
From: Joseph W. Lapilio III [jwl3@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 10:04 PM
To: HSGtestimony
Subject: HCR 262

LATE TESTIMONY

Committee on Housing
March 17, 2010
9am

TO: Representative Rida Cabanilla, Chair
Committee on Housing

FR: Joseph W. Lapilio III, Chief Administrative Officer
Alternative Structures International

RE: HCR 262, Requesting the Establishment of the Wai`anae Coast Homelessness Task Force to Develop a Comprehensive Plan to Address the Immediate, Short and Long-Term Needs of the Homeless and those At-Risk of Becoming Homeless.

Aloha, Chair Cabanilla and members of the House of Representatives Committee on Housing. **I am submitting testimony in support of HCR 262.**

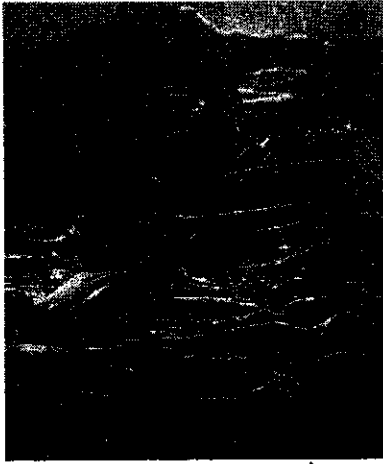
This resolution is the result of ongoing community meetings and discussions on the Wai`anae by members of the Leeward Housing Coalition and the directors of housing and homeless shelters serving West O`ahu.

This resolution, if passed, will allow us to continue our discussions with members of state and county agencies who can provide assistance in creating a comprehensive strategy to address homelessness in our community. We believe that this planning project will help all of us identify increased efficiencies in our programs, increase and develop collaboration among all providers serving the homeless, and improve the delivery of services.

Our community has a long history of working together to address issues that affect us. We are asking that you allow us to develop strategies appropriate to our community and to return to the legislature next year to present those to you. I hope you approve this resolution and look forward to working with all the parties involved.

Thank you for your continued efforts to address the issues of homelessness.

LATE TESTIMONY



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

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

Understanding
Respect
Responsibility
Integrity
Compassion
Honesty

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

Date: March 17, 2010

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

RE: **SUPPORT OF HCR 262** REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WAIANAE COAST HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADDRESS THE IMMEDIATE, SHORT-, AND LONG-TERM NEEDS OF THE HOMELESS AND THOSE AT-RISK OF BECOMING HOMELESS

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

My name is Sophina Placencia and I am the Executive Director for the Waianae Community Outreach, which serves the Houseless population of the Waianae Coast through Outreach Services for the past 30 years and Emergency Shelter since 2006, as well as a resident of the Waianae Community.

I am writing **IN SUPPORT OF HCR 262** which establishes a task force to formally develop a comprehensive plan to address the homeless and at-risk of homeless individuals and situations on the Waianae Coast.

While many on the coast, including shelter providers, service providers, and community members, have come together to have two summits to initiate the exploration of what may not or should be done to address the issue of homelessness on the coast, the formalization and participation of a greater audience including governmental agencies would strengthen the plan and hopefully add to the buy-in to address our concerns in a more immediate manner.

Although there are a number of emergency and transitional shelters already in place from Kalaeloa to Ka'ena, there are numerous affordable housing developments being built, that will not be the answer for everyone who either is or has the potential of becoming homeless. It is imperative that a plan be put together to start a proactive approach to addressing the current needs and the future of the community.

Having been a provider in the community for so many years, we have seen and gone through many changes that have occurred without the input of the stakeholders in the community and have had to adapt to changes that are not necessarily community friendly i.e. so many shelters in one geographical region.

The Waianae Community has so much to offer in terms of wealth of services due to the increase in unsheltered families and individuals, shelters being built or expanded, and new monies being provided for preventive services, through activation of the HEARTH ACT by the Obama Administration, on the Waianae Coast.

It is due to the wealth of services that we experience a lot of uncoordinated and duplicated services and programs on the Coast, which at times are confusing to the people who need services the most. Leading to non-engagement of services.

This resolution will be the start to assure the Waianae Community as a whole, has its' concerns addressed, hold accountable the programs working in the Community to the services they provide, ensure no impoverished person or family will be left without a voice, and overall provide the necessary authority to ensure services are effective, adequate, and provide remedies on gaps in services.

Therefore, I respectfully request that this resolution be passed. If you have any further questions I can be reached at 808 779-1261.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'B' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.