

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

S.B. 2804, SD1, Relating to the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness

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

Director of Health

February 28, 2012

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports SB2804, SD1.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Administrative costs are needed to fund the activities of the Hawaii Interagency
3 Council on Homelessness (HICH).

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

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

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

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



SB2804 SD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 28, 2012

9:00 a.m.

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB2804 SD1, 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 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF SB 2804 SD1: RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senator David Ige, Chair, Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means

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

Hearing: Tuesday, 2/28/12, 9:00 am; CR 211

Chair Ige, Chair Kidani, and Members, Committees on Ways & Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments 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 supports this bill, and the amendments in SD1, as an important step to coordinate the State's resources to end homelessness.

Homelessness is growing in Hawaii. This complex issue requires greater collaboration and coordination on strategic initiatives if we are to end homelessness in Hawaii. The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness would bring together diverse government entities from both the State and Counties, as well as representatives from the homeless coalitions (Continuums of Care), business, faith based organizations, etc. All parts of our community need to be involved to resolve this sometimes overwhelming social problem. 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 and 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.

There is no quick fix to ending homelessness. It requires ongoing effort and collaboration which the Interagency Council on Homelessness would provide.

We urge the Legislature to ensure that any administrative costs for the Council not impact on direct service funding to homeless programs. We support the funding appropriated in this bill for the expenses of this Council.

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



PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF SB 2804 SD1: RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senator David Ige, Chair, Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means

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

Hearing: Tuesday, 2/28/12, 9:00 am; CR 211

Chair Ige, Chair Kidani, and Members, Committees on Ways & Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 2804 SD1, 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. Partners In Care strongly supports this bill, and the amendments in SD1, as an important step in coordinating the State's resources to end homelessness.

Homelessness is growing in Hawaii. The multi-faceted complexities surrounding the issues require greater collaboration and coordination on strategic initiatives if end homelessness in Hawaii is to be realized. The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness will bring together diverse government entities from the State and Counties, as well as representatives from the homeless coalitions (Continuums of Care), business, faith based organizations, as well as private ventures. All parts of our community need to be involved to resolve this sometimes-overwhelming social problem. 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 and become functioning, integrated members of the community. Establishing the Council by statute, will further enhance the Council's ability to implement solutions for homelessness and ensure continuity as administrations change.

There is no quick fix to ending homelessness- it requires concerted ongoing effort and collaboration, which the Interagency Council on Homelessness would provide.

We urge the Legislature to ensure that any administrative costs for the Council **not** affect direct service funding to homeless programs. PIC supports the ***funding appropriated in this bill for the expenses of this Council.***

Thank you for your consideration of our comments 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.

From: [Cynthia K.L. Rezentes](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for SB 2804 SD1
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2012 10:14:36 AM
Attachments: [SB2804 SD1 Testimony February 28 2012.docx](#)

Aloha,

Please find attached testimony for the Leeward Housing Coalition relating to:

SB 2804 SD1
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 28, 2012, 9:00 a.m
Room 211

Mahalo,

Cynthia K.L. Rezentes

"E malama kakou i ka `aina no na pua"

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

ATTN: CHAIRS DAVID IGE

Testimony Supporting SB 2804 SD1: RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY
COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

February 28, 2012, 9:00 a.m.

Conference Room 211

Aloha,

The Leeward Housing Coalition supports the intent of HB 1735 in establishing an Interagency Council on Homelessness in the State of Hawai'i.

An Interagency Council on Homelessness mirrors one established within the Federal government and will be able to tap into broader resources exploring avenues to holistically address the whole issue of homelessness in all sectors of society.

The formal establishment of this council via statute would guarantee funding and support to address a state-wide situation which affects all aspects of our residents lives, whether it affect tourism, our own enjoyment of our recreational treasures, enjoyment of a healthy and whole society.

The Leeward Housing Coalition respectfully requests your consideration to add our coalition to the membership of the Interagency Council. We represent most of the shelter providers (emergency and transitional...7 of 8) located from Kalaeloa to Ka`ena Point and numerous service providers who support various aspects of programs to assist homeless and houseless families and individuals in improving their lot in life. We have been active for over three years and bring with us a wealth of experience and knowledge of the challenges and directions we believe are critical to assisting everyone in addressing reducing the numbers of homeless and houseless on the Westside of O`ahu.

Thank you for supporting this measure.

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
Hina Mauka Teen Care
Hui Malama Learning Center
Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health
Kama'aina Kids, Inc.
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth) Project
Kids Behavioral Health
Kids Hurt Too
Kokua Kalihi 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
YouthVision
YWCA of Kauai

February 23, 2012

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2804 SD 1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB2804 SD 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



HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

6301 Pali Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224

Email: WAMTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 @ 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room: 211

DATE: February 22, 2012

TO: **Senate Committee on Ways & Means**
Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

From: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director

Re: Support for SB 2804 SD 1 Relating to the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness

Honorable Chairs and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ajc@aloha.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2804 on 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2012 3:38:29 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2804

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alikea Campbell
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ajc@aloha.net
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:

I support passage of this bill as the Interagency Council on Homelessness is an important component in the efforts to address homelessness in Hawaii.