

SB 2117

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE HOMELESS.

Report Title: Homeless; Housing; Substance Abuse; Mental Health; Appropriation

Description: Appropriates funds to the homeless programs office of the department of human services and the rental housing trust fund. Appropriates funds to the department of health for substance abuse treatment, mental health support services, and clean and sober housing services.

Companion:

Package: Housing and Homeless

Current Referral: HMS/HTH, WAM

Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND, BAKER, ESPERO, FUKUNAGA, GALUTERIA, SHIMABUKURO, Dela Cruz, Ihara, Nishihara

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN,
DIRECTOR

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

February 6, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2117 - RELATING TO THE HOMELESS**

Hearing: Monday, February 6, 2012; 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to the Homeless Programs Office of the Department of Human Services and the rental housing trust fund to assist homeless individuals and families. The bill also appropriates funds to the Department of Health for substance abuse treatment, mental health support services and clean and sober housing services.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services appreciates the intent of this bill as it is supportive of our objectives. We ask that the Legislature support the Department's priorities as requested in the Executive Supplemental Budget submitted by Governor Abercrombie.

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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committees on Human Services and Health

S.B. 2117, The Homeless

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

February 6, 2012

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of this measure as long
2 as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Supplemental
3 Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** In addition to \$15 million appropriated to the Hawaii Housing Finance and
5 Development Corporation for the Rental Housing Trust Fund, unspecified sums are appropriated for the
6 Departments of Health and Human Services to assist homeless individuals and families.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** Sections 4 and 5 of the measure appropriate unspecified sums to be
8 expended in Fiscal Year 2012-2013 by the Department of Health for: substance abuse treatment and
9 mental health support services for individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless; and
10 clean and sober housing support services.

11 Stable housing is a critical component in the continuum of substance abuse treatment and
12 recovery. Approximately 16 percent of clients served by ADAD contracted providers do not have stable
13 housing at admission. At discharge and follow-up, unstable housing status is reduced to 13 percent and
14 2 percent, respectively.

Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness

1 As a member of the Governor's Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness which is a
2 24-member council comprised of community leaders, state department directors, and federal agency
3 representatives, the Department of Health is involved with the development of a unified plan on
4 addressing homelessness by increasing transitional and permanent housing options and acquiring
5 increased federal funding.

6 We are aware of the need for substance abuse treatment, clean and sober housing support
7 services, and mental health support services for those who are homeless or at risk of becoming
8 homeless. It should be noted, however, that as needs are identified and priorities are assigned to address
9 the issue of homelessness, the proposed services in this measure must also be viewed within the context
10 of the Department's Supplemental Budget Request.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



KAREN SEDDON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of
Karen Seddon
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

February 6, 2012, 3:00 p.m.
Room 229, State Capitol

In consideration of
S.B. 2117 RELATING TO THE HOMELESS.

The HHFDC *supports the intent* of section 3 of S.B. 2117, which would infuse funds into the Rental Housing Trust Fund. We would like to point out that HHFDC has a pending Supplemental budget request for an infusion of \$5,000,000 in General Obligation Bond funds into the Trust Fund. We defer to the Departments of Human Services and Health, as appropriate, with respect to the remainder of this bill.

The Rental Housing Trust Fund is a valuable tool for the development or preservation of affordable rental housing. The Trust Fund may be used to provide loans for the development, pre-development, construction, acquisition, preservation, and substantial rehabilitation of rental housing units. As of June 30, 2011, the Trust Fund has been leveraged with Federal and County funds, private investment, and other HHFDC financing programs to develop or preserve 4,140 rental units.

The only dedicated source of funding for the Rental Housing Trust Fund is a 25 percent share of conveyance tax proceeds. The Legislature has also appropriated CIP funds. Applications for Trust Fund loans far exceed the amount available in the fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



SB2117
RELATING TO THE HOMELESS
Senate Committee on Human Services
Senate Committee on Health

February 6, 2012

3:00 p.m.

Room 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following comments on SB2117, which would appropriate funds for homeless services out of the rental housing trust funds.

OHA supports the intent of this measure as evidenced by our history of grants supporting programs and homeless shelters. However, funding this program through the rental housing trust fund will cause a net drain on affordable housing resources in the state of Hawai'i because these homeless programs will not replenish the fund.

OHA urges the committee to work with HHFDC on better methods for funding this and similar programs. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



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February 6, 2012

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: S.B. 2117, Relating To Homeless

HEARING: Monday, February 6, 2012, at 3:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Green, 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 Section 3 of S.B. 2117, which appropriates funds to the Rental Housing Trust Fund.

