

SB895

Measure
Title:

RELATING TO HOUSING POLICY.

Report
Title:

Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund; Housing First
Pilot Program; Appropriation

Description:

Extends the lapse date of funds appropriated from the emergency and budget reserve fund for the housing first pilot program to December 31, 2011. The legislature appropriated the funds for the program pursuant to Act 191, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010. (\$)

Companion:

Package:

Housing and Homeless

Current
Referral:

HMS, WAM

Introducer(s):

CHUN OAKLAND, BAKER, ESPERO, FUKUNAGA,
GALUTERIA, English, Wakai



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY (with Amendment) IN SUPPORT OF SB 895: Relating to Housing Policy

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: Tuesday, February 15, 2011; 1:15 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 895, which extends the lapse date of funds appropriated from the emergency and budget reserve fund ("Rainy Day Fund") for the housing first pilot program to December 31, 2011. Catholic Charities Hawaii strongly supports this bill, with one amendment.

Suggested Amendment: Change the lapse date of funds to **June 30, 2012.**

Changing the lapse date is needed to allow time to implement this new concept in Hawaii. The Housing First model has been very successful in many areas of the Mainland. It has a good track record in assisting homeless people to gain permanent housing and then provide the services needed to keep them in housing and successfully transition off the streets. Catholic Charities Hawaii promotes this model as a way to target the chronically homeless and assist them to transition to permanent housing.

Partners in Care, the Oahu coalition of homeless providers, government representatives and community stakeholders recently compared the public costs for an unsheltered homeless person vs. a resident in Supportive Housing, such as in a Housing First model. They found that the average public cost for an unsheltered homeless person is \$2,897 per month vs. the average public cost for a resident in supportive housing is \$605 per month. Public costs can be decreased by 79% by providing supportive housing with services.

This is an important bill to implement the Housing First model in Hawaii. We urge your support for this innovative strategy.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for your support to end the crisis in homelessness which is impacting on our neighborhoods, our parks, our economic centers, and especially the people who fall into homelessness.





PARTNERS IN CARE
Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

<http://www.partnersincarehawaii.org/>

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 895: EXTENDING THE LAPSE DATE ON FUNDS FROM THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FOR HOUSING FIRST PILOT PROJECT

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

FROM: Max Gray, Chair, Partners In Care Advocacy Committee

Hearing: **Tuesday, 2/15/11, 1:30 pm, Room 016**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 895 which extends the lapse date of funds appropriated from the emergency and budget reserve fund for the housing first pilot program to December 31, 2011. Partners In Care supports this bill with the caveat that the new lapse date is **extended to June 30, 2012**. This date is selected to coincide with other concurrent legislation that proposes an extension of the deadline.

The Housing First model has been very successful in many other states. It has a good track record in assisting homeless people to gain permanent housing and providing the services need to keep them in housing and successfully transition off the streets. Partners In Care promotes this model as a way to target the chronically homeless and assist them to transition to permanent housing.

Partners In Care, as a consortium of service providers from across O'ahu, advocates on behalf of a diverse population of homeless men, woman and children. Partners In Care recently compared the public costs for an unsheltered homeless person vs. a resident in Supportive Housing, such as in a Housing First model. They found that the average public cost for an unsheltered homeless person is \$2,897 per month vs. the average public cost for a resident in supportive housing is \$605 per month. Public costs can be decreased by 79% by providing supportive housing with services.

Partners In Care urges the Legislature to support the intent of this bill. However, more time is needed to take advantage of the opportunity to implement the Housing First model. Thank you for hearing this bill and for your support.