

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 23, 2012 3:30 P.M.
Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
House Bill 1735, House Draft 1
Relating to the Homeless

Honorable Chair and Members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding House Bill 1735 as amended by House Draft 1, relating to the homeless.

The HPHA supports the intent of this bill to establish the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH). The HPHA, however, requests that the Legislature consider the Administration's bill, H.B. 2542 to establish the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness.

H.B. 2542 would establish the HICH by statute, which will enhance the ability of the Council to provide solutions for ending homelessness in Hawaii by highlighting the importance on ending homelessness and strengthening continuity through administrations.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Finance with the agency's position regarding H.B. 1735 H.D. 1. We respectfully request the Committee to hold this measure, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN
DIRECTOR

BARBARA A. YAMASHITA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 23, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 1735, H.D.1 – RELATING TO THE HOMELESS**

Hearing: Thursday, February 23, 2012; 3:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

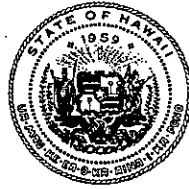
PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 1735, H.D.1 is to establish the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness under the Department of Human Services for administrative purposes. This bill also requires the Department of Human Services to conduct a study on establishing safe havens in the State and to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the 2013 Regular Session on its findings and recommendations from the study.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill to establish the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH). The DHS, however, requests that the Legislature consider Administration bill, H.B. 2542 to establish the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness.

H.B. 2542 would establish the HICH by statute. Statutory enactment will enhance the ability of the council to provide solutions for ending homelessness, by highlight the importance of ending homelessness, and strengthen continuity through future administrations. The recommended membership of the Council, with the exception of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) which we concur should be included as a member of the HICH, is also detailed in H.B. 2542. We will request that the DHHL also be included in the membership of the HICH. In addition, the representative of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority should be designated by the Executive Director of the HPHA, which is attached to the DHS for administrative purposes.

The Department respectfully requests that the provision requiring the DHS to conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing safe havens for people who are homeless across the State be reconsidered. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which is the national leader in addressing homelessness, has been encouraging Hawaii and other communities across the country to prioritize greater resources on permanent (and supportive) housing, and decrease our reliance on emergency and other temporary shelter programs. The DHS is concerned that diverting limited existing funding to explore the feasibility of additional emergency programs will not bring us closer to a solution to homelessness. If the feasibility study is mandated, the DHS respectfully recommends that the term "safe haven" (as used in SECTION 7) be replaced with "safe zones/areas" because a program called Safe Haven (which provides transitional housing to mentally ill homeless persons) already exists on Oahu. The revised wording will hopefully prevent this existing program from being confused with the proposed legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this proposed legislation.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Finance

H.B. 1735, HD1, Relating to the Homeless

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

February 23, 2012

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of this bill. DOH
2 requests the committee consider HB 2542, part of the Governor's package, which would establish the
3 Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** Some administrative costs are needed to fund the activities of the Interagency
5 Council.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill establishes the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness
7 (HICH), which is similar to the provisions HB 2542.

8 The department has been an active participant in the Council since its inception. The Director is
9 a member of the full Council. The Deputy Director of the Behavioral Health Administration chairs one
10 of its subcommittees. The Adult Mental Health Division and the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Division
11 have seats on the workgroups.

12 We support establishing the HICH by statute to enable it to continue its valuable work towards
13 the goal of ending homelessness in Hawaii.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor

February 21, 2012

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair;
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair; and
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2012
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Dwight Y. Takamine, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. No. 1735 HD1 Relating to the Homeless

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

- The proposed legislation seeks to establish the Hawaii interagency council ("Council") on homelessness, an advisory body exempt from Section 26-34, HRS, and administratively attached to the Department of Human Services.
- The Council shall formulate and coordinate a unified plan in all counties, and acquire federal funding for homeless programs.
- The Council shall be composed of representatives from different state agencies.

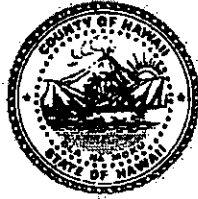
II. CURRENT LAW

We defer to the Department of Human Services regarding current laws on this subject.

