
From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 2:29 PM
To: HSGtestimony
Cc: c_pomponio@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1253 on 2/9/2011 10:45:00 AM

Testimony for HSG/WLO 2/9/2011 10:45:00 AM HB1253

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cathleen Pomponio
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: c_pomponio@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:
HB 1253

My comments are as follows:

I am in full support of our assisting the homeless into decent housing units. It is a disgrace that we allow this situation to continue for so long. Each day I board the 19/20 bus coming in from the Airport to Waikiki. This bus passes right by the IHS Shelter for men. Many of the local passengers make unsubstantiated statements such as 'they want to live outside'; 'they don't want to be inside' and etc. The level of ignorance on this subject is nearly overwhelming. When I was employed with the City, I had an opportunity to assist two men who were homeless. One of them merely needed \$15. to obtain a traffic record for admission to our program; I gave him the \$15 and he was able to produce a completely clean abstract which allowed him to take a course in Commercial Driving. He passed all of his coursework and was able to work as a driver. Further, a second male client was forced into the IHS and came to my office. I found out that his 'paperwork' was being 'held up' in another City/and County office keeping him from being able to work in his specialized area: "PADI Instruction" which is not a position that any person could have stepped into. After much discussion I was finally able to get the necessary signatures and he was finally able to find work. In another instance: a neighbor of mine was told that he and his wife and one year old baby would have to move out of their apartment because the Landlord 'had to move his mother' into the unit. Part of the problem of homelessness in the creating of homeless people through arbitrary and quasi-legal manipulations of a few landlords towards their tenants. These issues need review and to be addressed.

Thank you for considering these comments.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1253: RELATING TO THE HOMELESS

TO: Representative Rida T. R. Cabanilla, Chair, Representative Pono Chong, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Housing
Representative Jerry L. Chang, Chair, Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources

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

Hearing: Wednesday, 2/9/11; 10:45 am; CR 325

Chair Cabanilla, Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee on Housing and the Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1253, which would require the Department of Human Services to identify suitable properties for a Housing First model project in an urban core. Catholic Charities Hawaii strongly supports this bill.

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.

This is an important bill to implement the Housing First model in Hawaii. It could have long term beneficial effects for both vulnerable homeless persons and to lower the overall public costs for those who are chronically homeless. We urge your support for this innovative strategy.

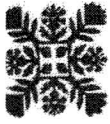
Thank you for hearing this bill and for your support to end the crisis in homelessness which is impacting on our neighborhoods, our parks, our economic centers, and especially the people who fall into homelessness.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone (808)373-0356 -- bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org

• www.CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org





HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

6301 Pali Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224

Email to: HSGTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: February 9, 2011 @ 10:45 a.m.
Conference Room #325

DATE: February 8, 2011

TO: Joint Committees of Housing & Water, Land and Ocean Resources

House Committee on Housing
Representative Rida Cabanilla, Chair
Representative Pono Chong, Vice Chair

House Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources
Representative Jerry Chang, Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair

FROM: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director

RE: Strong Support HB 1253 Relating to the Homeless

Honorable Chairs and members of the House Housing and House Water, Land and Ocean Resources, 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, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents over 200,000 Catholics 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, Office for Social Ministry 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.

6301 Pali Highway • Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224 • Ph: 808-203-6735 • Fax: 808-261-7022
E-mail: w Yoshimitsu@rcchawaii.org | hcc@rcchawaii.org | www.catholicahawaii.org



Email to: HSGTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: February 9, 2011 @ 10:45 a.m.
Conference Room #325

DATE: February 8, 2011

TO: Joint House Committees of Housing and Water, Land and Ocean Resources

House Committee on Housing	House Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources
Representative Rida Cabanilla, Chair	Representative Jerry Chang, Chair
Representative Pono Chong, Vice Chair	Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair

FROM: Allen Cardines, Jr., Executive Director

RE: Support for HB 1253 Relating to Homeless

Honorable Chairs and members of the House Committee on Housing and the House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources, 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 Hawaii Family Forum is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that was founded in 1997 by a group of leaders in the community that were (and are) deeply disturbed by the appearance of hundreds of Hawaii residents living on the streets of our beautiful state. Although we are not a social service provider, we are an educational organization that will continue to help 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.

The Housing First program can help accomplish these goals. For that reason, we support passage of this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

6301 Pali Highway • Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224 • Ph: 808-203-6704 • Fax: 808-261-7022
E-mail: allen@hawaiifamilyforum.org | Website: www.hawaiifamilyforum.org |



the
**Drug Policy
Forum**
of hawai'i

February 9, 2011

To: Committee on Housing
and
Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Executive Director

RE: HB 1253 Relating to the Homeless
Hearing: Wednesday, February 9, 2011, 10:45 a.m., Room 325

Position: Support

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i writes in support of this measure.

DPFH supports the housing first program as a very effective way to address the needs of the homeless, many of whom have substance use issues. This is a proven concept and assists in not only taking people off the streets, but once they have a stable place to live, can facilitate their decision to receive drug treatment or counseling.

Those with substance use issues are homeless because many shelters or programs require them to be substance free before they receive housing and yet, they cannot become substance free until they live in a stable environment.

In order to reduce the homeless population, we must at least start to implement the housing first program. The homeless issue is at a crisis point. Identifying suitable properties is a necessary first step.

We urge the committee to pass this measure. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Board of Directors

Pamela Lichty, M.P.H.
President

Kat Brady
Vice President

Heather Lusk
Treasurer

Katherine Irwin, Ph.D.
Secretary

Michael Kelley, D.Phil.

Richard S. Miller, Prof. of
Law Emer.

Robert Perkinson, Ph.D.

Donald Topping, Ph.D.
Founder 1929-2003

P.O. Box 241042
Honolulu, HI 96824-1042

Phone: (808)-988-4386
Fax: (808) 373-7064

Email: info@dpfhi.org
Website: www.dpfhi.org

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 9, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Rida T.R. Cabanilla, Chair
House Committee on Housing

The Honorable Jerry L. Chang, Chair
House Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Interim Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 1253– RELATING TO THE HOMELESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 9, 2011; 10:45 a.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 1253 is to require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to identify suitable properties for a housing first program that identifies affordable rental housing projects, including an initial housing first single resident occupancy affordable rental housing model project site in an urban core. This bill also requires DHS to report to the Legislature and the Governor.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill. The Department of Human Services, however, does not currently have the staffing or the expertise to identify suitable properties for the proposed program.

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