
From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 4:40 PM
To: HSGtestimony
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Subject: Testimony for HB2182 on 2/1/2012 8:45:00 AM
Attachments: HB2182 Testimony February 1 2012.docx

Testimony for HSG 2/1/2012 8:45:00 AM HB2182

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cynthia K.L. Rezentesc
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rezentesc@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

ATTN: CHAIR RIDA CABANILLA

Testimony Providing Comments on HB2182, RELATING TO EMERGENCY SHELTERS

February 1, 2012, 8:45 a.m.

Conference Room 325

Aloha,

The Leeward Housing Coalition respectfully provides the following comments regarding HB 2182.

This bill is unnecessary and may be impractical due to the following reasons:

1. The current practice on the Leeward Coast of O`ahu has both Outreach Organizations working on the coast (Wai`anae Community Comprehensive Health Center and Wai`anae Community Outreach) providing information as regular contact is made with any unsheltered individual whether they reside on public property or private property (access duly given by the private landowners). In each instance, the outreach workers are in communication with the numerous shelters located on the Leeward Coast and communicate to the homeless the opportunities that are available to them and their companions and/or families.
2. In the instance where there might not be a temporary emergency shelter with a unit or bed available to the homeless who are being communicated with on the Leeward Coast, they are wait-listed until an available unit becomes vacant. This situation is very infrequent when there is not a unit that is available for the homeless. In the specific case where there is a park "clean-up" the shelters on the Leeward Coast work with the outreach teams to "hold" units for those who will be vacated from public lands to the best of their ability while still attempting to manage their wait-lists for those that have indicated readiness to move into a shelter. In this instance, there may or may not be available recognized temporary "roofed" shelter within the area in which case other alternatives are made known, e.g. IHS, Lighthouse, Next Step, etc. It would still be incumbent on the homeless to determine what their next step would be and if they would be willing to move away from their support structure locally.

For these reasons, this bill is unnecessary for operators on the Leeward Coast of O`ahu and we would encourage continuing effort be placed in finding and making available permanent housing for the many who are homeless due to the lack of being able to afford the current rents (even as family members continue to work to provide for their family.)

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January 31, 2012

The Honorable Rida T.R. Cabanilla, Chair, and Members
Committee on Housing
House of Representatives
Twenty Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2012
State of Hawaii

RE Testimony In Opposition to H.B. 2182, Relating to Emergency Shelters

House Bill 2182 requires a county that is relocating a homeless person or family from public property, to provide access to a temporary emergency shelter and notify the person or family of the location of the emergency shelter. The City and County of Honolulu stands in opposition to this Bill.

As a matter of policy, the City and County of Honolulu does not displace or relocate any families or individuals, homeless or otherwise, who are lawfully using or occupying public property. As presently drafted, H.B. 2182 does not adequately define what actions constitute a relocation of a homeless person that would require the offering of emergency shelter. As such, the enforcement of existing ordinances such as park closure rules, or the temporary closure of public property for routine maintenance could trigger the emergency shelter provisions of this Bill if a homeless family or individual is asked to vacate public property when a park is closed or to accommodate maintenance activities. While recognizing the intentions of the Bill, we suggest that this Bill is unnecessary and as presently drafted would create an unnecessary burden on county government and we respectfully request that it be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith I. Ishida", is written over a horizontal line.

Keith I. Ishida
Executive Director