

HB898,HD2

Measure
Title:

RELATING TO HOUSING POLICY.

Report
Title:

Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund; Housing
First Pilot Program; Appropriation

Description:

Extends to December 31, 2012, the lapse date of funds appropriated from the emergency and budget reserve fund pursuant to Act 191, SLH 2010, for the housing first pilot program. Effective June 29, 2011. (HB898 HD2)

Companion:

Package:

None

Current
Referral:

HMS, WAM

Introducer(s):

SAIKI, BELATTI, BROWER, NISHIMOTO, RHOADS

Helping Hands Hawai'i

Thursday, March 17, 2011
1:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016

To: Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Sen. Les Ihara Jr., Vice Chair

From: Helping Hands Hawaii – Written Testimony Only

Re: **HB898 HD2, RELATING TO HOUSING POLICY.**

We testify in *strong support* of HB898 HD2, RELATING TO HOUSING POLICY.

Helping Hands Hawaii is a 501(c)(3) non-profit social service agency, which was incorporated in 1974. HHH administers a variety of Behavioral Health and Human Services programs, which assist over 37,000 individuals and households each year.

Both our Behavioral Health and Human Services programs provide a wide range of services intended to prevent homelessness in Hawaii. Our agency provides case management services for adults with serious and persistent mental illness, including many who are currently homeless, and also provide case management specifically for Mental Health Kokua's Safe Haven Project in Chinatown. In addition, our agency also offers emergency financial assistance to help individuals who are homeless to obtain and maintain long-term housing.

HHH strongly supports HB898 HD2, which would extend to December 31, 2012 the lapse date of funds appropriated from the emergency and budget reserve fund for the housing first pilot program. This housing first pilot program offers an innovative solution to address chronic homelessness in our islands.

In addition to the personal struggles experienced by homeless individuals and families living in their cars, on the beaches, or in an emergency shelter – homelessness also has a significant social cost. The total cost of chronic homelessness – which includes the combined costs of hospitalization, gaps in education, lack of job readiness, medical treatment, incarceration, police intervention, and emergency shelter expenses – are significant. However, approaches that support permanent supportive housing can significantly reduce the cost of homelessness for the public. For example, a 2009 study of the homeless population in Los Angeles, California found that placing just four chronically homeless individuals into permanent supportive housing resulted in more than \$80,000 per year in savings to taxpayers, and improved quality of life for the individuals.¹

The housing first model has been proven effective nationally, and represents an innovative approach to addressing chronic homelessness that can not only achieve results, but also will have a community economic impact through cost savings for our State.

Once again, HHH strongly supports HB898 HD2 and believes that this is a step in the right direction to ending homelessness in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ Lewit, M. (2009, November 19). Sheltering Homeless Saves Money, Study Says. University of Southern California. Retrieved March 14, 2011 from: http://uscnews.usc.edu/politics_society/sheltering_homeless_saves_money_study_says.html.

hawaii family forum

Email to: HMSTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: March 17, 2011 @ 1:45 p.m.
Conference Room # 016

DATE: March 14, 2011

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

FROM: Allen Cardines, Jr., Executive Director

RE: Strong Support for HB 898 HD 2 Relating to Housing Policy

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important bill. I am Allen Cardines, representing the Hawaii Family Forum. Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii, representing a network of various Christian Churches and denominations.

The Housing First model has been very successful on the Mainland. It has a good track record in assisting homeless people find access to permanent housing and then aid them in providing the services they need to keep them in housing while providing successful transition off the streets. We support this measure, but along with our community partners, suggest that you change the lapse date to allow time to implement this new concept in Hawaii.

Although we are not a social service provider, we are an educational organization that will continue to educate people in our faith-based communities about the needs of our brothers and sisters across the state who need housing assistance.

Over the last few years, we have committed ourselves to finding community partners who believe there is a permanent solution to homelessness. Our faith-based, private and public sector partners across the state have organized to work together to provide access to affordable housing, easier access to services, and create a workable plan that will one day end homelessness in Hawaii.

We believe that there are many ways to help solve the housing crisis in Hawaii. These are some of the things we strongly support:

- Ongoing collaboration with an entire network of public, private and faith-based organizations that unite around the goal of ending homelessness. No one single organization can do it by themselves. This is OUR Hawaii and we should all work together.
- Providing access to housing for low-income families, those mentally challenged, the elderly and the disabled.
- And finally, continued funding for these essential programs and offices that go to the very heart of the issue. This includes funding for prevention and crisis response programs that solve people's unique housing issues preferably before they become homeless.

HB 898 HD2 can help accomplish these goals. For that reason, we support passage of this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 898, HD2: Relating to Housing Policy

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair; Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair;
and members, Committee on Human Services

FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawaii

Hearing: Thursday, 2/24/11; 1:30 pm; CR 308

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 898, HD2, which extends the lapse date of funds appropriated from the emergency and budget reserve fund ("Rainy Day Fund") for the housing first pilot program to December 31, 2012. Catholic Charities Hawaii strongly supports this bill. .

With the delay in the release of these funds, more time is needed to begin the implementation of this new concept in Hawaii. The Housing First model has been very successful in many areas of the Mainland. It has a good track record in assisting homeless people to gain permanent housing and then provide the services needed to keep them in housing and successfully transition off the streets. Catholic Charities Hawaii promotes this model as a way to target the chronically homeless and assist them to transition to permanent housing.

Partners in Care, the Oahu coalition of homeless providers, government representatives and community stakeholders 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. (Public costs include medical costs for ER visits and hospitalizations, substance abuse treatments, social services including outreach to the homeless, etc.)

This is an important bill to implement the Housing First model in Hawaii. We urge your support for this innovative strategy.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for your support to end the crisis in homelessness which is impacting on our neighborhoods, our parks, our economic centers, and especially the people who fall into homelessness.





HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
6301 Pali Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224

Email to: HMSTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: March 17, 2011 @ 1:45 p.m.
Conference Room # 016

DATE: March 14, 2011

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

FROM: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director

RE: Support for HB 898 HD 2 | RELATING TO HOUSING POLICY

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify, 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 under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva.

The Housing First model has been very successful in many areas of the Mainland. It has a good track record in assisting homeless people access to permanent housing and then aid in providing the services needed to keep them in housing and successful transition off the streets. We support this measure but suggest that you change the lapse date to allow time to implement this new concept 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 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.



PARTNERS IN CARE
Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 898, HD2: EXTENDING THE LAPSE DATE ON FUNDS FROM THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FOR HOUSING FIRST PILOT PROJECT

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

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

Hearing: Thursday, 3/17 1:45 pm, Room 016

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 898, HD2, which extends the lapse date of funds appropriated from the emergency and budget reserve fund for the housing first pilot program to December 31, 2012. Partners In Care supports this bill.

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 this bill. Thank you for hearing this bill and for your support.

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: Carol Ignacio [cignacio@rcchawaii.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 5:16 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: 'Kent Anderson'
Subject: HB 898 H.D. 2

Dear Senator Chun-Oakland:

On behalf of the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu, please be advised that we are in **support of HB 898 H.D. 2** which will be heard on March 17, 2011 at 1:45 pm.

Thank you for all your work on homelessness and housing issues.

Carol R. Ignacio
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