

SB 2804

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS.

Report Title: Homelessness; Interagency Council; Department of Human Services; Appropriation

Description: Establishes the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness to be administratively placed within the Department of Human Services; makes an appropriation for administrative expenses.

Companion: HB2542

Package: Gov

Current Referral: HMS, WAM

Introducer(s): TSUTSUI (BR)



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Human Services

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

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

February 9, 2012

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) is in strong support of this bill.

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 As the Director of Health, I have been a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on
7 Homelessness since its beginning. The Council went to work right away, embarking on the process of
8 developing a plan to eliminate homelessness in Hawaii. Much has been done, and there is still much to
9 do.

10 The department has also been an active participant in the Council since its inception. The
11 Deputy Director of Behavioral Health Administration chairs one of its subcommittees. The Adult
12 Mental Health Division and the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Division have seats on the workgroups.

13 The time has come to do something definitive about homelessness in this state. We do not want
14 this work to be subject to external forces that might result in becoming distracted by other issues. This
15 Legislation will enable the Council to have the foundation necessary from which to continue its work.

Promoting Lifelong Health and Wellness

1 This Council has the right members for the right purpose at the right time, the DOH has been and
2 will remain an active member, and we support the proposal becoming statute so that this work may
3 continue.

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



SB2804
RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS
Senate Committee on Human Services

February 9, 2012

1:30 p.m.

Room 016

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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2804, RELATING TO THE HAWAII
INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

PRESENTATION TO THE

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN
DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

February 9, 2012

Chair Chun-Oakland and Committee members:

I am Ron Han, Director of the Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the concepts in Senate Bill 2804.

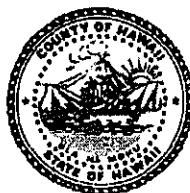
This measure would establish the Hawaii Interagency Council on homelessness by statute, which will further enhance the ability of the council to provide solutions for ending homelessness in Hawaii. The 2010 data indicates more than ten percent are veterans. One of the four ambitious goals of finishing the job would be preventing and ending homelessness among veterans in five years.

We defer to the Department of Human Services.

The OVS supports the concepts and intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget for Fiscal Years 2012-2013.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in support of SB 2804.

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Stephen J. Arnett
Housing Administrator

Niniau K. Simmons
Assistant Housing
Administrator

County of Hawai'i

Office of Housing and Community Development

50 Wailuku Drive • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8379 • Fax (808) 961-8685
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Highway • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
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February 6, 2012

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Human Services

Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2012

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 2804
Hearing Date: 02/09/2012
Time: 1:30 PM
Conference Room: 016

The Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) **supports** Senate Bill 2804, which establishes the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Homelessness is growing in Hawai'i. This complex issue requires greater collaboration and coordination on strategic initiatives if we are to end homelessness in Hawai'i. The Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness would bring together diverse government entities from both the State and Counties, as well as representatives from the homeless coalitions (Continua 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.

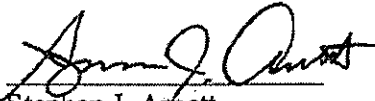


EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
"HAWAII COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER"

Page 2
February 6, 2012
SB 2804

We urge the Legislature to ensure that any administrative costs for the Council not impact on direct service funding to homeless programs. Additional funding would need to be appropriated for the expenses of this Council.

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.


Stephen J. Arnett
Housing Administrator



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REALTORS®**
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February 9, 2012

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
State Capitol, Room 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

HEARING: Tuesday, February 9, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara and Members of the Committee:

I am Myoung Oh, Government Affairs Director, here to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 8,500 members. HAR **supports** S.B. 2804, establishing the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness under the Department of Human Services.

There are approximately 6,000 homeless living in Hawai'i, and it is of serious concern to many communities and residents throughout this State. Furthermore, the high cost of housing and living, here in the islands, may make it difficult for struggling families trying to make ends meet to be able to afford the opportunity to own, or even rent a home.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.





