

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



KAREN SEDDON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

February 3, 2011 at 1:15 p.m.
Room 016, State Capitol

In consideration of

S.B. 897

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee on Human Services,

HHFDC **offers the following comments** on S.B. 897. This bill requires the HHFDC to conduct a survey to inventory vacant state-owned and state-managed housing units that could be used as affordable rental housing under Chapter 201H, Hawaii Revised Statutes and to report the results of the survey to the Legislature by December 1, 2011.

HHFDC feels that this bill is not necessary. The HHFDC already monitors the vacancy rates of our own rental housing inventory, and can already make this information available to the Legislature upon request. Also, because the Hawaii Public Housing Authority has the largest rental housing among State agencies, it would make sense for it to provide its own vacant unit inventory to the Legislature.

We also note that the proposed report would represent a point-in-time count only, as vacancy rates change on a daily basis as tenants give notice and others are placed in units.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

6301 Pali Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224

Email to: HMSTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: February 3, 2011 @ 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room #016

DATE: February 3, 2011

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

FROM: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director

RE: Strong Support for SB 897 Relating to Homelessness
Strong Support SB 904 Relating to the Homeless
Strong Support SB 912 Relating to Housing

Honorable Chairs and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, I am Walter Yoshimitsu, **representing the Hawaii Catholic Conference**. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents over 200,000 Catholics in Hawaii.

The Hawaii Catholic Conference is committed to reducing poverty now and for the future. The provision of safe and affordable housing is an important part of any such effort. Often support services are necessary to enable an individual to make the transition from homelessness to a stable housing situation possible. Having said that, we acknowledge and recognize that the fiscal situation in our State and country is serious and that cuts in the budget are being made in light of these challenging facts.

The teaching of the church is clear on this issue: "...there is a growing awareness of the exalted dignity proper to the human person, since he stands above all things, and his rights and duties are universal and inviolable. Therefore, there must be made available to all men everything necessary for leading a life truly human, such as food, clothing, and shelter; the right to choose a state of life freely and to found a family, the right to education, to employment, to a good reputation, to respect, to appropriate information, to activity in accord with the upright norm of one's own conscience, to protection of privacy and rightful freedom even in matters religious." Gaudium Et Spes (5):

Based on our commitment to the dignity of the human person and to helping the least among us, we strongly support these measures. These bills, if passed, will move us in the right direction to end homelessness in Hawaii. Along with our community partners, Catholic Charities Hawaii, Office for Social Ministry and the Diocesan Office for Affordable Housing, we strongly urge your support. We leave the technicalities of the bills to their expertise.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: Duddy, Mary [mary_duddy@rcchawaii.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:54 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: support bills

Categories: Red Category

Congress:

I am writing in support of bills S.B. 897; 947; 904; and 109.

All these deal with housing and homelessness, which is of great concern to me.

Thank you.

Mary Duddy

Mary L. Duddy
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ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 9:54 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: jtt.hew@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB897 on 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 2/3/2011 1:15:00 PM SB897

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Janeel Hew
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Submitted on: 1/31/2011

Comments: