

SB 910



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 910: RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF HOMELESS PROGRAMS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair,
And Members, Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Housing Programs Director, Catholic Charities Hawaii

HEARING: **Friday, February 27, 2009; 9:00 am; CR 211**

Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 910, which would transfer the Homeless Programs from the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) to the Benefit, Employment, and Support Services Division within the Department of Human Services. I am Betty Lou Larson, the Housing Programs Director at Catholic Charities Hawaii. We are members of Partners in Care. Catholic Charities Hawaii operates two transitional housing programs for homeless families under the Homeless Programs Branch—Ma'ili Land in Waianae, and Kawaihae on the Big Island.

We support the proposed move of the Homeless Programs from HPHA to the Benefit, Employment, and Support Services Division (BESS) of DHS. This transfer would provide more streamlining and efficiency in procurement and contracting. We feel that placing Homeless Programs directly under BESS would be the best fit since BESS already has the infrastructure to support more efficient and timely contracting and will be able to provide other support as needed. Furthermore, BESS is an appropriate fit for the homeless programs since they deal with similar funding sources and similar clients. The transfer would further improve the ability of DHS to coordinate services and avoid duplication.

We urge you to support SB 910 which would provide the most appropriate transfer for the Homeless Programs to make the most effective use of funding, ensure that their services can be enhanced, and improve program outcomes.

LINDA LINGLE
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WRITTEN COMMENTS
OF
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ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS

February 27, 2009

9:00 AM

SB 910

RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF HOMELESS PROGRAMS WITHIN THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

Chair Kim, Vice-Chair Tsutsui, and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 910. This bill relocates the state homeless programs from the department of human services' Hawaii Public Housing Authority to the Benefit, Employment, and Support Services Division.

The State Procurement Office (SPO) recommends that page 7, lines 11 and 12, be amended as follows:

“...this part, shall not be subject to chapters 42F, 102, and 103, ~~and 103F.~~”

HRS Chapter 103F provides a health and human services competitive procurement process which applies to all contracts made by state agencies for the benefit of Hawaii's residents.

Statutorily exempting an agency from the requirements of HRS Chapter 103F is not in the best interest of government, the health and human services provider community, and the general public. The competitive procurement processes are to insure that all potential providers are afforded the opportunity to compete for the required services through established time-tested, fair, and reliable set of rules and processes for award of contracts. To the extent agencies may need specific items to be exempt, the current statutes provide an exemption process.

There is no compelling reason to statutorily exempt the homeless programs from the requirements of HRS Chapter 103F. Thank you