

LATE TESTIMONY



PARTNERS IN CARE
Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 900, HD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative Rida Cabanilla, Chair, Representative Pono Chong, Vice Chair, Committee on Housing; Representative John Mizuno, Chair, Representative Jo Jordan, Vice Chair, Committee on Human Services

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

Hearing: **Wednesday 3/23/11, 11:00 am, Room 325**

Chair Cabanilla, Chair Mizuno and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on SB 900, 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.

The Democratic Party of Hawaii 1150
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S. B. 900: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Chair Rep. Rida Carbanilla, V. C. Rep. Pono Chong and Committee members – Comm. on HSG;
Chair Rep. John Mizuno, V. C. rep Jo Jordan – Comm. on Human Services:

My name is Dante K. Carpenter, Chairman of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. I speak in favor of this measure which would provide overnight shelter to homeless persons, and to accommodate the myriad situations which do not comport with shelter rules, etc.

The Democratic Party Platform states, in part, "Housing is a basic human need. Everyone is deserving of a right to adequate, accessible, affordable and safe housing which should be available to all residents. "

The inherent dignity and inalienable rights of all humans is supported by the DPH in its embracing of Human and Civil Rights. We strongly support the intent and purpose of funding for the program implementation in S. B. 900, as proposed.

Thank you very much.