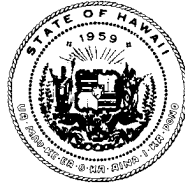


SCR206

Linda Lingle
GOVERNOR



KAREN SEDDON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO

Statement of
Karen Seddon
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

March 19, 2010 2:15 p.m.
Room 225, State Capitol

In consideration of

S.C.R. 206 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.

The HHFDC ***has strong concerns*** about the creation of another task force as proposed in S.C.R. 206.

The HHFDC is a member of the Governor's HEART (Homeless Efforts Achieving Results Together) team, which has been actively addressing homelessness on the Leeward Coast. Many caring people in the public and private sectors have been working together with a common goal of providing housing and support services to help the homeless. While the HEART team will be phased out, the partnerships that have been formed will continue, and the State entities responsible for homeless services will continue its work. As such, another task force is not needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Human Services
Senate Committee on Education and Housing
March 19, 2010 at 2:15 p.m.

by
John Morton
Vice President for Community Colleges, University of Hawai'i
And
Virginia Hinshaw
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

SCR 206 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

Chairs Chun Oakland and Sakamoto and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i stand committed and ready to meet the educational and workforce needs of the citizens of the Leeward Coast, with the goal of providing these individuals with the skills, aptitudes and/or degree certifications to realize a livelihood that contributes to the support of themselves and their families. The University of Hawai'i can also offer critical support that aims to gather data leading to a deeper understanding of the issues and etiology, develop highly coordinated services, propose social policies related to economics and land use, and streamline treatment approaches.



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

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

Date: March 19, 2010

To: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair Education and Housing Committee
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair Education and Housing Committee

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Human Services Committee
Senator Les Ihara, Jr. Vice-Chair Human Services Committee

RE: SUPPORT OF SCR 206 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 SCR 206** 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

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

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,

Leeward Housing Coalition

March 19, 2010

To: Senator Sakamoto, Chair Committee on Education and Housing
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Committee on Human Services

RE: **Support** SCR 206 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

I am writing in **support** of SCR 206 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 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 Kaena and 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.

Therefore, I respectfully request that this resolution be passed.

Mahalo nui loa,
Members of the Leeward Housing Coalition

sakamoto2 - Erin

From: Dara Carlin, M.A. [breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 2:25 PM
To: EDH Testimony
Subject: SCR206 to be heard Friday, 03/19/10 at 2:15pm in Room 225

TO: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Education & Housing

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Human Services

FROM: Dara Carlin, M.A.
Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate
881 Akiu Place
Kailua, HI 96734

DATE: March 19, 2010

RE: Support for SCR206, Relating to THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WAIANAE COAST HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE, with suggestion

Good afternoon and thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this proposal.

The suggestion I had was for the Task Force, if established, to seek out **Laree Wartena** whose been a long-time advocate for the homeless and who served as the former Executive Director of the now defunct *Ruth's House*, a shelter for homeless women and children. Laree resides in Waianae and sits on a board addressing homelessness in the community. She has a very positive, empowering approach to addressing homelessness and would be a real benefit to this task force if it comes to be with your support.

Respectfully,

Dara Carlin, M.A.
Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate

The New Busy is not the old busy. Search, chat and e-mail from your inbox. [Get started.](#)