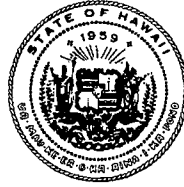


**HB 2318,
HD2, SD1
Testimony**



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
1390 Miller Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 31, 2010

Statement of Sandra Miyoshi
Administrator
State Homeless Programs
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 31, 2010; 9:30 a.m.
Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
H.B. 2318, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 - RELATING TO THE HOMELESS

Chair Donna Mercado Kim:

The State Homeless Programs recognizes the need to provide solutions to the State's growing homeless challenge. H.B. 2318, H.D.2, S.D.1, proposes to establish a 5-year Housing First pilot program to assist chronically homeless individuals and to establish a Housing First special fund. Housing First is a national best practice that has produced outstanding outcomes for the chronically homeless - outcomes that result in long term housing and recovery.

However, the State Homeless Programs cannot support this bill at this time given the State's economic difficulties. New programs require money and staffing to initiate and sustain them. The State's financial situation means that we are lacking both, and we cannot support the initiation of a new program which would only add to the burden of the State's economic situation. Housing First is definitely a noteworthy program that should be revisited when the State's resources improve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.