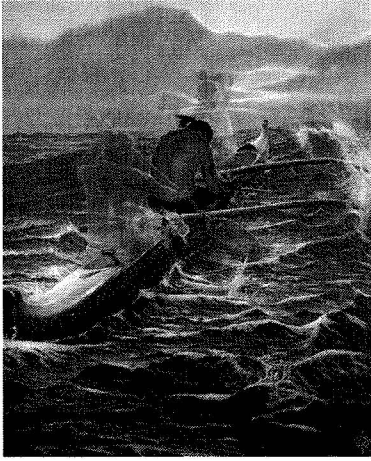

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 7:21 AM
To: HSGtestimony
Cc: s.placencia@wcohawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for HB2318 on 2/10/2010 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HB2318 021010 SP.doc

Testimony for HSG 2/10/2010 9:00:00 AM HB2318

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Sophina B. Placencia
Organization: Waianae Community Outreach
Address:
Phone: 779-1261
E-mail: s.placencia@wcohawaii.org
Submitted on: 2/10/2010

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:
OPPOSE W/COMMENTS



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)

P.O. Box 75286, 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”

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY – OPPOSE w/COMMENTS HB 2318: RELATING TO THE HOMELESS HOUSING FIRST PILOT PROGRAM

TO: Rep. R. Cabanilla, Chair, Rep. P. Chong, Vice Chair and members of the House Committee on Housing

HEARING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2010 9:00 AM CR#: 325

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and committee members,

My name is Sophina Placencia the executive director of Waianae Community Outreach a non-profit agency contracted with the HPHA Homeless Branch Administration to provide homeless outreach and emergency shelter services to individuals and families who are currently experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless with preference to the Leeward coast communities. Currently as this testimony is being submitted, I have the honor of participating in several conferences on the mainland which targets the homeless population. With that said, I’m **OPPOSING this bill and offer comments.**

What should be said is, there are several agencies that currently use the housing first model to deal with clients who have types of mental disorders. There is one program who utilizes a version of the 'housing first' model for the homeless community in general which is the agency I represent. The only component that is lacking from that model is the permanency of residents, as they have only 6 - 8 months to be transitioned to either transitional shelters, supportive or affordable housing.

This is a little bit of history that I've learned from the programs in Utah on the housing first model. Mind you the gentleman who created the first Housing First model in New York has worked closely with Utah to get their 3 programs running.

The Housing First Model was meant to create a better flow in services for those unsheltered who were accessing services either through emergency or transitional programs. It solely focuses on the chronically homeless, individuals who have had multiple episodes of homelessness, which are majorly men though some women make up the chronically homeless population. Studies have shown that in shelters prior to using the housing first models, a small

Mission
Provide Comprehensive services with Aloha to individuals & families in need so they can become Self-Sufficient
Vision
Healthy Self-Sufficient Resilient Individuals & Families
Values
<u>U</u> nderstanding
<u>R</u> espect
<u>R</u> esponsibility
<u>I</u> ntegrity
<u>C</u> ompassion
<u>H</u> onesty

S. Placencia

02/10/10: HB: 2318 – OPPOSE w/COMMENTS

percentage 14% of individuals were responsible for staying longer in shelters and using more than 50% of - due to length and amounts of episodes of homelessness (i.e. more case management time, hospital stays, emergency room visits, jail times, etc.) versus average individual who experiences an unfortunate life event that simply requires a little 'get back on your feet' time. As this small percentage was tracked over a period, the number after a 5 year study, showed this small percentage of individuals accounted for 64% bed use of the shelter systems and resources. (Study of the Road Home Shelter, Salt Lake City, UT) By opening up the bed space occupied by a 'chronically homeless' individual and placing them into a 'Housing First' modeled shelter, 1st created a better flow for those who needed the 'get back on your feet' time in accessing shelter and services then 2nd created a stable and safe environment for those individuals identified as 'chronically homeless'.

