

February 28, 2012

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: S.B. 2319, S.D.1, Relating To Homeless

HEARING: Tuesday, February 28, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I am Myoung Oh, Government Affairs Director, submitting comments 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. 2319, 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 submit comments.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing Date: February 28, 2012

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Testimony in Support of **SB 2319 SD1**

Chairman Ige and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shirley Matsumoto and I am currently a medical student at the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). I would like to submit this statement in support of SB 2319 SD1.

I am currently a participant in JABSOM's Homeless Outreach and Medical Education (HOME) project. Along with other medical students and volunteers, I travel to various homeless shelters on Oahu, such as the Pai`olu Kaiaulu shelter in Waianae and the Next Step shelter in Kaka`ako, to provide free medical services to homeless individuals and families. Participating in this project has provided me with an up-close view of the issues which affect the lives of the homeless on Oahu - mental illness, substance abuse, loss of income and support, and rising housing costs to mention just a few.

After witnessing the problems faced by Oahu's homeless individuals and families, I believe that providing support services to address these issues, or at least ameliorate their impact, is vital in order to begin reducing the numbers of homeless whom we see in shelters and on the streets across Oahu. However, in order to ensure that these support services actually have an impact, funding is essential. This is why I respectfully urge this Committee to pass SB 2319 SD1, to keep alive a vehicle for appropriations to various programs which will help in the battle to eradicate homelessness.

Thank you,

Shirley Matsumoto

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2319 on 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 9:24:31 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2319

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brenda Kosky
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:

Yes I strongly support this. Homeless people are thought of as nobody. They are shadow people that no one wants to see, let alone look at.

I have been homeless, not by choice or by drug, but by being made a widow. But I did not have a brand on my forehead that said WIDOW. No I was treated and looked down upon just like everyone else. It was very bad, very lonely, life was already at its worst, and people were looking at me with loathing, because I was on the street, so I must be a bad filthy stupid human being. Well I was not and am not. Please, back then if there was any kind of clean, caring, honest help, I would have appreciated it so much, just like others will if we take time to give the care, and real help.

I strongly support this!!!!