
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in spite of efforts
2 by government and nonprofit organizations to provide overnight
3 shelter to homeless persons, many do not use homeless shelters
4 due to mental illness, drug addiction, an inability to conform
5 to shelter rules, or other reasons. There are still many
6 homeless persons who sleep in public parks, along sidewalks, and
7 other similar areas, which creates a concern for the State's
8 vital visitor industry.

9 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
10 establish safe havens for persons who are homeless in designated
11 existing parks and open or vacant locations.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and the
15 sum of \$250,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for
16 fiscal year 2012-2013 to establish safe havens for persons who
17 are homeless in designated existing parks and open or vacant



1 locations; provided that the funds shall be used for safe haven
2 facilities and uses including:

- 3 (1) Providing pavilions with open walls and overhead
4 shelter;
- 5 (2) Providing showers and toilets;
- 6 (3) Providing potable water;
- 7 (4) Providing coin-operated clothes washing machines and
8 clothes drying machines;
- 9 (5) Providing lockers;
- 10 (6) Providing personnel for minimum security; and
- 11 (7) Maintaining the parks or locations designated to serve
12 as safe havens for persons who are homeless;

13 provided further that camping at safe haven sites shall be
14 permitted only at night and each homeless person shall be
15 permitted to have a limited amount of possessions and a maximum
16 of one pet, as determined to be appropriate by the department of
17 human services.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
19 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.



Report Title:

Homelessness; Park Safe Havens

Description:

Appropriates funds to designate existing parks or open or vacant space as a safe haven for persons who are homeless. Effective on July 1, 2011. (PROPOSED SB900 HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 3:11 PM
To: HSGtestimony
Cc: swartzg001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB900 on 3/23/2011 11:00:00 AM

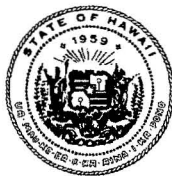
Testimony for HSG/HUS 3/23/2011 11:00:00 AM SB900

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: gregory swartz
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: swartzg001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2011

Comments:

I have not been able to access the Proposed HD1 because it crashes my computer. However, I fully support the immediate setting aside of one or more pieces of public land for the homeless with appropriate security and appropriate bathroom, water, trash, lighting, and other facilities. There should be minimal but essential rules of conduct. Separate areas for families and other groups may be necessary. I don't really think existing parks or beachfront property is appropriate for these purposes.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN.
DIRECTOR
PANKAJ BHANOT
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

March 23, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Rida T.R. Cabanilla, Chair
House Committee on Housing

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 900, S.D. 2, Proposed H.D. 1 - RELATING TO
HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 23, 2011; 11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 900, S.D. 2, Proposed H.D. 1, is to appropriate general funds to designate existing parks or open or vacant space as a safe haven for persons who are homeless.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the effort of the Legislature to seek solutions to challenge of homelessness. We, however, respectfully oppose S.B. 900, S.D. 2, Proposed H.D. 1, which would appropriate general funds to provide safe havens in existing parks or vacant locations.

Designating areas in which to herd the homeless, especially those with mental health and addiction issues, sidesteps the issue of these people needing services oriented to recovery.

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.

In addition, the funding provided in this measure is severely inadequate to fund all of the amenities listed in the bill. Given the State's current fiscal difficulties and the budget shortfall for this biennium, we do not support a new general appropriation that could impact the priorities in the Governor's Executive Biennium Budget.

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