



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

April 2, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Marcus Oshiro
Chair, Finance Committee

Honorable Marilyn Lee
Vice Chair, Finance Committee

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

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2804, SD2, HD1 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY
COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Monday, April 2, 2012
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

PURPOSE:

The Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) was established by Executive Order No. 11-21 on 19 July 2011. S.B. 2804, SD2, HD1 establishes the HICH by statute.

POSITION:

As Interim Vice-Chair of the HICH, while I support the intent of this bill to statutorily establish the HICH, I prefer the language of the Administration Bill, S.B. 2804, SD2. S.B. 2804, SD2 provides for HICH membership that is more leadership oriented and representative of the wide community of stakeholders who should have a voice on this issue. Preventing and ending homelessness requires committed leadership and a comprehensive strategy and, therefore, having a Council that represents the broader interests of government, as well as, the business and service provider communities is essential.

In addition, S.B. 2804, SD2 does not include a requirement for a safe haven study, and further, provides for an appropriation for the HICH's administrative expenses. It also codifies the establishment of the HICH in the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, thus, enhancing its ability to provide effective and meaningful long-term approaches to addressing homelessness.

I offer one recommended amendment to S.B. 2804, SD2 in the Membership section, (a)(16). I suggest that the original language of S.B. 2804 replace (a)(16), as follows – (xx) A representative of the Continuum of Care Network of the city and county of Honolulu; and (xx) A representative of the Continuum of Care Network of Maui, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this bill. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at Lynn.Heirakuji@hawaii.gov or on 568-0271.

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 2, 2012

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2804, S.D.2, H.D.1 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII
INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Monday, April 2, 2012; 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

PURPOSE: S.B. 2804, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, establishes the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness and places it under the Department of Human Services for administrative purposes. The proposed legislation also requires the DHS to conduct a study on establishing safe havens in the State and to submit a report of findings and recommendations to the Legislature prior to the 2013 Regular Session.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) is in strong support of the establishment of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness but by statute instead of Session Law as proposed in the H.D. 1 of this bill. The DHS respectfully requests that the language of the Administration's bill, S.B. 2804, S.D. 2 be restored to S.B. 2804. The language in S.B. 2804, S.D. 2 contains the many elements, including the broad-based leadership that will be provided by the proposed membership of

the HICH, that are necessary for the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) to function at its best.

The DHS also recommends the following amendment to S.B. 2804, S.D. 2 in the proposed Membership section of the proposed new chapter. The federal Housing and Urban Development agency has encouraged that the continuum of care membership to be included as:

- “(xx) A representative of the Continuum of Care Network of the city and county of Honolulu;
- (xx) A representative of the Continuum of Care Network of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii counties;”

This is the way that HUD has encouraged the formation of these bodies for funding and representation purposes with one representative for the City and County of Honolulu and one representative only jointly for the other counties.

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 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 stature 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

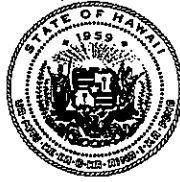
efforts made by government, non-profits, business, and others to find solutions to homelessness. The HICH is, in fact, in the process of sharing the State's draft plan to end homelessness in venues across the state. While there is clearly much more work that needs to be done, progress is being made. The establishment of the HICH by statute will ensure continued progress and accountability towards measuring outcomes and implementing solutions to homelessness.

The DHS is opposed to Section 7 of S.B. 2804, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, which requires the DHS to conduct a feasibility study of safe havens for homeless persons in the State. The Department is opposed to reducing current funding in order to study what would be another temporary/emergency response to homelessness. The Department's Homeless Programs fiscal and human resources are already being tested by current projects and responsibilities.

A recent (February, 2012) policy brief offered by the Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice entitled "Addressing Homelessness: New Approaches to Affordable Housing in Hawaii" provided details about various temporary encampments offered in cities across the country, and concludes that the "state and counties must invest more in affordable housing" not temporary shelter. The Department is working with other entities, including the HICH, to develop and implement a state plan that will focus on the key factors necessary to end homelessness.

Historically, in Hawaii and in other locations, such set asides of public spaces incurs huge neighborhood resentment and a major challenge to undo when funding or public support is no longer available. Once a way of life has been created for the severely disadvantaged, it is very difficult to undo.

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



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Finance

S.B. 2804, HD1, Relating to the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness

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

April 2, 2012

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of this bill. However,
2 DOH requests the committee consider HB1905.SD1, which is part of the Governor's package to
3 establish the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH).

4 **Fiscal Implications:** Administrative costs are needed to fund the activities of the HICH.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill establishes the HICH under the Department of Human Services
6 for administrative purposes.

