

LATE

SB310

Submitted on: 4/2/2013

Testimony for JUD on Apr 2, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colleen Miyashiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a service provider working with homeless individuals and families with various mental health challenges, I strongly stand in support of this bill.

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Testimony in Support of SB310

LATE TESTIMONY

Friday, March 15, 2013 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329
House Committees on Health and on Public Safety


Aloha Committee Chairs and Members of the Committees. My name is Dana Hamilton and I am the sister of someone suffering from severe mental illness. Yesterday he was released from the mental hospital after his routine 72-hour hold. This was his 3rd trip to the hospital in the last 3 months not to mention the 4 arrests in the same time span. My poor father had to call the police on his own son this time because he was making threats to him at his home. Two of my brothers' recent arrests were for carrying a knife around due to his paranoia and schizophrenia. Each time he was released within 1-3 days. It is not safe for these individuals to be left on the street and be taken advantage of nor is it safe for our communities to have people wandering the streets in this state of mind.

For the past 12 consecutive years my younger brother has been in and out of mental hospitals, the ER, jail and on the streets. Never, has my family given up on him. It is no longer safe for any of us, nor his friends to live with him unfortunately. He has even been banned from all the affordable hotels in the town he lives in. All we can do is encourage him to move into a group home, which he resists with passion. He would rather be on the streets. It is inhumane to leave the severely disabled people like my brother to a life like this because they are too sick to realize they are ill and do not take their medication. Nobody suffering from an illness belongs in jail or on the streets because of their illness.

Yes, obviously we need more beds in hospitals, we need more long-term treatment programs and facilities, but there are thousands of families like mine that need a bill like this to be passed so that we can have the some access to help the person we love get better and continue to live.

This is an epidemic, and I am tired of sitting and watching it all happen. You never get anything unless you ask for it and work hard to make it happen. Well I want more help for people like my brother that are suffering, and more understanding for the illness. We help people with: cancer, aids, diabetes, autism, you name it. Well now its time to help the people suffering from mental illness. It's all about taking care of our communities. That will build a healthy nation. Thank you for being a part of this discussion.

Warm Regards,



Dana Hamilton
Marketing Director - As Seen On TV Hawaii
Board of Directors - NAMI Hawaii

LATE TESTIMONY

Regarding Bill SB310SD2HD1 with proposed amendments:

I AM STRONGLY URGING THE PASSAGE OF BILL 310. THIS IS THE MENTAL HEALTH BILL FOR ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT.

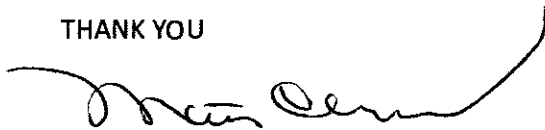
I URGE THIS ON BEHALF OF THE MANY MENTALLY ILL IN OUR COMMUNITY AND THEIR FAMILIES. I SPEAK FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN MY FRUSTRATING EFFORTS IN TRYING TO OBTAIN HELP FOR MY GROWN DAUGHTER. AS THE SYSTEM EXISTS NOW, THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO TO HELP HER STABILIZE UNLESS SHE VOLUNTARILY ACCEPTS HELP. UNFORTUNATELY, AS WITH SO MANY WHO ARE ILL, THE MORE HER CONDITION DETERIORATES, THE LESS SHE REALIZES SHE NEEDS HELP.

MANY FAMILIES ARE HELPLESS TO DO ANYTHING UNLESS THEIR FAMILY MEMBER GETS INVOLVED IN THE CRIMINAL SYSTEM, AND AT THAT POINT THERE STILL IS LITTLE THAT CAN BE DONE.

THERE ARE MANY PERSONS ON OUR ISLAND, WANDERING HOMELESS OR INCARCERATED, WHO COULD BE HELPED THROUGH MEDICATION AND TREATMENT. IT IS TRAGIC THAT THEY MUST AGREE TO BEING HELPED WHEN THEY ARE NOT REALLY CAPABLE OF MAKING THAT DECISION AND FAMILIES HAVE NOWHERE TO TURN TO GET THAT HELP FOR THEM. I KNOW FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH MY DAUGHTER IN CDOLORADO THAT MANY WILL RESPOND TO COURT ORDERED MEDICATION AND TREATMENT.

THIS BILL WILL HELP MANY, MANY PERSONS AND THIER FAMILIES TO GET THE HELP THEY NEED, AND BE A POSITIVE STEP FORWARD FOR THE STATE TO BATTLE THE ISSUES SURROUNDING MENTAL ILLNESS. PLEASE PASS THIS BILL!

THANK YOU



MARTHA CLAUSSEN

KANEOHE, HI