

LATE

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN,  
INTERIM DIRECTOR  
PANKAJ BHANOT  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 3, 2011

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Interim Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 947 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE HOMELESS  
PROGRAMS OFFICE**

Hearing: Thursday, February 3, 2011; 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S.B. 947 is to restore funding for positions for the homeless programs office of the Department of Human Services.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill contingent on the availability of funds and the reestablishment of three Homeless Programs Office positions.

This bill addresses the 70% cut to positions in the Homeless Programs Office, from a staff of ten to three. Although some functions have been successfully outsourced to avoid default with federal requirements which would trigger loss of federal funds, the Homeless Program Office is barely sustaining in an emergency mode function.

The 2010 Legislature recognized the desperate circumstances facing the Homeless Program and restored and funded three additional positions in the FY 2011

budget, however, DHS was prevented from filling the three positions. The FY 2012 budget again deletes the three positions.

Additionally, the funding to sustain several shelter programs was not included in the budget submitted for FY 2012. This bill addresses the lack of funding for those shelters (Ulu Ke Kukui and Seawinds in Waianae; and West Hawaii Emergency Shelter and Kaloko Transitional Shelter in Kona.)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



**PARTNERS IN CARE**  
**Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers**

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

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 947: MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE HOMELESS PROGRAMS OFFICE**

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

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

**Hearing:** Thursday, 2/3/11; 1:15 p.m.; Room 016

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on **SB 947** which makes an appropriation to restore positions for the Homeless Programs Office under the Department of Human Services/BESSD. Partners In Care strongly **supports** this bill.

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. The Homeless Programs Office administers both State and federal funding for homeless programs across the State of Hawaii. Their critical functions are being impacted by the severe cut in funding which reduced their staff from 9 persons to 2 persons. Partners In Care and its member agencies work with this Office to carry out contracts and homeless initiatives. The Office personnel are dedicated and hardworking, but their diminished manpower has negatively affected their ability to administer the many contracts that come under their authority. As a direct result of the funding cuts, homeless service providers have experienced delays in contract execution and payments. The Office needs to be adequately staffed to provide services.

Partners In Care strongly urges the Legislature to support this bill and appropriate adequate funding to restore positions to the Homeless Programs Office.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for your support.

Partnerships in Building Community

"I put my hand in your hand, what I cannot do alone, we will do together"

LATE



Waianae Community Outreach

87-132 Farrington Hwy, Waianae, HI 96792
P.O. Box 1912, Waianae, HI 96792
Ph: (808) 696-5667 Fax: (808) 696-1869

HOPE for a New Beginning Shelter
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Bldg 50 Belleau Woods, Kapolei, HI 96707
P.O. Box 75286, Kapolei, HI 96707
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 947: MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE HOMELESS PROGRAMS OFFICE

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

FROM: KananiKaaiawahia Bulawan, Administrative Advisor

Hearing: Thursday, 2/3/11; 1:15 p.m.; CR 016

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

Waianae Community Outreach STRONGLY SUPPORTS this bill, IT MAKES EVERY SENSE!

The Homeless Programs Office administers both State and federal funding for homeless programs across the State of Hawaii. Their critical functions are being impacted by the severe cut in funding which reduced their staff from 9 persons to 2 persons, currently.

Waianae Community Outreach works with this Office on 2 contracts, Outreach and Stipend, technical assistance, and as well as partners on homeless initiatives. The staff is dedicated and hardworking, but the severe lack of staff has impacted on their ability to effectively and efficiently administer the many contracts under this Office. Providers have experienced delays in contract implementation, payments, etc. The Office needs to be adequately staffed to provide services.

Waianae Community Outreach strongly urges the Legislature to support this bill and appropriate adequate funds to restore staffing positions to the Homeless Programs Office.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for your support.