

**SB 910**



**A JOINT LEGISLATIVE EFFORT**

E-Mail to: [WAMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:WAMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Regarding: Senate Ways & Means Committee

Hearing on: February 27, 2009 @ 9:00 a.m. in room 211

LATE TESTIMONY

**Date:** February 26, 2009

**To:** Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Honorable Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

**From:** Dennis Arakaki  
Executive Director  
Hawaii Family Forum / Hawaii Catholic Conference

**Re:** **Support for SB 910 Relating to the Transfer of Homeless Programs  
Within the Department of Human Services**

**HAWAII FAMILY FORUM BOARD**

Francis Oda  
President

Austin Imamura  
Vice-President

Gill Berger  
Secretary

Brogan, Mary Lou  
D'Olier, H. Mitchell  
Pace, Dr. Nancy  
Paty, William  
Pflueger, Nancy  
Tsujiura, R. Brian  
Young, Sandra

**HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE BOARD**

Most Reverend Clarence Silva  
Bishop of Honolulu

Alexander, Very Rev. Marc  
Andrade, Eva  
Chung, Sr. Earnest  
Coleman, David  
Downes, Patrick  
Himenes, Dr. Carmen  
Ignacio, Carol  
Pilar, Prudencio  
Larson, Betty Lou  
Rauckhorst, Jerome  
Tong, Myron  
Yoshimitsu, Walter

Honorable Chair and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, I am Dennis Arakaki, representing both the Hawaii Family Forum and the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii.

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. The Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii, under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents over 220,000 Catholics in Hawaii.

We support 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.

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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.  
DIRECTOR  
HENRY OLIVA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 27, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **S. B. 910 - RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF HOMELESS  
PROGRAMS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
SERVICES**

Hearing: Thursday, February 27, 2009, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill is to relocate the State Homeless programs from the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) to the Benefit, Employment, and Support Services Division (BESSD) of the Department of Human Services (DHS) to improve the coordination of homeless programs and services for clients of DHS.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this Administration-sponsored bill. The Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division (BESSD) is the appropriate section within DHS to effectively coordinate homeless services since it administers programs relating to job training, child care, and financial assistance. These programs are a necessary accompaniment to the case management services that are a primary function of emergency and transitional shelters for homeless individuals and families.

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

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.  
DIRECTOR  
HENRY OLIVA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 27, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **S. B. 910 - RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF HOMELESS  
PROGRAMS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
SERVICES**

Hearing: Thursday, February 27, 2009, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill is to relocate the State Homeless programs from the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) to the Benefit, Employment, and Support Services Division (BESSD) of the Department of Human Services (DHS) to improve the coordination of homeless programs and services for clients of DHS.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this Administration-sponsored bill. The Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division (BESSD) is the appropriate section within DHS to effectively coordinate homeless services since it administers programs relating to job training, child care, and financial assistance. These programs are a necessary accompaniment to the case management services that are a primary function of emergency and transitional shelters for homeless individuals and families.

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