HAR has historically supported mechanisms to help increase the supply of low and moderate income affordable housing such as the Rental Housing Trust Fund Program which can help integrate the use of mixed-income and mixed-use projects, special purpose revenue bonds, low-interest loans, block grants, low-income housing tax credit programs and deferred loan programs to provide rental housing opportunities.

Lastly, by helping to increase the availability of rental housing for persons who face obstacles in moving from homelessness to permanent housing and persons with lower incomes who need to find affordable rental housing, HAR believes efforts should continue to address the homeless issue in our State.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.





HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

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E-mail: info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org Website: www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org

THE SENATE THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2012

**Committee on Human Services
Committee on Health
Testimony in Support of S.B. 2117
Relating to The Homeless**

**Monday, February 6, 2012, 3:00 P.M.
Conference Room 229**

Chair Chun-Oakland, Chair Green and Members of the Committees:

I am Louis Erteschik, Acting Executive Director at the Hawaii Disability Rights Center, and am testifying in support of this bill.

In particular, we support the provisions herein, as well as any efforts by the legislature, to provide additional funding for mental health services for all individuals, be they homeless or not. We are very concerned that the state has retreated in its efforts in the past few years to provide adequate community based mental health services. In fact, there is certainly evidence that some percentage of people who are homeless also have a mental illness. To that extent, any funds that the legislature can provide will help alleviate problems facing both groups of individuals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.





CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT/COMMENTS ON SB 2117: RELATING TO THE HOMELESS

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair; and Members, Committee on Human Services; Senator Josh Green, Chair, and Members, Committee on Health

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

Hearing: Monday, 2/6/12; 3:00 pm; CR 229

Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Green, and Members, Committees on Human Services and Health:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2117. I am Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison for Catholic Charities Hawaii. Catholic Charities Hawaii supports the intent of this bill. However, **we urge you to defer this bill (SB 2117), and instead pass out SB 2319, which provides a wider range of strategies to end homelessness.**

Catholic Charities Hawai'i strongly supports the Rental Housing Trust Fund (RHTF), which has a proven track record of utilizing all its funding to produce housing. As of 6/30/11, 4,140 affordable housing units have been created. The RHTF is critical to leverage federal funds to make affordable housing projects pencil out. In the current economic crisis, affordable rentals are even more in demand as workers lose jobs or have hours reduced. The production of affordable units cannot fill the demand. We support the \$10 Million allocation listed in HB 2012 (State Budget bill), but urge that a total of \$15 Million be allocated for FY 12-13 due to growing homelessness and the desperate need for more affordable housing. **\$15 Million** is a challenge, but also an opportunity to build housing when costs are lower and economic stimulus is needed. Housing production helps Hawaii's economy.

Along with Partners in Care, we have prioritized funding for homeless program services, substance abuse treatment and mental health services as crucial supports to both prevent people from becoming homeless as well as to stabilize them and keep them in affordable housing. Funding for these basic services are critical as the homeless population is increasing.

What are missing from SB 2117 are other proactive strategies that would focus funding to prevent at risk families from falling into homelessness, as well as to move families more rapidly onto permanent housing. We must lessen the wave of people falling into homelessness. Once homeless, we must utilize other strategies besides waiting for public housing to reintegrate families into our communities and permanently house them. Additional strategies to address both prevention of homelessness and rapid rehousing of families who are ready to rent but cannot afford market rents, are provided in SB 2319.

We urge you to defer SB 2117 and urge your support for SB 2319 and its multiple strategies to end homelessness in our State.





HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

SB2117 Relating to Homeless Funds homeless programs and rental housing for substance abuse treatment, mental health support and sober housing.

- SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES: Senator Chun-Oakland, Chair; Senator Ihara, Vice Chair
- SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH: Senator Green, M.D. Chair; Senator Nishihara, Vice Chair
- Monday, Feb. 6, 2012; 3:00 p.m.
- Conference Room 229

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB2117

Aloha Senator Chun-Oakland and Senator Green, Chairs; and Senator Ihara and Senator Nishihara, Vice Chairs; and Distinguished Committee Members. My name is Alan Johnson, Chair of HSAC, a statewide hui of about 20 treatment and prevention agencies.

SUMMARY

Substance abuse treatment is particularly critical for individuals with co-occurring mental illnesses. A recent study revealed that among homeless clients with co-occurring disorders, those who reported extensive participation in substance abuse treatment showed clinical improvement comparable to or better than individuals without co-occurring disorders (Gonzalez and Rosenheck, 2002).

People with both a mental illness and a co-occurring substance use disorder face the daunting task of recovering from both disorders.

In particular, research and experience have demonstrated that services for people with serious mental illnesses or co-occurring disorders who are homeless should be recovery-focused, culturally competent, flexible and individualized, and client-centered. Further, the full array of services that individuals need must be in place or must be created. This makes it essential that individuals with mental illnesses and substance use disorders who are homeless have access to all treatment services for which they are eligible.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Recovery is Possible

In recent years, "recovery" for people with mental illnesses is now realized as possible and no longer under the mistaken belief that it is a lifelong condition. Many achieve full recovery in both psychiatric status and social functioning while a substantial number of others improve

significantly (Harding et al., 1987), (Ralph, 2000). Illness self-management skills, including education, coping skills, and relapse prevention strategies, play a critical role in people's recovery from mental illnesses (Mueser et al., 2002).

An increasing number of people with mental health illnesses support the "simple yet powerful vision" that mental health recovery is possible.

Ultimately, recovery is a very personal process that involves hope, meaningful activities and relationships, self-esteem, and self-worth. Recovery involves the development of core beliefs as well as key relationships with supportive individuals (Ahern and Fisher, 1999).

The Problem

Mental health and substance abuse providers frequently cite the problem of co-occurring serious mental illnesses and substance use disorders as the most difficult situation they face (NASMHPD and NASADAD, 1999). They are at risk for homelessness and incarceration. Among people with serious mental illnesses who are homeless, approximately half have a co-occurring substance use disorder (SAMHSA, 2002b)

The fragmented nature of programs and funding makes it difficult for communities to meet the needs of people with serious mental illnesses and/or substance use disorders in an efficient and cost-effective manner (NAEH, 2000). Frequently, these individuals make use of high-cost services such as emergency rooms and inpatient care.

Resources for housing, treatment and support services are limited. Communities must seek resources to fill known service gaps while looking for new ways to use scarce resources more effectively through better integration and coordination (Glover and Gustafson, 1999).

Systems Integration Through Planning and Implementation

Systems integration requires creating a system of care that is seamless to the individuals being served - a system-wide policy that makes "any door the right door" to receive needed treatment and services (Federal Task Force on Homelessness and Severe Mental Illness, 1992).

People who are homeless must have access to a full range of outpatient and residential treatment services, including crisis interventions, individual supportive therapy, family or group therapy, medication management, and therapeutic approaches that address multiple problems. Access to coordinated treatment for co-occurring mental illnesses and substance use disorders also is necessary and superior to other approaches for reducing alcohol and drug use, homelessness, and the severity of mental symptoms among people with co-occurring disorders (Carey, 1996; Drake et al., 1998).

Providing supportive services to people in housing is effective in achieving residential stability, improving mental health and recovery from substance abuse, and reducing the costs of homelessness to the community (Culhane et al., 2001; Lipton et al., 2000; Tsemberis and Eisenberg, 2000; Rosenheck et al., 1998; Shern et al., 1997; Goldfinger and Schutt, 1996;

Hurlburt et al., 1996). Recent studies indicate that supportive housing may be cost-effective, as well (Culhane et al., 2002; Houghton, 2001).

CONCLUSION

When the planning is done, the real work begins.

The good news is that communities and providers don't have to reinvent the wheel. There is a wealth of information about the programs and services that are most effective for people with serious mental illnesses and/or co-occurring substance use disorders who are homeless.

The good news about service provision for people with serious mental illnesses and/or co-occurring substance use disorders who are homeless can be summed up simply:

**We know what works.
Now we need to put what we know to work.**

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 10:05 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2117 on 2/6/2012 3:00:00 PM

Categories: Purple Category

Testimony for HMS/HTH 2/6/2012 3:00:00 PM SB2117

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Scott Wall
Organization: Individual
E-mail: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

C

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 4:36 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2117 on 2/6/2012 3:00:00 PM

Categories: Purple Category

Testimony for HMS/HTH 2/6/2012 3:00:00 PM SB2117

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brenda Kosky
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:
Strongly support, we need to help where e can.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2012 8:18 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: emailcvk@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2117 on 2/6/2012 3:00:00 PM

Categories: Purple Category

Testimony for HMS/HTH 2/6/2012 3:00:00 PM SB2117

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carol Kozlovich
Organization: Individual
E-mail: emailcvk@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments: