

LATE

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN.
INTERIM DIRECTOR
PANKAJ BHANOT
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 3, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: **Patricia McManaman, Interim Director**

SUBJECT: **S.B. 904 – RELATING TO THE HOMELESS**

Hearing: Thursday, February 3, 2011; 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 904 is to require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to identify suitable properties for a housing first program that identifies affordable rental housing projects, including an initial housing first single resident occupancy affordable rental housing model project site in an urban core. This bill also requires DHS to report to the Legislature and the Governor.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) **supports** the intent of this bill. The Department of Human Services, however, does not currently have the staffing or the expertise to identify suitable properties for the proposed program.

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

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Partnerships in Building Community

"I put my hand in your hand, what I cannot do alone, we will do together"



Waianae Community Outreach
87-132 Farrington Hwy, Waianae, HI 96792
P.O. Box 1912, Waianae, HI 96792
Ph: (808) 696-5667 Fax: (808) 696-1869

HOPE for a New Beginning Shelter
(Helping Our People Excel)
Bldg 50 Belleau Woods, Kapolei, HI 96707
P.O. Box 75286, Kapolei, HI 96707
Ph: (808) 682-4673 Fax: (808) 682-4670

Mission
Provide Comprehensive services with Aloha to individuals & families in need so they can become Self-Sufficient
Vision
Healthy Self-Sufficient Resilient Individuals & Families
Values
U nderstanding
R espect
R esponsibility
I ntegrity
C ompassion
H onesty

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 904: RELATING TO THE HOMELESS

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

FROM: KananiKaaiawahia Bulawan, Administrative Advisor

Hearing: Thursday, 2/3/11; 1:15 p.m.; CR 016

Aloha and good afternoon, Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee on Human Services:

Waianae Community Outreach **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** this bill.

The Housing First model has been very successful in many areas of the Mainland as well as here in our own island of Oahu. It has a good track record in assisting homeless people to gain transitional and permanent housing including providing services needed to keep them in housing, successfully transitioned off the streets. Waianae Community Outreach promotes this model and in a small way uses it for the emergency shelter we currently manage in Kalaeloa as a way to target the chronically homeless and assist them to transition to 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.

Mahalo 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.

 the
**Drug Policy
Forum**
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LATE

February 3, 2011

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Human Services

From: **Jeanne Y. Ohta, Executive Director**

RE: **SB 904** Relating to the Homeless
Hearing: Thursday, February 3, 2011, 1:15 p.m.

Position: Support

Good afternoon Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the committee, I am Jeanne Ohta, Executive Director of the **Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii**, testifying in **support** of this measure.

DPFH supports the housing first program as a very effective way to address the needs of the homeless, many of whom have substance use issues. This is a proven concept and assists in not only taking people off the streets, but once they have a stable place to live, can facilitate their decision to receive drug treatment or counseling.

Those with substance use issues are homeless because many shelters or programs available to them require them to be substance free before they receive housing and yet, they cannot become substance free until they live in a stable environment.

In order to reduce the homeless population, we must at least start to implement the housing first program.

We urge the committee to pass this measure. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

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P.O. Box 241042
Honolulu, HI 96824-1042

Phone: (808)-988-4386
Fax: (808) 373-7064

Email: info@dpfhi.org
Website: www.dpfhi.org