The Housing First Programs serving the 'chronically homeless' have experienced less than a 15% (death or extreme circumstance that required termination) turnover rate vs. 60-80% for those in the system temporarily. The Housing First Modeled Program is a supportive permanent housing program in which the clients have the ability to access services when they are ready while providing them with a safe environment by having secured access to shelter, facility being monitored 24hrs, and case management and classes being provided on site. In addition surrounding business and homes have not experience higher number of crimes nor higher nuisances as these programs provide an atmosphere much like that of a gated community in which an individual can remain indoors as there are places to reflect, be entertained, cook, and sleep.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit by testimony. Should you have any questions feel free to call me at 808 779-2261. I will be back in Hawaii next week.

Sophina B. Placencia
Executive Director



FRANCINE MAE AONA KENYON

2520 Jasmine Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
archerygal001@gmail.com

LATE TESTIMONY

Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 9:00 AM in Conference Room 325

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

HOUSE BILL 2318 – RELATING TO THE HOMELESS

My name is Francine Aona Kenyon and I am a deaf advocate. I have dealt with many deaf and hard of hearing people who are homeless and jobless.

I support the intent of the House Bill 2318, Relating to the Homeless, that establishes a 5-year housing first pilot program to be developed by the Hawaii public housing authority and the Department of Human Services for homeless individuals who are chronically addicted or mentally ill.

Per Section 1, Lines 11 to 15, "homeless individuals, especially the chronically homeless, those with disabilities that include addictions and mental illnesses, are extremely fragile." Is a chronically homeless individual a homeless person who has an addiction or mental illness, or both? What about people who are deaf or hard of hearing and homeless? Would they be covered under this bill?

If I had known about all the legislative bills on Homelessness, I would have fought for the rights of deaf and hard of hearing people who have been homeless for over 15 years. The real problem is the shortage of homelessness shelters to serve all the people who are homeless whether they have a disability or not.

This bill seems somewhat neglecting the needs of people who are deaf and hard of hearing and homeless. They are now one of the targeted populations in emergency preparedness. Hurricane Katrina displaced thousands of deaf and hard of hearing people and they became homeless. Also, do you remember the World Trade Center in New York? During the attack no one assisted deaf and hard of hearing people get to safety? Many of the homeless deaf people in Hawaii have migrated to the mainland where there are better opportunities and now have their own homes and financial security.

Most important of all, a deaf member of my church has been homeless for a month and has encountered other deaf and hard of hearing people who are homeless and living on beaches or on the streets. Much to my shock and disbelief, he had told me those people were kicked out of their families' homes because they are UNWANTED by their families and relatives. That is sad.

Please amend the bill to apply to ALL people with disabilities, not only those with addictions or mentally illness so that individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing will be included.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Francine Aona Kenyon
Deaf Advocate

Alice Greenwood
87-576 Kula'auuni Street C-102

LATE TESTIMONY

Committee on Housing
February 10, 2010
Conference Room 325

Support H.B. 2318

I support this Bill 2318, because of my experiences living in an Emergency Shelter and Transitional. I met a wonderful woman who helped me with the Halau, I had done for our shelter, her one problem was missing her husband who had died a year ago.

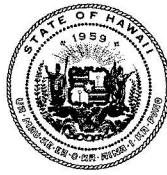
Her biggest issue was at night, she needed to be on medication to cope. Sometimes her neighbors would hear strange noise, which she was causing including pounding the walls at night. She was transferred out of our shelter; I found her walking the streets at China Town. She needed someone to understand what she was going through.

There is many others in her situation.

Thank You

Alice Greenwood

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



RUSS K. SAITO
Comptroller

SANDRA L. YAHIRO
Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY
OF
RUSS K. SAITO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HOUSING
ON
February 10, 2010

H.B. 2318

RELATING TO THE HOMELESS

Chair Cabanilla and committee members, thank you for allowing me to testify on H.B. 2318. The Department of Accounting and General Services has concerns about this bill because it will require funds to implement that are not in the Administration's supplemental budget. Currently, all homeless programs are operating at their limits. It would be disadvantageous to the State to add the program this bill proposes if it means that some of the existing homeless programs must be reduced or eliminated.