III. COMMENTS ON H.B. NO. 1735 HD1

- The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (department) supports an integrated approach to addressing homelessness as proposed by this measure as long as its passage does not displace the funding priorities of the administration.
- DLIR requests that the representative of the department be at the discretion of the director (and not necessarily restricted to the Workforce Development Division as proposed) because more than one office/division in the department works with the homeless population.

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Stephen J. Arnett
Housing Administrator

Niniau K. Simmons
Assistant Housing
Administrator

County of Hawai'i

Office of Housing and Community Development

50 Wailuku Drive • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8379 • Fax (808) 961-8685
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Highway • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4305 • Fax (808) 323-4301

February 22, 2012

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Finance

Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2012


SUBJECT: House Bill 1735 HD1
Hearing Date: 02-23-2012
Time: 3:30 PM
Conference Room: 308

The Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) **supports** House Bill 1735.

The OHCD supports the legislature's effort to establish the interagency council on homelessness under the department of human services. By mirroring the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, the state will be able formulate and coordinate a unified plan to address homelessness in all counties and facilitate the acquisition of federal funding for homeless programs.

The OHCD respectfully requests the council reinstate the inclusion of the rural county continuum of care members, collectively known as Bridging the Gap (BTG) and specifically including Community Alliance Partners (Hawai'i County), Maui Homeless Alliance (Maui County), and Kaua'i Community Alliance (Kaua'i County). This collective group maintains key oversight of federal Super Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) funding that is awarded to rural county organizations that serve the homeless population.

Thank you for your careful consideration of the positive impacts of this bill.


Stephen J. Arnett
Housing Administrator





PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1735, HD1: RELATING TO THE HOMELESS, WITH AMENDMENTS

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

FROM: Gladys Peraro, Partners In Care (PIC), Advocacy Chair

Hearing: Thursday, 2/23/1; 3:30 pm; CR 308

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony with amendments on behalf of HB 1735, which establishes the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness. My name is Gladys Peraro, Advocacy Chair, Partners In Care (PIC). Our coalition focuses on the needs of homeless persons and strategies to end homelessness. Partners In Care supports the creation of an Interagency Council on Homelessness as an important strategy in utilizing the State's resources to end homelessness.

As one of the Members of the Council named in this bill, Partners in Care is eager to participate in the Council to actively identify and implement solutions to homelessness. A collaborative effort is indeed needed to decrease the growing number of homeless persons in Hawaii. Only through a coordinated and concerted effort will we realize an end to homelessness in Hawaii. The diverse group of entities and agencies from the State, County and other entities across Hawaii will bring the strength needed for the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness to make a difference. Additionally, representation from homeless services providers such as the members of PIC and other homeless coalitions (Continuums of Care), faith based organizations, and the like will have the greatest effect as we work together to effect meaningful change for this social problem. The Council has already begun its work and is identifying critical strategic goals and initiatives that would prevent homelessness as well as ensure that homeless persons obtain permanent housing and become reintegrated into the community. Establishing the Council by statute, will further augment the Council's ability to implement solutions for homelessness and ensure continuity as administrations change.

Suggested Amendments:

- 1) We implore the Legislature to ensure that any administrative costs for the Council not impact on direct service funding to homeless programs already established. Additional funding would need to be appropriated for the expenses of this Council.
- 2) In Section seven (7), we suggest that the wording be changed from "safe havens" to "**safe zones/areas**". There is already a Safe Haven program in Honolulu, which provides transitional housing to mentally ill homeless persons. This amendment will ensure that the program not be confused with the bill, which is to study "tent city" type programs.

Thank you for your support as we work together to realize solutions to end the crisis in homelessness.

Partners In Care, c/o Aloha United Way, 200 N. Vineyard Blvd, Suite 700
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Partners in Care is a membership organization of homeless service providers, other service professionals, units of local and state government, homeless consumers, and other community representatives located in Hawai'i on O'ahu. It is a planning, coordinating, and advocacy body that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill gaps in the Continuum of Care on O'ahu.