

Hawaiian Affairs Caucus

Democratic Party of Hawaii
1050 Ala Moana Blvd D-2150, Honolulu, HI 96814

LATE TESTIMONY

Legislative testimony

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
HEARING: RM.016 02/28/2013 10:30 AM

SB 3 – RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS POSITION: SUPPORT

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus is submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB3**. The OHA election process has long been plagued by the current process, that severely undermines the democratic process. It is the only election in the State that does not have a primary election to narrow the field of candidates going into the general election.

The winning candidate in numerous OHA elections often wins by having the largest percentage of votes, but not the majority of votes. Because the number of candidates is so large, votes get dispersed amongst all the candidates and the majority of voters do not vote for the winner. This is a severely distorted election process and must be rectified.

It behooves the legislature to ensure that OHA elections adhere to the democratic process.

'O ia ihola nō me ke aloha.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2013 1:07 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: info@schha.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB3 on Feb 28, 2013 10:30AM*

SB3

Submitted on: 2/28/2013
Testimony for JDL on Feb 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Mahikina, Legislative Committee Chair	SCHHA	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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LATE TESTIMONY

OHA PRIMARY NEEDED TO STOP RECYCLING TRUSTEES

Senator Clayton Hee's Judiciary Committee has the opportunity to finally help Hawaiians and everyone else create a fairer process of electing OHA Trustees.

It should take more than Aloha Shirts, signs and street waving or having your last name start with the letter "A" so that OAHU can elect every trustee (yes, all neighbor islands trustees end up voted in by OAHU)!

It has been an insane selection of leaders, take a look back at the data, you can find that the winner's votes will not be more than the sum of adding up the second and third, or even fourth place winners votes. That is not a vote by the people; it is a set-up so loop-sided to always favor the incumbents, who once they get in, won't change the election laws.

Who suffers, we do, we the voters, Hawaiian and non-Hawaiians and especially the neighbor islands under the "one-man, one-vote" seem to never see their island winner in office, unless he's unopposed. Molokai gave up trying to make a change because it can't go pass OAHU voting everyone in!

Let's support SB3, OHA PRIMARY and put some new leaders in, and stop the constant recycling of old leadership and status quo trustees. OHA signed off a cap on ceded revenues and now gave away the submerged ceded lands in Kakaako, do we need more of this? Please contact Sentaor Hee, ASAP, it is moving quickly through the process and your support is critical for change.

Thank you Senators Galuteria and Hee for restoring a sense of true leadership choices that have evaded our people for so long. Perhaps now we can really have elections instead of just recycling of trustees.

Mahalo,
Jackie Burke
Ka Pa'e Aina

hee2 - Kathleen

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2013 1:09 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: info@schha.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB3 on Feb 28, 2013 10:30AM*

SB3

Submitted on: 2/28/2013

Testimony for JDL on Feb 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annie Au Hoon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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This, to the best of my recollection, is a summary of the oral testimony that I gave before the Joint Hearing of the Senate Health Committee and the Committee on Human Services on Monday, January 28, 2013 regarding SB 310.

My name is Fredda Sullam. I am the mother of a 58-year-old man who suffers from schizophrenia. My husband and I have been taking care of him for over forty years. My son became ill when he was around seventeen. We have managed to give him the semblance of a decent life until October 2009 at which time, while under the care of Care Hawaii, he needed to have his medications adjusted. Care Hawaii failed to do what was necessary in this vital task. As a result he became floridly psychotic and has remained so ever since.

Now he has long grey dirty hair, an enormous dirty grey beard, a generally disheveled appearance and swollen feet. He smells of urine and perspiration. He wanders in the streets or rides the buses aimlessly all day. He neglects his personal hygiene by not bathing often and not ever brushing his teeth. He neglects his general health by not taking medications prescribed when he was discharged the Queens Hospital's Cardiac Unit after he had a heart attack on August 31, 2012. He also ignores the dietary recommendations he received. He refuses to see an oral surgeon who recommended the extraction of four seriously deteriorated teeth. The long range implications are a diseased jaw and, most likely, the loss of all of his teeth. Sometimes, in the middle of the night, my son shouts at the top of his lungs at at his imaginary "voices". His neighbors have complained to me. There was nothing I could do to alleviate the problem.

N.Y. TIMES - FEB, 3, 2013
REVIEW SECTION - P.2

After decades of relentless psychosis, forced treatment was the only way that my mother was able to begin her path to recovery. As a psychiatrist and a family member of a loved one with schizophrenia, I know well the challenges of caring for individuals who firmly and consistently refuse help.

For me, the dilemma of forced treatment is an issue of access to care, and should be based on whether an individual is able to fully understand the nature, risks, benefits and alternatives of treatment, or of refusing that treatment. Because of a phenomenon known as anosognosia, certain psychotic and manic individuals do not recognize their symptoms. Without compelling treatment for this population, they rarely voluntarily seek the care that they desperately need and deserve, often leading to heartbreaking outcomes such as homelessness and incarceration.

For my mother, and for hundreds of thousands of others with severe mental illness, declining treatment is not about providers not listening, side effects of medications or stubborn denial. She fundamentally does not believe she needs help, despite a wealth of reality-based evidence to the contrary.

While mandated treatment involves complex considerations and should be an approach of last resort, for individuals with a clear history of serious mental illness who are unable to make reasonable medical decisions, it is at times the difference between empowering the person with the illness, rather than empowering the illness itself. GARY TSAI

San Francisco, Jan. 31, 2013