homeless in our State.

Mahalo.

Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan

Date: February 3, 2009

To: Rep. R. Cabanilla, Chair, Housing Committee
Rep. P. Chong, Vice Chair, Housing Committee

Rep. J. Mizuno, Chair, Human Service Committee
Rep. T. Brower, Vice Chair, Human Service Committee

Cc: Rep. Karen Awana
Rep. Maile Shimabukuro
Sen. Colleen Hanabusa

Hearing: February 4, 2009 at 9:00am

Measure #: HB1580: Uniform Demographics Data Collection

Aloha, good morning Committee Chairs Vice Chairs and committee members:

My name is Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan. I'm a resident of Waianae, an advocate for the homeless and a retired executive director for a non-profit organization assisting the homeless and needy population of my community. This includes the emergency shelter in Kalaeloa.

I ask for your FULL SUPPORT to HB 1580 in terms of creating a task force that will work along the State's Homeless Branch in the development of a better data system which not only tracks homeless individuals and services provided but tracks the "day-to-day" activities of these individuals who are getting the services that can be outcome driven. More importantly, it can demonstrate on a "real-time" the utilization of services, the effectiveness of services and the gaps in assuring services are delivered from one shelter or outreach provider to another in addressing the direct barriers to housing for these individuals. **I'd like to add the Waianae Community Outreach to the list of task force representatives.**

Currently the state has a system of this type is in place both with the States' Homeless Branch known as the HMIS and the Hawaiian Hope known as the "Ohana Management System". The shelter in Kalaeloa managed by Waianae Community Outreach known as the HOPE for a New Beginning Shelter at Onelau'ena is using this system and has been for the past year. The system continues to improve in addressing the day-to-day functions of assuring safety and wellness of the members (clients), staff, providers and visitors to the shelter site. They also use the HMIS to input all intakes and exits of members (clients) that come into the shelter at the entrance point and exits when they leave for any given reason. It is hoped and intended that all shelter and outreach providers will be able to utilize the "Ohana Management System" to communicate with

each other in terms of progress of the clients served and appropriateness of transitioning to the next level of shelter services. This can be explained as the “Pathway to Housing”.

Again I encourage and ask for your FULL SUPPORT to HB1580. Let the dialog begin so that a “standardize” system can be used that will benefit the providers, the clients and the government’s requirement for tracking, monitoring and determining the effectiveness of services being delivered to this hard to serve population.

Should you need more information or have additional questions feel free to call me at 783-9302 (cellular).

Mahalo,
Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan



Waianae Community Outreach

*P.O. Box 1912, Waianae, Hi 96792
Ph: (808) 696-5667 Fax: (808) 696-1869*

HOPE for a New Beginning Shelter

(Helping Our People Excel)
*Bldg 50 Belleau Woods, Kapolei, Hi 96707
Ph: (808) 682-4673 Fax: (808) 682-4670*

Partnerships in Building Community

"I put my hand in your hand, what I cannot do alone, we will do together"

Date: February 3, 2009

To: Rep. R. Cabanilla, Chair Housing Committee
Rep. Pono Chong, Vice Chair Housing Committee

Re: HB1580: Uniform Demographics Data Collection for the Homeless

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and committee members:

My name is Sophina Placencia, the executive director for Waianae Community Outreach currently serving the unsheltered and sheltered population of our coast. Our shelter is located in the Kalaeloa area known as Hope for a New Beginning at Onelau'ena.

I strongly ask for your FULL SUPPORT to this bill and ask that my agency be added to the list of agencies for the task force. We provide outreach and shelter services to those on the west coast of the island. We are one of the 4 agencies on this island that is recognized and used by the state to verify homelessness in addition to managing the 2nd emergency shelter created under the governor's proclamation.

Currently the state has **two systems** of this type in place both with the States' Homeless Branch known as the HMIS and **with** Hawaiian Hope known as the "Ohana Management System". Our agency is using both at the shelter and has been for the past **two years**.

Again I encourage and seek your FULL SUPPORT to this bill, let the coordination for standardization start especially during this time of cutbacks and outcome requirements. Should you have any questions feel free to call me at 779-1261.

Mahalo
Sophina Placencia

<p>Mission Provide Comprehensive services with Aloha to individuals & families in need so they can become Self-Sufficient</p> <p>Vision Healthy Self-Sufficient Resilient Individuals & Families</p> <p>Values Understanding Respect Responsibility Integrity Compassion Honesty</p>
