

woodson2-Miho

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2013 11:58 AM
To: HSGtestimony
Cc: rezentesc@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB530 on Jan 28, 2013 08:45AM

HB530

Submitted on: 1/25/2013

Testimony for HSG on Jan 28, 2013 08:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support designating November as Homeless Awareness month. As this continues to be an on-going challenge to EVERYONE, this designation will remind all that we still have a ways to go to "eliminate" homelessness in all it's forms.

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Date: January 25, 2013

To: Rep. Rida Cabanilla, Chair, Rep. Woodson, Vice-Chair, and members of the Committee on Housing

From: Jenny Lee, Staff Attorney, Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice

Re: Testimony in favor of HB 530

Scheduled for a hearing on January 28, 2013

Dear Chair Cabanilla, Vice Chair Woodson, and committee members;

Thank you for an opportunity to testify in strong favor of HB 530, which would designate November as Homelessness Awareness Month.

My name is Jenny Lee, and I am a staff attorney at the Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice (formerly Lawyers for Equal Justice). Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) law firm created to advocate on behalf of low income individuals and families in Hawai'i on civil legal issues of statewide importance. Our core mission is to help our clients gain access to the resources, services, and fair treatment that they need to realize their opportunities for self-achievement and economic security.

The impact of homelessness is devastating for the individuals and families who struggle to survive without permanent housing. Homeless children are at greater risk of foster care placement, lowered academic achievement, and physical and mental injury. Individuals experiencing mental health problems or substance abuse disorders are often unable to address these challenges without stable housing. The suffering experienced by anyone without a permanent home is immeasurable.

For our entire community, we face a terrible cost as a people. Each individual experiencing homelessness challenges what we have historically valued as an island community and deeply undermines the spirit of aloha. We also know that by failing to ensure the health and well-being of all members of our community, we incur significant financial costs, estimated at up to \$40,000 per individual. But any of these costs pale in comparison to the harms befalling individuals experiencing homelessness.

A Homelessness Awareness month will draw attention to this critical issue and promote greater understanding of the challenges and needs of people experiencing homelessness, ultimately helping restore the basic dignity and well-being of some of our community's most vulnerable citizens.

Again, thank you for providing us with an opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 530.

Aloha,

Jenny Lee, Staff Attorney



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 530: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative Rida T. R. Cabanilla, Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Housing

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

Hearing: Monday, 1/28/13; 8:45 am; CR 329

Chair Cabanilla, Vice Chair Woodson, and Members, Committee on Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 530, which designates November as Homeless Awareness Month. I am Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison for housing and homeless issues at Catholic Charities Hawaii. We are also a member of Partners In Care, the Oahu coalition of homeless providers.

Homelessness impacts on the people of Hawaii in many ways – in their neighborhoods, around their businesses, in tourist areas, and among their friends or family member who may face homelessness. This complex issue requires greater collaboration and coordination if we are to end homelessness in Hawaii. Synergy is growing to identify critical strategic goals and initiatives to focus on ending homelessness. All parts of our community need to be involved to resolve this sometimes overwhelming social problem.

Partners in Care has promoted community awareness for over 10 years targeting the month of November especially since this coincides with national efforts during November. Other coalitions on the Neighbor Islands also often plan activities in November for homeless awareness and education.

By declaring November as Homeless Awareness Month, this will bring added community attention to what is being done to end homelessness. It will promote public awareness of homelessness as a significant societal, public health and welfare, and affordable housing shortage problem.

We urge your support for HB 530 and for community awareness of homelessness. We all must work together to solve the complex problem of homelessness.

Thank you for hearing HB 530 and for your concern and dedication to finding solutions to this difficult societal issue.





“SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED”

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 530: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative Rida T. R. Cabanilla, Chair, Representative Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Housing

FROM: Gladys Peraro, Executive Director, Waianae Civic Center

Hearing: Monday, 1/28/13; 8:45 am; CR 329

Chair Cabanilla, Vice Chair Woodson, and Members, Committee on Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 530, designating November as **“Homeless Awareness Month.”** I am Gladys Peraro, Executive Director of the Waianae Civic Center, Pai’olu Kaiaulu, a State of Hawaii owned and U.S.VETS managed Transitional Housing Opportunity in Waianae, and also a member of Partners In Care, the Oahu coalition of homeless providers.

Homelessness impacts the people of Hawaii in many ways in their communities, neighborhoods, around their businesses, in tourist areas, and amongst their friends or family members who may be experiencing issues related to homelessness. This multi-faceted issue requires collaboration and coordination at every level within the community if we are to make a difference and realize an end to homelessness in Hawaii. A wave of awareness is growing in which critical strategic goals and initiatives to focus on ending homelessness are being realized as never before and the synergy being created is the catalyst for change.

Partners in Care has promoted community awareness for over 10 years targeting the month of November specifically as it coincides with national efforts- other coalitions on the Neighbor Islands also often plan activities in November for homeless awareness and education.

U.S.VETS supports the belief that declaring November as **Homeless Awareness Month** will bring added community attention to what is being done as a collaborative effort to end homelessness. It will promote public awareness of homelessness as a significant societal, public health and welfare issue as well as continue to highlight the shortage of affordable housing around the state.

We urge your support for HB 530 toward community awareness of homelessness and applaud all efforts of working together to solve the complex problem of homelessness.

Thank you for hearing HB 530 and for your concern and dedication to finding solutions to this difficult societal issue.



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

January 28, 2013

MEMORANDUM:

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 530 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Monday, January 28, 2013; 8:45 a.m.
Conference Room 329; State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 530 is to designate November as homelessness awareness month to promote public awareness of homelessness as a significant societal, public health and welfare, and public housing shortage problem.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services appreciates the Legislature's support in designating November as homelessness awareness month. Other communities across the country recognize Hunger and Homelessness Awareness in the month of November as a time to focus greater attention, education, and resources on the issue of homelessness, with the ultimate goal of ending homelessness. For the past several years, a state-wide homeless conference has been convened in November so that providers, homeless consumers, policy makers, and a wide variety of partners can come together to learn about best practices, hear about programs that are successful, and create collaborations that strengthen our community's collective response to homelessness. Educating the public about the

problems faced by those who are homeless is one strategy for dispelling myths, creating a sense of ownership of the issue, and generating energy to address the myriad of factors that contribute to our homeless census.

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