
From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 9:57 AM
To: HSGtestimony
Cc: kananikb2@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2357 on 2/3/2010 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HB2357 020310.doc

Testimony for HSG 2/3/2010 9:00:00 AM HB2357

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: KananiKaaiawahia B
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Submitted on: 2/1/2010

Comments:
I'm in FULL SUPPORT!

Kanani Kaaiawakia Bulawan

TESTIMONY – FULLY SUPPORT

HB 2357: RELATING TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES

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

HEARING: Wednesday February 3, 2010 9:00 AM CR: 325

Aloha Chair Cabanilla, Vice Chair Chong, and members of the committee:

I request for your **FULL SUPPORT to HB 2357** relating to government services, specifically providing measures to bill the Federated States of Micronesia for services rendered. As a resident of Waianae and the retired executive director of Waianae Community Outreach, a non-profit agency managing the emergency homeless shelter in Kalaeloa and providing homeless outreach services to those on the leeward coast, this bill MAKES EVERY SENSE!

Since the Compact of Free Association Act, many of these individuals and families have migrated to our island state. At least 30% of those who are accessing homeless services are Micronesian or other groups from those Federated States. They have many challenges in terms of language, culture and behaviors that impact our local communities.

Language under this act mentions their ability to be self-sufficient otherwise they are deportable. Unfortunately this does not happen. What does happen is our small island state which belongs to a bigger USA continues to accept people who are protected by acts of this nature not considering the impact of service and the density of the population to a limited about of natural and “man-made” resources. We can only hold so much on a small island. How much more do you think we can handle, America?

I encourage a measure sent to the federal government via the congressional delegates in addressing this issue and how the Act truly affected this island state, more importantly, how they are going to address the issue of reimbursements for services provided to this population. After all, it was the USA agreement by way of congress that allowed this to happen. Wouldn't it be their KULEANA as much as ours?

Mahalo once again, this is a NO BRAINER measure that should be PASSED fully!