7 The DOH has been an active participant in the Council since its inception. The Director of
8 Health is a member of the full Council. The Deputy Director of the Behavioral Health Administration
9 chairs one of its subcommittees. The Adult Mental Health Division and the Alcohol and Drug Addiction
10 Division have seats on subcommittee workgroups.

11 We support establishing the HICH by statute to enable it to continue its valuable work towards
12 the goal of ending homelessness in Hawaii.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



SB2804 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS
House Committee on Finance

April 2, 2012

4:00 p.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **SUPPORTS** SB2804 SD2 HD1, which would establish the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness to be administratively placed within the department of human services and makes an appropriation.

A considerable number of Native Hawaiians are homeless, and a coordinated effort to address homelessness in Hawaii will provide the guidance and direction the state needs to combat this significant issue. Native Hawaiians experience disproportionately high rates of unsheltered homelessness and make up a significant portion of the population in shelters. A high percentage of Native Hawaiians also spend a significant amount of their income on housing costs and must compete for both rental and homeownership opportunities in an inflated market. OHA has awarded a number of grants to community organizations to help address the issues that face our homeless population. These grantees include Family Promise, Catholic Charities of Hawaii, and Kahikolu Hale o Waianae, among various other service providers.

We appreciate the intent of this bill and know that OHA representation at the council can provide unique insight into the issues and concerns that face our beneficiaries.

OHA urges the committee to PASS SB2804 SD2 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Daryl Selman, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Aloha House

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii

Assistive Technology Resource Ctrs. of HI

Bay Clinic, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blueprint for Change

Bobby Benson Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Maui Teen Care

Maui Learning Center

Maui Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'aina Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kahi Valley

Kula No Na Poe Hawaii

Lanai Community Health Center

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

The Maui Farm, Inc.

Maui Youth and Family Services

Palama Settlement

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center
Kona Unit

REAL

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

The Children's Alliance of Hawaii

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

WVision

WVCA of Kauai

March 30, 2012

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
And members of the Committee on Finance

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2804 SD 2, HD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB2804 SD 2 HD 1 Relating to the Hawaii State Council on Homelessness and proposes an amendment to the composition of the Council membership

Runaway, homeless and street youth are an often overlooked segment of the homeless population and one that has unique needs and challenges. These youth are separated from their families and are living without adult support and guidance.

Their reasons for living on the streets differ from adults and families. Adults and families commonly become homeless due to loss of employment, income that is inadequate to afford housing, or chronic mental illness. In contrast, family conflict is often the primary reason why youth leave home, including relationship with a stepparent, sexual activity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, school problems, and alcohol and drug use.

Unaccompanied minors living on the street are at high risk of physical violence and sexual trafficking. They experience poor nutrition, health problems, and difficulty in attending school. Hawaii Youth Services Network encounters more than 700 runaway, homeless, and street youth annually through its statewide partnership of street outreach and emergency shelter programs.

For these reasons, Hawaii Youth Services Network recommends that one member of the Council on Homelessness be experienced in working with runaway, homeless and street youth to ensure that their needs are addressed.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2804, SD2, HD1: RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair; Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Finance

FROM: Gladys Peraro, Partners In Care (PIC), Advocacy Committee Chair

Hearing: Monday, April 2, 2012; 4:00 p.m.; CR 308

Chari Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2804, which establishes the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness. I am Gladys Peraro, Advocacy Chair for Partners In Care (PIC). Our coalition focuses on the needs of homeless persons and strategies to end homelessness. PIC supports this bill as an important step to coordinate the State's resources to end homelessness in Hawaii.

Homelessness is growing in Hawaii. This complex issue requires greater teamwork and coordination on strategic initiatives if we are to end homelessness. The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness would bring together diverse government entities from the State and Counties, as well as representatives from the homeless coalitions (Continuums of Care), businesses, faith based and other community organizations. All parts of our community need to be involved if a resolution to this oft time overwhelming social problem is to be achieved. The Council has already begun its work and is identifying critical strategic goals and initiatives that would prevent homelessness as well as ensure that homeless persons obtain permanent housing to become reintegrated into the community. By establishing the Council by statute, this will further enhance the Council's ability to implement solutions for homelessness and ensure continuity as administrations change.

Change will require ongoing effort and collaboration, which the Interagency Council on Homelessness would provide. There is no quick fix to ending homelessness- PIC understands that a collaborative effort will be required to solve this crisis. PIC also remains steadfast in support of seeking solutions through affordable and permanent housing solutions rather than "safe havens" as we work together to prevent and end homelessness.

Thank you for hearing our testimony in support of SB 2804, and especially for your concern and your support to end the crisis in homelessness.

