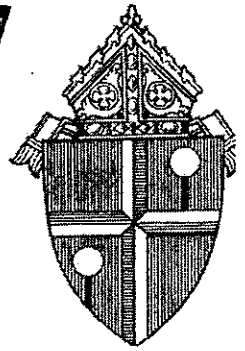


LATE TESTIMONY



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII

St. Stephen's Diocesan Center of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Honolulu
6301 Pali Highway, Kaneohe, HI 96744 • Phone: (808) 203-6718

Testimony of Kent Anderson
March 16, 2011, 10:00am; Conference Room 325
Support Intent for SB 900, SD2

Good Morning Committee Chair Cabanilla, Committee Chair Mizuno, and Members of the Committees on Housing and Human Services. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of **SB 900, SD2**.

My name is Kent Anderson, and I testify on behalf of the Diocese of Honolulu. I serve as the newly appointed Housing Development Director for the Office of Affordable Housing for the Diocese. We are your partners and among your strongest supporters in providing supportive services and permanent housing opportunities for those at the lowest levels of income who are either homeless or dangerously close to becoming homeless. We have and will continue to be your partners because we know that the government cannot and should not be the sole caretaker for our whole community.

Homelessness will impact over 15,000 of our neighbors this year statewide. Many of the victims will be keiki and kupuna. Many working families are unable to make ends meet since we experience the highest housing costs in the country. According to HUD statistics, fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment is \$1,610. In order to afford this level of rent without paying more than 30% of income on housing, an employee must earn \$30.96/hr. Unfortunately, the average renter only earns \$12.89/hr in Hawaii. At this wage, two full time jobs are not sufficient to sustainably support a family. For minimum wage earners, the outlook is heartbreaking. A minimum wage earner would need to work 171 hours/week to support a family of four without any time off for sickness or vacation. An individual who could achieve this workload would be miraculous, especially since there are only 168 hours in a week.

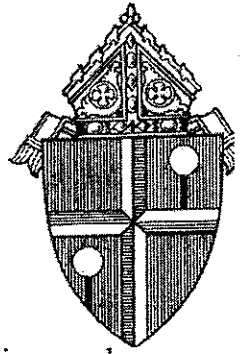
We understand that times are tough right now; therefore, we must step forward to assist those most in need. Affordable housing is a basic need for our entire Ohana. It helps provide the basis of a healthy workforce, healthy children, healthy kupuna, and healthy economy. We ask that you prioritize your legislation to ensure that homeless services and affordable housing are priorities during this legislative session. We appreciate and highly applaud your past efforts and look forward to partnering with you to provide a home for each member of our Ohana.

SB900, SD2 will establish the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness to help create comprehensive plans to alleviate homelessness across our islands. As a member of the previous Interagency Council, I can attest that great progress can be made when appropriate representatives from essential departments and organizations come together for a shared goal. We will not solve our homeless problems unless we come together and work as one. The Hawaii Interagency Council will move us in the direction of unity and will make our collective efforts stronger than the sum of each individual part. We would like to suggest the following amendment:

1. Add the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

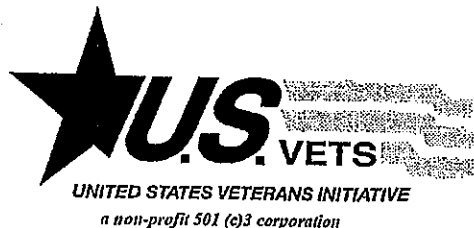
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Thank you again for this opportunity to testify. Please contact me at kentanderson@rcchawaii.org or by phone at 808-203-6718 if the Office of Affordable Housing may be of assistance.

LATE TESTIMONY



“SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED”

Testimony for: Committee on Housing and Committee on Human Services

Hearing Date and Time: Tuesday, March 16, 2011. 10 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 325

Email: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Bill: SB900 SD2

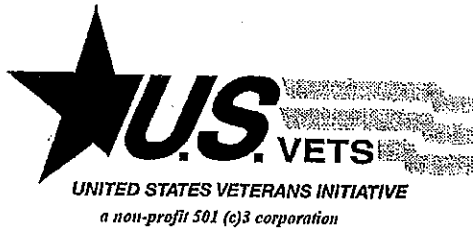
Dear Chairperson Cabinilla, Vice-Chair Chong, Chairperson Mizuno, Vice Chair Jordan, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to your committees. My name is Darryl Vincent, and I am the Vice-President of Programs and State Director of Hawaii for United States Veterans Initiative (U.S.VETS)

U.S. VETS is the largest nonprofit service provider to homeless veterans in the nation with 10 locations. We have 2 locations in Hawaii, one specifically for military veterans and the other for Hawaii's families on the Leeward coast. Tonight, over 200 formerly homeless veterans will reside at our veteran program and over 300 families and individuals at our Leeward location. Our programs work collaboratively with the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Department of Labor (DOL), and Hawaii State Department of Human Service Homeless Office to provide services to veterans and Hawaii's families. It is because of these collaborations and the need to expand on them that I am in strong support of SB900 SD2 with a few suggested amendments.

On June 22, 2010, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) along with cabinet secretaries from our federal departments (VA, HUD, etc.) unveiled a plan to end homelessness in 10 years. This plan not only outlined tools and strategies, but it also provided a guide to explain how funding will be used to address these issues. The Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing Act (HEARTH) is one example of the strategies that has been outlined as a focus on how to address homelessness and how the funding will align with those strategies.

It is imperative that Hawaii be aligned with federal objectives and plans, not only so it can get its fair share of funding to serve our homeless, but also because it has proven to provide best practices that work in addressing homelessness. Establishing an ICH in Hawaii would give Hawaii another important partnership with federal and state department heads in Hawaii and with local homeless continuums to address our state's homelessness in an effective manner.



“SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED”

The three suggested amendments to the bill are as follows.

1. Add the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to the list of members.
2. Designate the Council to report to the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, and the Coordinator to report to the Governor and legislature.
3. Delete funding for administrative expenses.

The newly appointed Homeless Coordinator should be the lead person in forming this council as he has been tasked with bringing all federal, state, community, and private sectors together to address the issue of homelessness. The Homeless Coordinator would then report to the Governor and Legislature on plans and needs to address this complex problem.

In addition, as our county and state suffer from an economic crisis and programs are potentially losing funding, I strongly urge against funding the administrative cost that is included in this bill. Any funds that the state can save to not duplicate efforts and put back into direct services to Hawaii's homeless population would be prudent. The purpose of the council can be achieved without any additional funding.

Thank you for accepting my testimony and considering my ideas.

Mahalo,

Darryl J. Vincent,

VP Programs/State Director

U.S. VETS-Hawaii

Submitted: March 15, 2010