



AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dilir.director@hawaii.gov

February 7, 2012

To: The Honorable Rida T.R. Cabanilla, Chair; Ken Ito, Vice Chair;
and Members of the House Committee on Housing
The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair; Jo Jordan, Vice Chair;
and Members of the House Committee on Human Services

Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Room 325, State Capitol

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

Re: H.B. No. 1735 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

- 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.



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committees on Housing and Human Services

H.B. 1735, Relating to the Homeless

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

February 8, 2012

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) is in support of this bill.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Administrative costs are needed to fund the activities of the Interagency Council.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill establishes the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness
4 under the Department of Human Services for administrative purposes , and is very similar to HB 2542,
5 which is part of the Governor's package.

6 As the Director of Health, I have been a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on
7 Homelessness since its beginning. The Council went to work right away, embarking on the process of
8 developing a plan to eliminate homelessness in Hawaii. Much has been done, and there is still much to
9 do.

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

13 The time has come to do something definitive about homelessness in this state. We do not want
14 this work to be subject to external forces that might result in becoming distracted by other issues. This
15 legislation will enable the Council to have the foundation necessary from which to continue its work.

1 This Council has the right members for the right purpose at the right time, the department of
2 health has been and will remain an active member, and we support the proposal becoming statute so that
3 this work may continue.

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

5
6

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 8, 2012

MEMORANDUM

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

Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

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

Hearing: Wednesday, February 8, 2012; 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 1735 is to establish the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness to be administratively placed within the Department of Human Services, and makes an appropriation for administrative expenses.

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 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 DHS also respectfully requests that in your consideration of the establishing of a HICH, the Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands or designee should be added as a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness.

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



HB 1735
RELATING TO THE HOMELESS
House Committee on Housing and Human Services

February 8, 2012

10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 325

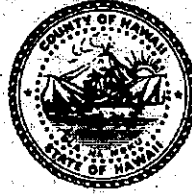
The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB1735, which would establish the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness under the department of human services for administrative purposes.

A considerable number of Native Hawaiians are homeless, and a coordinated effort to address homelessness in Hawaii will provide the guidance and direction the state needs to combat this significant issue. Native Hawaiians experience disproportionately high rates of unsheltered homelessness and make up a significant portion of the population in shelters. A high percentage of Native Hawaiians also spend a significant amount of their income on housing costs and must compete for both rental and homeownership opportunities in an inflated market. OHA has awarded a number of grants to community organizations to help address the issues that face our homeless population. These grantees include Family Promise, Catholic Charities of Hawaii, and Kahikolu Hale o Waianae among various other service providers.

We appreciate the intent of this bill and know that OHA representation at the council can provide unique insight on the issues and concerns that face our beneficiaries. Traditionally, when OHA is asked to be part of the membership of a task force or council set forth by the legislature, it would include the appointment of the OHA Administrator or designee. We recommend an amendment to Section 3 line 15 to read the "Administrator of the office of Hawaiians affairs or designee".

OHA urges the committee to PASS HB1735. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

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 7, 2012

The Honorable Rida T.R. Cabanilla, Chair
The Honorable Ken Ito, Vice Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Housing

Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2012


SUBJECT: House Bill 1735
Hearing Date: 02/07/2012
Time: 10: AM
Conference Room: 325

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 asks that you correct Section 3. (21) (B) to read, "Community Alliance Partners (Hawai'i County)."

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


Stephen J. Arnett
Housing Administrator



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
"HAWAII COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER"

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Daryl Selman, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Aloha House

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii

Assistive Technology Resource Ctrs. of HI

Bay Clinic, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blueprint for Change

Bobby Benson Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kabi Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'aina Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kalih Valley

Kula No Na Poe Hawaii

Lanai Community Health Center

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

The Maui Farm, Inc.

Maui Youth and Family Services

Palama Settlement

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center
Kona Unit

REAL

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

The Children's Alliance of Hawaii

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

YouthVision

YWCA of Kauai

February 6, 2012

To: Representative Rida Cabanilla, Chair
And members of the Committee on Housing

Representative John Mizuno, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1735 RELATING TO THE HOMELESS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1735 Relating to the Homeless and proposes an amendment to the composition of the Council membership

Runaway, homeless and street youth are an often overlooked segment of the homeless population and one that has unique needs and challenges. These youth are separated from their families and are living without adult support and guidance.