I also note that this bill would establish a "Parks for homeless special fund under Chapter 184, HRS. If moneys in this special fund are not used for State parks, they are misplaced. If the moneys are used for "housing first" costs, which include rent subsidies and services, they should not come from a "parks for homeless special fund". In any case, the costs of the program this bill proposes are not included in the administration's budget.

If the moneys for this bill could be obtained without affecting other programs in the Administration's budget a recommended change in the "housing first" process would be to have assertive encouragement of treatment and compliance on the part of residents .

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Alice Greenwood
87-576 Kula'auuni Street C-102

LATE TESTIMONY

Committee on Housing
February 10, 2010
Conference Room 325

Support H.B. 2318

I support this Bill 2318, because of my experiences living in an Emergency Shelter and Transitional. I met a wonderful woman who helped me with the Halau, I had done for our shelter, her one problem was missing her husband who had died a year ago.

Her biggest issue was at night, she needed to be on medication to cope. Sometimes her neighbors would hear strange noise, which she was causing including pounding the walls at night. She was transferred out of our shelter; I found her walking the streets at China Town. She needed someone to understand what she was going through.

There is many others in her situation.

Thank You

Alice Greenwood

From: Tracy.S.Oshiro@hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 12:12 PM
To: HSGtestimony
Cc: Rep. Rida Cabanilla
Subject: Late Written Testimony for the Record from DLNR on HB 2318 for Wed. 2/10 at 9 AM
Attachments: HB2318_LNR_02-10-10_HSG.pdf

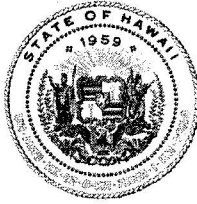
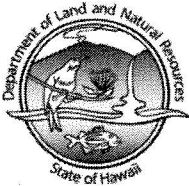
Please find the attached Final Testimony from DLNR for the Hearing before House Committee on Housing for **Wed. 2/10 at 9 AM**. DLNR was present and delivered oral testimony. The attached file is the written testimony for the record. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you and have a great day!

HB 2318 - Relating to the Homeless

Tracy Oshiro
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Ph: 587-1495

LATE TESTIMONY

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR THE RECORD DELIVERED ORALLY AT
THE HEARING
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Testimony Transmittal Cover Sheet**

Date Submitted: February 10, 2010

Testifier's Name/Title: Dan Quinn, State Parks Division Administrator

Committee Name: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING (HSG)

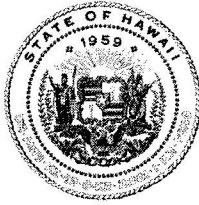
Day and Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2010

Time/Location: 9:00 AM, Conference Room 325

Measure Number: HB 2318 – RELATING TO THE HOMELESS

LATE TESTIMONY

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
HOUSING**

**Wednesday, February 10, 2010
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2318
RELATING TO THE HOMELESS**

House Bill 2318 would establish a five-year housing first pilot program to address the chronically homeless population. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) comments are limited to SECTION 2 and defers to the appropriate agencies on all other parts of the bill. The Department does not support the establishment of a Parks For Homeless Special Fund within Chapter 184, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

Chapter 184, HRS, relates to State Parks and Recreation Areas. State parks are areas of historic interest or immense scenic beauty. Given that they are visited by approximately 6 million tourists per year, the Department does not think state parks are appropriate places to house the homeless. As such, the Department believes the State needs to increase resources to better manage the existing parks under our control, and the Department has launched an ambitious effort to do so under the Recreational Renaissance initiative.

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
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AQUATIC RESOURCES
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ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Rep. Rida Cabanilla
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 8:56 AM
To: HSGtestimony
Subject: FW: Emailing: HB2318_.pdf

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Patrick Koh [mailto:patkoh01@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 9:08 PM
To: Rep. Rida Cabanilla
Subject: Re: Emailing: HB2318_.pdf

I, Patrick Koh, strongly support HB 2318 relating to a rapid re-housing program for the homeless.

Thank You,
Rev. Patrick Koh
2215A Gertz Lane
Honolulu, HI. 96819

On Tue, Feb 9, 2010 at 11:16 AM, Rep. Rida Cabanilla <repcabanilla@capitol.hawaii.gov> wrote: