

Isaac S. Arasato

UH Manoa School of Social Work

**COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

Rep. Rida T.R. Cabnilla, Chair

Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 325

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**RE: SB2568 RELATING TO THE HOMELESS.**

Requires counties to provide information on and access to temporary emergency shelters to homeless individuals and families upon removing them from public property.

Aloha Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Isaac Arasato and I am a graduate student attending the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work and I am testifying **IN SUPPORT** of **SB2568**.

Homelessness is a growing concern in Hawaii. The problem is very noticeable throughout the city of Honolulu. For the past year, streets throughout the city have been lined with homeless men, women, and children. Most noticeable, until December of 2011, the sidewalks of S. King St near old stadium park, has been loaded with camping tents and shopping carts. After the cities removal of the personal possessions of these people, they were forced to relocate to another site. A sad reality is that some of the homeless people actually hold jobs but are not able to afford rent.

As a future social worker, I realize that I may be involved with helping the homeless population. I am in support of this bill because I believe that people who are forced off public property need a place to temporarily stay rather than moving to the next public location available.

I urge you to please support SB2568.

Mahalo,

Isaac Arasato

# LATE TESTIMONY

Kacy M. Okabe

University of Hawaii, Manoa School of Social Work

## SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Sen. Will Espero, Chair

Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 325

### **RE: SB2568 RELATING TO THE HOMELESS.**

Requires counties to provide information on and access to temporary emergency shelters to homeless individuals and families upon removing them from public property.

Aloha Committee on Public Safety and Human Services,

My name is Kacy Okabe and I am a graduate student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social work at UH Manoa. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB2568**.

Homelessness is a major social issue in Hawaii, with recent studies showing a six percent (6%) increase throughout the state. The high cost of living in Hawaii makes it almost impossible for families to make ends meet with just one household income. Homelessness affects a variety of individuals living in Hawaii ranging from veterans to single mothers and their children. Some of these individuals even hold a full time job and still cannot manage to pay for rent along with all the other expenses of daily living. These individuals are forced to live on beaches, in parks, and along the streets of downtown and Waikiki, which are visible to tourists who come to Hawaii for its reputation of being a tropical paradise. The SB2568 bill will support homeless individuals by providing them with the necessary information and access to temporary emergency shelters upon their removal from public property.

Mahalo for your time and the opportunity to comment on this bill. I strongly urge the committee to PASS the bill SB2568.

To: Rep. Cabanilla, chair, and members of the House Committee on Housing

From: Susan Jaworowski

Re: S.B. No. 2568, Relating to the Homeless

Date: March 20, 2012

## **LATE TESTIMONY**

I am writing in strong support of S.B. 2568. The issue of homelessness in Hawaii is a sustained one, so much so that the Legislature passed HRS 346-375 two years ago to require the counties to provide temporary emergency shelters. Yet there remains a disconnect between the rousting of the homeless and the provision of these temporary shelters. If the homeless are not informed of these shelters, or are not provided assistance with accessing them, the shelters are not fully performing the task they were designed to solve, and the homeless remain on the street.

This bill would help connect the dislocated homeless with these shelters. It is a humanitarian measure, and I urge you to support it. Mahalo.