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PARTNERS IN CARE
Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

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

COMMENTS ON SB 900, SD2 HD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair, Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair, Members, Committee on Finance

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

Hearing: **Wednesday 3/30/11, 11:00 am, Room 308**

Chair Oshiro and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SB 900, SD2 HD1, which appropriates funds to establish safe havens for persons who are homeless in designated existing parks and open or vacant locations.

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. While we applaud the legislature's efforts to meet the basic needs of individuals living on the street, the homeless safe haven is not a "silver bullet" solution. In order to serve its users effectively, it must account for those suffering from substance abuse and mental illness. Users must have access to housing, employment training, educational opportunities, counseling and other services.

In addition, we urge the legislature not to divert money from other homeless programs in order to fund a safe haven project.

It is important to include the entire community in the planning and implementation of a temporary shelter such as the proposed safe haven. Although we feel strongly that ***the only permanent solution to homelessness is safe, decent, affordable housing***, Partners In Care can assist with the development of a new temporary shelter. There must be caution, prudence and careful deliberation before launching a project of this nature. Chief concerns include security, sanitation, legal liabilities and criteria for entry.

Partners In Care looks forward to working with legislators in the future to ensure that temporary shelters are not created without adequate planning and forethought. Thank you for hearing this bill and for your attention to this serious issue.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 8:15 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rendy@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB900 on 3/30/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 3/30/2011 11:00:00 AM SB900

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dorenda Perreira
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: rendy@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2011

Comments:

LATE TESTIMONY

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 8:13 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jysm70@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB900 on 3/30/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 3/30/2011 11:00:00 AM SB900

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jacqueline Miyashiro
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jysm70@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB900. I believe in extending a "hands up" when someone is homeless due to no fault of their own such as loss of their job, however I refuse to give a "hand out" to those that refuse to work, prefer to live on the beaches, refuse to live in available free of charge shelters because they refuse to follow rules. I humbly ask for your support to put an end to SB900.