

LATE

Helping Hands Hawai'i

Tuesday, March 1, 2011
9:15 a.m.
Conference Room 211

To: Sen. David Ige, Chair
Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

From: Helping Hands Hawaii – Written Testimony Only

Re: **SB912 SD1, RELATING TO HOUSING.**

We testify in *strong support* of SB912 SD1, RELATING TO HOUSING.

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, through our Community Based Case Management (CBCM) program, as well as through the 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. In 2010, HHH assisted 113 households with essential housing payments for rent and/or utilities through our Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP).

HHH strongly supports SB912 SD1, which would appropriate general funds to the Department of Human Services to continue the State's Housing Placement Program. Based on our previous

experience in providing case management as well as HPRP services for the homeless, we believe that establishing strong positive relationships with local landlords is an essential component to ensure stable long-term housing for our clients. For these reasons, HHH believes that the Housing Placement Program is a model that is effective, and will help to meet the needs of our community's homeless population.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.