



HCR225
REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING KANAKA VILLAGES FOR HOMELESS
NATIVE HAWAIIANS
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
House Consumer on Housing

March 28, 2011

10:45 a.m.

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) appreciates the intent of HCR225, which requests OHA to study the feasibility of establishing “kanaka villages” for homeless Native Hawaiians. HCR225 addresses an important issue: many homeless Native Hawaiians choose to not live in homeless shelters because their lifestyles conflict with homeless shelter rules.

OHA welcomes the opportunity to participate in a study that would focus on an issue that is not only critical to the Native Hawaiian community but also to the entire State of Hawai‘i. We note that many homeless, not just Native Hawaiians, choose to not live homeless shelters for a variety of reasons. As such, we believe that the Governor’s homeless coordinator or the Hawai‘i Public Housing Authority are better suited to take the lead in developing the proposed study because they have the expertise to evaluate the feasibility of creative solutions to statewide homeless issues.

Therefore, we support HCR225 being amended to request either the Governor’s homeless coordinator or the Hawai‘i Public Housing Authority to conduct the proposed “kanaka villages” study instead of OHA.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



ALBERT "ALAPAKI" NAHALE-A
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

ROBERT J. HALL
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

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COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY ALAPAKI NAHALE-A, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS & HOUSING ON
**HR 196/HCR 225, REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING KANAKA VILLAGES FOR HOMELESS
NATIVE HAWAIIANS**

March 28, 2011

Aloha Chair Hanohano, Chair Cabanilla, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) recognizes and appreciates the intent of this measure to address and mitigate our state's growing homeless/houseless population, and specifically native Hawaiians.

Previously this session, the department provided comments to both committees on HB 1489 and the feasibility of a kanaka village. In our previous comments, we outlined the challenges associated with our department launching this type of pilot program. However, we are open to collaborating with other agencies to determine the feasibility of locating a program that is run by another agency on Hawaiian home lands. We defer to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to comment on whether completion of this study by the end of this year as required by the resolutions is feasible.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide these comments.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 7:01 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HR196 on 3/28/2011 10:45:00 AM

Testimony for HAW/HSG 3/28/2011 10:45:00 AM HR196

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/24/2011

Comments:

What an amazing concept. A ghetto. Racial segregation in the 21st Century. Another cockeyed idea from Mele Carroll.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 1:44 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: olindaaiwohi@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HR196 on 3/28/2011 10:45:00 AM

Testimony for HAW/HSG 3/28/2011 10:45:00 AM HR196

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Olinda Aiwohi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: olindaaiwohi@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/25/2011

Comments:

I think this bill would be helpful in solving the homeless situation here in Hawaii. It seems that native Hawaiians are the majority living on the beaches, or in their cars. I see that here on Maui and hope by assigning such a task to OHA it will help our people to live in suitable and affordable dwellings. Not sure if OHA supports this, but I would think they should. Mahalo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 12:38 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: ajc@aloha.net
Subject: Testimony for HCR225 on 3/28/2011 10:45:00 AM

Testimony for HAW/HSG 3/28/2011 10:45:00 AM HCR225

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alike Campbell
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ajc@aloha.net
Submitted on: 3/25/2011

Comments:

Homelessness is a complex issue with varied precipitating factors and causes. Different people are driven in to homelessness for different reasons, and need different interventions to provide pathways off the streets. As such, there is no "one-size-fits-all solution" to address the challenges of ending homelessness. The services that will most benefit a Viet Nam veteran living on the streets probably aren't what a family living out of their car needs which will also be different than the intervention for a young adult "street kid." With this in mind, I would like to express my support for the idea of kanaka villages for Native Hawaiian's experiencing homelessness. If organized right, these villages could be a culturally appropriate service delivery technique. That being said, I think there are some key factors to consider (though I don't know that they all need to be specifically addressed in this resolution).

- I believe for the villages to succeed they need to be primarily organized and run by the residents. Yes, there need to be some basic health, safety, and legal expectations but how each village operationalizes the vision of providing a safe haven for Hawaiian's experiencing homelessness should be left to the residents. This will help to address some of the anti-system sentiments that some unsheltered individuals harbor.
- Residency there needs to be voluntary. The villages won't work if they are a place that individuals are required/forced to go to by laws and law enforcement.
- There need to be adequate facilities/infrastructure (bathrooms, water supply, etc) in each village and the locations need to be reasonable so that there isn't an "out of sight, out of mind" sense that society is trying to push people to the margins (isolated/ignored ghettos).

I also think it would be worthwhile for some research to be done by OHA in to successful "tent city" models and to also learn from "Bumpy" Kanehele's Waimanalo site. In March 2010 the National Coalition for the Homeless published a report about the variety of tent cities that exist on the Pacific Coast of the continental United States (found on the web at <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/Tent%20Cities%20Report%20FINAL%203-10-10.pdf>). The report explores different approaches that have and have not worked and may have some useful insights. There may also be valuable information to be gleaned from the years of experience that the Nation of Hawaii has in the area of developing, building, and sustaining a village. Not that the goal should be to replicate either a mainland tent city or the Nation of Hawaii, because the residents should be given the power to develop their own villages, but every effort should be made to learn from others' mistakes and successes. Thank you for allowing me to share my support for the idea of culturally competent, consumer governed kanaka villages.