



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 28, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

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

Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2012; 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S.B. 2804, S.D.1 is to establish the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness to be administratively placed within the Department of Human Services, and makes an appropriation for administrative expenses.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services strongly supports this Administration Bill.

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 statute 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. 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 toward measuring outcomes and implementing solutions to homelessness.

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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

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ALBERT "A"  
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TESTIMONY OF ALAPAKI NAHALE-A, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS  
IN SUPPORT OF

**SB 2804 SD1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON  
HOMELESSNESS**

February 28, 2012

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

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands supports SB 2804 SD1, which establishes the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness.

We appreciate that this current draft includes the department (through the chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission) as a member of the council. We recognize that a number of our state's homeless and houseless population are beneficiaries of our trust, and in the past our department has had a part in initiatives to address homelessness.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.