Partners In Care, c/o Aloha United Way, 200 N. Vineyard Blvd. Suite 700
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Partners in Care is a membership organization of homeless service providers, other service professionals, units of local and state government, homeless consumers, and other community representatives located in Hawai'i on O'ahu. It is a planning, coordinating, and advocacy body that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill gaps in the Continuum of Care on O'ahu.



HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
6301 Pali Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224

Email: FINTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: Monday, April 2, 2012 @ 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room: 308

DATE: March 30, 2012

TO: **House Committee on Finance**
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

From: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director

Re: Support for SB 2804 SD 2 HD1 Relating to the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness

Honorable Chairs and members of the House Committee on Finance, I am Walter Yoshimitsu, **representing the Hawaii Catholic Conference**. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents Roman Catholics in Hawaii.

We strongly support this bill that would establish the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness. The Hawaii Catholic Conference, along with our community partner Catholic Charities Hawaii, supports this bill as an important step in the coordination and establishment of resources to end homelessness in Hawaii.

If we are to end homelessness in Hawaii, we need to work together to come up with a strategic plan. The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness would be a great asset in coordinating government entities, representatives from the homeless coalitions (Continuums of Care), business and community leaders, and even faith based organizations.

Our understanding is that the Council has already begun the process of identifying goals and initiatives to provide permanent housing, prevent homelessness, and provide housing reintegration. By establishing the Council by codification, the Council's ability to implement solutions for homelessness and ensure continuity as administrations change will be strengthened.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY with Amendments for SB 2804 SD2, HD1: RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair, Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Finance

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

Hearing: Monday, April 2, 2012; 4:00 p.m.; CR 308

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Member, Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2804, which establishes the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness. I am Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison at Catholic Charities Hawaii. Catholic Charities Hawaii strongly supports the concept of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness as an important step to coordinate the State's resources to end homelessness. See our suggested amendment below.

Proposed Amendments: While the intent of SB 2804 HD1 is similar to the original SB 2804, Catholic Charities Hawaii urges that the language be changed to the original language in SB2804, SD2. The SD2 version is more straight forward and brings the right members to the table to collaborate and coordinate action on this complex issue. The original version stipulates that the heads of government departments or their designee be members of the council, while the language of HB 1735 (now inserted into SB 2804 HD1) often designates lower level staff. For example, instead of the Director of the Department of Health (DOH) (as in SB 2804, SD2), this current bill places a representative from the Adult Mental Health Division of DOH on the Council. The Director of DOH has already involved many of her staff in the work of the Council, not just the Adult Mental Health Division. When the leaders of government departments are on the Council, faster and more efficient decisions and implementation can take place.

We have no objection to putting a time frame on the life of the Council vs making it permanent. The Council needs to revisit its mission over time and evaluate its success in ending homelessness.

We also urge the Legislature to provide an allocation for administrative costs for the Council, so as not to impact on direct service funding to homeless programs.

There is no quick fix to ending homelessness. It requires ongoing effort and collaboration which the Interagency Council on Homelessness would provide. By establishing the Council by statute, this will enhance the Council's ability to implement solutions for homelessness and ensure continuity as administrations change.

Thank you for considering our comments. We urge your support for this important initiative to end homelessness.



FINTestimony

m: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
it: Friday, March 30, 2012 11:19 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rezentesc@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2804 on 4/2/2012 4:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/2/2012 4:00:00 PM SB2804

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cynthia K.L. Rezendes
Organization: Leeward Housing Coalition
E-mail: rezentesc@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/30/2012

Comments:

Aloha Chair Oshiro and members of the Committee on Finance,

The Leeward Housing Coalition, a collaboration of shelter and service providers located from Kalaeloa to Ka`ena Point SUPPORTS the founding of an Interagency Council as modeled after the Federal Interagency Council to establish a plan to reduce and prevent increasing homelessness. We would humbly request your consideration that the Leeward Housing Coalition also be given a "seat at the table"; considering the number of service and shelter providers we represent from the Westside of Oahu.

The Leeward Housing Coalition, at this time, does not oppose a study to be done regarding "safe havens"; but continues to support the community's position of not wanting "safe havens"; to be established within the area of the Westside of Oahu considering the number of shelters already in existence and our study that approximately 30% of those served are either not from the area or do not wish to continue to reside in the area. This begs the question of, "Why does the Westside continue to attract the homeless?" Is it because we already have an abundance of services? Are homeless being directed to the Westside since it is known that those who want services will get them? In any case, the community is opposed to additional shelters or "safe havens"; within the area.

Mahalo for your continued support to help find methods to address our continuing homeless issues.

Cynthia K.L. Rezendes
Interim Coordinator
Leeward Housing Coalition