

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

April 4, 2012

TO: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2568, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE HOMELESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, April 4, 2012; 2:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 2568, H.D. 1 is to establish a Return-to-Home Program to assist eligible homeless individuals to return to their home state if there is a support network available and able to receive them. This measure would also appropriate general funds and is effective July 1, 2030.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services appreciates the intent of this bill but has substantial reservations because of the cost implications generated by this proposal and the impact it may have on the priorities in the Executive Budget. The DHS also has substantial concerns on the overly prescriptive language of the services to be provided and the requirement for the cooperation of many private business organizations.

The DHS Homeless programs does not have the staffing or fiscal resources to administer this program. To administer this program, the DHS Homeless programs will require additional funding of at least \$150,000 funding for staff and for the services prescribed in this bill.

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

To the House Committee on Finance

RE: Comments in Support of SB 2568 HD1

I am writing in strong support of SB 2568 HD1. This bill with it's recent changes I believe will be a tremendous help to our current problem of homelessness in the State of Hawaii. I have read the previous testimony for this bill and I agree that this bill has a small upfront cost that will save millions in the end. The cost of a plane ticket amounting between \$600 and \$800 is a very small number when compared to a potential \$30,000 to \$35,000 in assistance that one homeless individual would receive in a year. The cost of shelter, food, hospital stays, support services are far greater in comparison to a one time plane ticket. These individuals are unique in that they may have family and other support on the mainland that we can not duplicate. The harsh realities that they have come to face in the light of living on the streets of Hawaii are multiplied when paired with their lack of support and family. Though this is not the only measure needed to fix the homeless problem, it is a good tool to add to our arsenal. Please pass this bill and help these people who are in dire need of the service of their government.

Thank you for you consideration

Wayne Worthington Jr.

To: Chair Oshiro
From: Su A. Kim
RE: Support of SB 2568

I am urging that you pass SB 2568. With its new amendments it is a great solution to the homelessness problem in Hawaii. Every day as I exit my work I see a man who is living on the street. I recently had a chance to speak to him and found that he had originally come to Hawaii to visit and got stuck here. He is now forced to live on the sidewalk and could easily have shelter if he could get home to his family. I believe that this bill could help those like him. Please help those in need to get back to their homes. Just think if your child was lost in a foreign place. Wouldn't you hope that someone would help them get home to you.

Mahalo

Su A. Kim

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 2:23 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: MSMatson@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2568 on 4/4/2012 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/4/2012 2:30:00 PM SB2568

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michelle Matson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: MSMatson@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/4/2012

Comments: