



STATE OF HAWAII  
Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness  
820 Millilani Street, Suite 606  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 20, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Honorable Rida Cabanilla  
Chair, Housing Committee

Honorable Ken Ito  
Vice-Chair, Housing Committee

FROM: Lynn Heirakuji, Interim Vice-Chair, Hawai'i Interagency Council on  
Homelessness

SUBJECT: **SB2804, SD2 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII' INTERAGENCY  
COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 21, 2012; 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:**

The Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) was established by Executive Order No. 11-21 on 19 July 2011. The purpose of SB2804, SD2 is to establish the HICH by statute.

**POSITION:**

As Interim Vice-Chair of the HICH, I **support** this Administration Bill to codify the HICH and provide for its continuity, thus, elevating the importance of ending homelessness in Hawai'i. The HICH membership represents a wide cross section of the community including those from government, business, faith, and the social services, and has the mandate to advise the Governor on the formulation and execution of a multi-year state-wide plan to prevent and end homelessness in all Hawai'i counties. As such, establishing the HICH by statute will enhance its ability to provide effective and meaningful approaches to addressing homelessness.

To date, the HICH has met twice and convened several investigative committees to develop overall strategies for consideration of the HICH. These strategies once adopted will form the basis for the development of the state-wide homelessness plan that will serve as Hawai'i's strategic roadmap for preventing and ending homelessness in the State.

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

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

March 21, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2804, S.D.2 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY  
COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 21, 2012; 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S.B. 2804, S.D.2 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 strongly supports this Administration Bill.

Governor Abercrombie established the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) through issuance of Executive Order No. 11-21 on July 19, 2011. In establishing the HICH, the Governor of Hawaii found it to be imperative and in the public interest to capitalize on the opportunities and momentum generated by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). Mirroring the USICH, the HICH provides leadership for the prevention and elimination of homelessness and works to ensure care

for homeless persons in the spirit of the Law of the Splintered Paddle (Ke Kānāwai Mamalohoe).

Establishing the HICH in statute will enhance its ability to provide solutions for ending homelessness in Hawaii. The HICH has convened on several occasions and also developed investigative committees. These committees explore the current state of homelessness, the State and Counties responses to homelessness, and the collective efforts made by government, non-profits, business, and others to find solutions to homelessness. While there is clearly much more work that needs to be done, progress is being made. The establishment of the HICH by statute will ensure continued progress and accountability toward measuring outcomes and implementing solutions to homelessness.

The DHS would like to thank the Housing Committee Chair and Housing Committee for hearing this bill and allowing us the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.