

LATE TESTIMONY



PARTNERS IN CARE
Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

<http://www.partnersincarehawaii.org/>

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 898: EXTENDING THE LAPSE DATE ON FUNDS FROM THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FOR HOUSING FIRST PILOT PROJECT

TO: Representative Rida T. R. Cabanilla, Chair, Representative Pono Chong, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Housing

FROM: Max Gray, Chair, Partners In Care Advocacy Committee

Hearing: **Wednesday, 2/9/11, 8:30 am, Room 325**

Chair Cabanilla, Vice Chair Chong, and Members of the Housing Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 898 which extends the lapse date of funds appropriated from the emergency and budget reserve fund for the housing first pilot program to December 31, 2011. Partners In Care supports this bill with the caveat that the new lapse date is **extended to December 31, 2012.**

The Housing First model has been very successful in many other states. It has a good track record in assisting homeless people to gain permanent housing and providing the services need to keep them in housing and successfully transition off the streets. Partners In Care promotes this model as a way to target the chronically homeless and assist them to transition to permanent housing.

Partners In Care, as a consortium of service providers from across O'ahu, advocates on behalf of a diverse population of homeless men, woman and children. Partners In Care recently compared the public costs for an unsheltered homeless person vs. a resident in Supportive Housing, such as in a Housing First model. They found that the average public cost for an unsheltered homeless person is \$2,897 per month vs. the average public cost for a resident in supportive housing is \$605 per month. Public costs can be decreased by 79% by providing supportive housing with services.

Partners In Care urges the Legislature to support the intent of this bill. However, more time is needed to take advantage of the opportunity to implement the Housing First model. Thank you for hearing this bill and for your support.