Their reasons for living on the streets differ from adults and families. Adults and families commonly become homeless due to loss of employment, income that is inadequate to afford housing, or chronic mental illness. In contrast, family conflict is often the primary reason why youth leave home, including relationship with a stepparent, sexual activity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, school problems, and alcohol and drug use.

Unaccompanied minors living on the street are at high risk of physical violence and sexual trafficking. They experience poor nutrition, health problems, and difficulty in attending school. Hawaii Youth Services Network encounters more than 700 runaway, homeless, and street youth annually through its statewide partnership of street outreach and emergency shelter programs.

For these reasons, Hawaii Youth Services Network recommends that one member of the Council on Homelessness be experienced in working with runaway, homeless and street youth to ensure that their needs are addressed.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

ATTN: CHAIRS RIDA CABANILLA AND JOHN MIZUNO
Testimony Providing Comments on HB 1735, RELATING TO THE HOMELESS
February 8, 2012, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 325

Aloha,

The Leeward Housing Coalition supports the intent of HB 1735 in establishing an Interagency Council on Homelessness in the State of Hawai`i.

An Interagency Council on Homelessness mirrors one established within the Federal government and will be able to tap into broader resources exploring avenues to holistically address the whole issue of homelessness in all sectors of society.

The formal establishment of this council via statute would guarantee funding and support to address a state-wide situation which affects all aspects of our residents lives, whether it affect tourism, our own enjoyment of our recreational treasures, enjoyment of a healthy and whole society.

Thank you for supporting this measure.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1735: RELATING TO THE HOMELESS

TO: Representative Rida Cabanilla, Chair, Representative John Mizuno, Chair, and Members, Committees on Housing and Human Services

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

Hearing: Wednesday, 2/8/12; 10:00 a.m.; CR 325

Chair Cabanilla, Chair Mizuno, and Members of the Committees on Housing and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1735, which establishes the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness. I am Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison at Catholic Charities Hawaii. Catholic Charities Hawaii supports this bill as an important step to coordinate the State's resources to end homelessness.

Homelessness is growing in Hawaii. This complex issue requires greater collaboration and coordination on strategic initiatives if we are to end homelessness in Hawaii. The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness would bring together diverse government entities from both the State and Counties, as well as representatives from the homeless coalitions (Continuums of Care), faith based organizations, etc. All parts of our community need to be involved to resolve this sometimes overwhelming 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. By establishing the Council by statute, this will further enhance the Council's ability to implement solutions for homelessness and ensure continuity as administrations change.

There is no quick fix to ending homelessness. It requires ongoing effort and collaboration which the Interagency Council on Homelessness would provide.

We urge the Legislature to ensure that any administrative costs for the Council not impact on direct service funding to homeless programs. Additional funding would need to be appropriated for the expenses of this Council.

We also suggest that as the bill moves forward, the list of designated members be coordinated with the current Council, as well as with SB 2804, which lists some different members for the Council.

Thank you for hearing our testimony in support of HB 1735, and especially for your concern and your support to end the crisis in homelessness.





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REALTORS®**
www.hawaiiirealtors.com

The REALTOR® Building
1136 12th Avenue, Suite 220
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Phone: (808) 733-7060
Fax: (808) 737-4977
Neighbor Islands: (888) 737-9070
Email: har@hawaiiirealtors.com

February 8, 2012

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

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services
State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: H.B. 1735, Relating to the Homeless

HEARING: Wednesday, February 8, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Cabanilla, Chair Mizuno and Members of the Joint Committees:

I am Myoung Oh, Government Affairs Director, here to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 8,500 members. HAR **supports** H.B. 1735, establishing the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness under the Department of Human Services.

There are approximately 6,000 homeless living in Hawai'i, and it is of serious concern to many communities and residents throughout this State. Furthermore, the high cost of housing and living, here in the islands, may make it difficult for struggling families trying to make ends meet to be able to afford the opportunity to own, or even rent a home.

HAR has historically supported mechanisms to help increase the supply of low and moderate income affordable rental housing, such as the Rental Housing Trust Fund Program, which helps provide these opportunities.

HAR is supportive of the endeavor to create a Hawai'i Interagency Council. Moreover, HAR looks forward to assisting with the formation and coordination of a unified plan to help address homelessness in all counties, and assist in facilitating the acquisition of federal funding for homeless programs

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 10:19 AM
To: HSGtestimony
Cc: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1735 on 2/8/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for HSG/HUS 2/8/2012 10:00:00 AM HB1735

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Scott Wall
Organization: Individual
E-mail: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2012

Comments: