

# HCR 82

Measure Title: SUPPORTING EFFORTS BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT ASSIST IN FINDING OPPORTUNITIES AND SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN HAWAII.

Report Title: Homelessness; Non-governmental Organizations

Description:

Companion: HR57

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS

Introducer(s): AWANA, HANOHANO, HASHEM, C. LEE, MANAHAN, MIZUNO, NAKASHIMA, TSUJI, WOOLEY

# 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](mailto: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  
Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health  
Kama'aina Kids, Inc.  
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)  
Project  
Kids Behavioral Health  
Kids Hurt Too  
Kokua Kalihī 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

April 19, 2012

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Human Services

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 82 SUPPORTING EFFORTS BY NON-  
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT ASSIST IN FINDING  
OPPORTUNITIES AND SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN  
HAWAII**

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving Organizations, supports HCR 82/HR 57 Supporting Efforts by Non-Governmental Organizations That Assist in Finding Opportunities and Solutions to Address Homelessness in Hawaii

Since 1981, Hawaii Youth Services Network and partner organizations statewide have successfully utilized federal funds to meet the needs of runaway and homeless youth and those at-risk of homelessness. In cooperation with Hale Kipa, Maui Youth and Family Services, Family Support Hawaii, Salvation Army Family Intervention Services, Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii, and Hale 'Opio Kauai, we provide street outreach, emergency shelter, and transitional living services to young people ages 12 – 21. Currently, we bring more than \$462,000 a year in federal funds into our state to provide services in both urban and rural communities.

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. Hawaii Youth Services Network's street outreach and shelter programs reach more than 700 runaway and homeless youth annually.

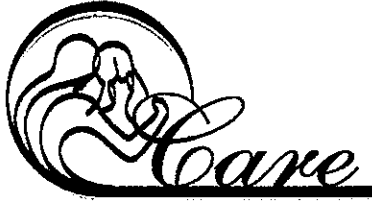
Communities benefit when young people and their families have the resources needed to be safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in life. Programs for the homeless help families to become self-supporting, contributing citizens of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



Senator Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Human Services Committee.

Thank you for allowing me to testify before your committee in support of \_\_\_\_\_

HCR 02

My name is Robin Bond, and I am the president of the Wai'anae CARE 501©3 nonprofit organization. The founding group of CARE consisted of a diverse group of working individuals who came together about 5 years ago because their **compassion** for the homeless, to drive **action**, to inspire an attitude of **responsiveness** in the community, and through the development of organized programs and initiatives to **empower** homeless individuals to live more self sufficient lives and motivate them to become productive, contributing members of society. This is the acronym for CARE --- compassion, action, responsiveness, and empowerment.

CARE has been involved in several activities in Wai'anae, including giving a Christmas party for the children at the homeless shelter, Paiolu Kaiaulu, in Dec. 2007, helping with the Christmas party for the Keiki at Waianae Harbor in Dec. 2009, donating a large PET scan van to Ka'maile Elementary School for providing medical services for the students there, many who don't have health insurance, and participating in several health fairs along the Leeward coast.

It is our contention that much can be done to help the homeless if there is a collaboration of the public sector (State and City and County government) and private organizations to plan, develop, and coordinate community based initiatives, programs, and strategies to assist those who are homeless. There are numerous private organizations doing varied services with the homeless along the Leeward coast, giving time, money, food & clothing, education, social services, and health care, selflessly and with so much heart. Yet the situation with homelessness continues almost unabatedly.

Observing the situation in Waianae it has been no secret that the community there feels that they have been unfairly burdened with the homeless population in Hawaii, and rightfully so. The encampment of homeless have been uprooted from the beaches and parks only to appear further down the coast in a larger aggregation. Encouraging and expecting all the homeless to go to the shelters or hoping that some community families would house some of the homeless has been fruitless. There are several reasons why many of the homeless do not want to enter the shelters, but the point is moot.



GLENN M.L. PANG, M.D.  
CHAIRMAN  
ROBIN BOND  
PRESIDENT  
MICHELLE PECSON  
VICE PRESIDENT  
VELMA WONG  
INTERIM SECRETARY  
CYNTHIA MANABE  
TREASURER  
WWW.WAIANAECARE.ORG  
INFO@WAIANAECARE.ORG

Although a large portion of the homeless is chronically homeless for various reasons about 30-40 % are there because of the economic downturn and cannot afford to live in apartments or governmental housing, and they hope to eventually find jobs or jobs with adequate income to provide them income to afford housing.

Many private organizations are poised to help provide temporary housing (tents or small portable housing units) and various services for the evicted homeless if adequate land could be found. There exists much unused land in the Waianae and Makaha valleys , but most are designated for agricultural use only. If the State legislature would be able to legislate certain conditions for the Land Use Commission to designate agricultural land for temporary housing for a specific period of time this would remove one of the significant barriers in finding housing for the homeless. The communities that are created would consist of many of the evicted homeless and could be run like "tent cities" that have evolved in numerous states with a large homeless populations (California, Oregon, Washington, New Jersey, and Canada). The tent cities that have evolved have been fairly successful due to several reasons: 1) they are initially time specific (5-10 years) to see if they are successful, 2) membership is by application review, 3) there is no discrimination as to religion, race, sex, sexual orientation, age, handicap, previous criminal record, or economic lifestyle), 4) community rules of behavior need to be followed (no violence, no disruptive behavior, no stealing, and no alcohol or illegal substances), 5) everyone needs to contribute to the upkeep and cleanliness of the community, 6) membership size is limited by the size of the available space, 7) everyone needs to contribute to the enhancement of the community and building their own portable homes and facilities if they are made available (small prefabricated homes and toilets that can be easily put up and taken down), 8) there is self governance by the homeless community being overseen by the community organizations conceiving the project to assure that rule and regulations are followed, and 9) the residents will be required to participate in job training and social service programs set up by the outreach organizations.

With the support and assistance of the Hawaii State Legislature in collaboration with private non governmental organizations this type of initiative can happen and would make a difference in the management of the homeless population in Hawaii.

## *Strategies & Initiatives*

- Connect those in need with those who want to help.
- Gain the trust and respect of the homeless community.
- Develop relationships with existing organizations to determine where needs still exist and how to best leverage the varied services currently being offered on the Leeward Coast.
- Understand the needs, motivations, values and culture of the homeless community in Waianae in order to develop viable and practical solutions.
- Achieve understanding from the local community and businesses in developing and implementing programs and initiatives in order to encourage active participation.



## *Learn about us!*

- Educate public about the homeless
- Engage the local community
- Connect volunteers and homeless
- Advocate for homeless neighbors
- Mentor homeless youth
- Empower homeless individuals
- Collaborate with local agencies
- Bring services to homeless
- Distribute goods to homeless
- Provide health/nutrition education
- Offer culture-based workshops
- Develop life skills training
- Promote vocational programs
- Write grants for local programs

**For more information, contact:**

Dr. Katie Klinger  
Phone: 808.347.1742

84-757 Kiana Place #19A  
Waianae, HI 96792

[www.waianaecare.org](http://www.waianaecare.org)



# Waianae Care Inc.

Waianae CARE is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The founding group of diverse individuals came together three years ago through their compassion for the homeless to drive action and to inspire an attitude of responsiveness within the local community.

Waianae CARE, through the development of organized programs and initiatives, empowers homeless individuals to live more self-sufficient lives and motivates them to become productive, contributing members of society.

Waianae CARE serves as an advocate for change within the Leeward Coast community.

Waianae CARE works in collaboration with other public and private organizations to plan, develop and coordinate community based initiatives, programs, and strategies to assist those who are homeless.

With adequate resources and moral support, Waianae CARE believes people who are currently homeless can become community assets once again.



---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2012 5:02 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** walkman10@verizon.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR82 on 4/23/2012 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for HMS 4/23/2012 11:00:00 AM HCR82

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Ken Brandt  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [walkman10@verizon.net](mailto:walkman10@verizon.net)  
Submitted on: 4/20/2012

**Comments:**

As a retired Social Worker, I understand the importance of non governmental organizations in helping people who are homeless.