PARTNERS IN CARE Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT SB2804: RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair, and Human Services Committee Members

FROM: Darryl J. Vincent, Chair of Partners In Care (PIC)

Hearing: Thursday, 2/9/12; 1:30 p.m.; CR 016

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee on Human Services

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2804, which establishes the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness. I am Darryl J. Vincent, Chair of 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.

Homelessness is not a new phenomenon in Hawaii, however it is crisis growing in numbers as evidenced by the number of individuals and families who are living unsheltered or at risk of becoming homeless. This complex issue requires greater collaboration and coordination on strategic initiatives as we work in partnership to end homelessness in Hawaii. The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness would bring together diverse government entities from both the State and the Counties, as well as representatives from the homeless coalitions (Continuums of Care), businesses, faith based organizations, and other interested agencies. Only by joining forces will we make inroads to resolving this sometimes-overwhelming social crisis. The Council is already engaged in activities identifying critical strategic goals and initiatives that would prevent homelessness, an integral component to success, as well as ensure that homeless persons obtain permanent housing, as well as become reintegrated into the community. Establishing the Hawaii Interagency Council by statute, this will enhance the Council's ability to not only work toward identifying solutions, but implementing change.

Partners In Care is dedicated to ending homelessness and commits to the ongoing effort of working in collaboration, which the Interagency Council on Homelessness will provide.

We also respectfully urge the Legislature to ensure that any administrative costs for the Council not impact on direct service funding to homeless programs. Additional funding would need to be appropriated for the expenses of this Council.

Thank you for hearing our testimony in support of SB 2804. Partners In Care member agencies are very appreciative of your continued support as we work together on the critical issues relating to 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.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2804: RELATING TO THE HAWAII
INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair,
and Members, Committee on Human Services

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

Hearing: Thursday, 2/9/12; 1:30 p.m.; CR 016

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee on Human Services

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 supports this bill 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. Additional funding would need to be appropriated for the expenses of this Council.

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.





HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

SB2804 RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS:
Establishes council within DHS

- ✚ **COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES:** Senator Chun Oakland, Chair; Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair
- ✚ Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.
- ✚ Room 016

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition supports SB2804

Good morning Chair Chu-Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and Distinguished Committee Members. My name is Alan Johnson, Chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, a hui of about 20 treatment and prevention agencies across the State.

This bill promotes the development of collaborative systems to address transitional or permanent housing with support services including job training, mental health and substance abuse treatment. Communicating, planning and synchronizing services will improve effectiveness and save money.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify and are available for questions.

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 1, 2012

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

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

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

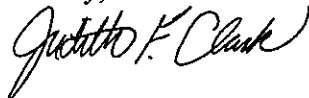
Their reasons for living on the streets differ from adults and families. Adults and families commonly become homeless due to loss of employment, income that is inadequate to afford housing, or chronic mental illness. In contrast, family conflict is often the primary reason why youth leave home, including 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

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2804: RELATING TO THE HAWAII
INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair, and
Members, Committee on Human Services

FROM: Alika Campbell, MSW

Hearing: **Thursday, 2/9/12; 1:30 p.m.; CR 016**

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee on Human Services

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2804. The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness is an important step in efforts to coordinate the State's resources to end homelessness.

As you know, homelessness is a growing issue in Hawaii. Homelessness is a complex issue that requires multiple and creative approaches/solutions. Everyone in the community has a role to play in resolving what can sometimes feel like an overwhelming social problem. Greater collaboration and coordination on strategic initiatives are necessary if we are to end homelessness in Hawaii. The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness would help to bring together diverse government entities, representatives from the Continuums of Care of service providers, business, faith based organizations, etc. As you know, the Council has already begun its work, but establishing the Council by statute would further enhance the Council's ability to implement solutions for homelessness and ensure continuity when administrations change.

I ask the Legislature to make certain that any administrative costs for the Council be appropriated from additional funding sources so as not to take away funding from existing programs.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of SB 2804.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2012 11:52 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2804 on 2/9/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 2/9/2012 1:30:00 PM SB2804

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brenda Kosky
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 12:37 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2804 on 2/9/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 2/9/2012 1:30:00 PM SB2804

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Scott Wall
Organization: Individual
E-mail: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments: