

# Community Alliance for Mental Health

LATE

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To: The Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Human Services

Re: SB 91

To: The Honorable Suzanne Chun-Oakland and the members of the committee.

Aloha,

The Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help support this measure and its' intent to improve and assist the lives of Hawai'i's most vulnerable population.

Mahalo,

Robert Scott Wall  
Vice-President



LATE

**SB91 Housing Homeless Rent Supplement:** Appropriates funds for the state rent supplement program, for homeless working individuals or families who are ready to rent permanent housing in order to obtain and maintain permanent housing.

- ↓ SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES: Senator Chun-Oakland, Chair; Senator Green M.D., Vice Chair
- ↓ Monday, Jan. 28, 2012; 1:30 p.m.
- ↓ Conference Room 229

### **HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION Supports SB91.**

*GOOD MORNING CHAIR CHUN-OAKLAND, VICE CHAIR GREEN AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide hui of more than twenty non-profit treatment and prevention agencies.*

#### **BACKGROUND**

Homeless patients who have both a drug use disorder and another mental illness often exhibit symptoms that are more persistent, severe, and resistant to treatment compared with patients who have either disorder alone.

**Given the complexity of addressing the individual medical, psychological, social, vocational, and legal needs of their patients to foster their recovery from addiction, rent subsidies over a limited time are most helpful to ensure positive outcomes.** Getting an addicted person to stop abusing drugs is just one part of a long and complex recovery process. Since the compulsory nature of addiction has disrupted how they function in their family lives, at work, and in the community, recovery must incorporate a variety of rehabilitative services into their comprehensive treatment regimens, especially including housing.

**A benefit of rental assistance is the ability to stay connected with the families to address any set-backs or relapses.** Following treatment, (residential and outpatient) much of the recovery process typically occurs through participation in mutual self-help groups. Practitioners often divide treatment into phases, usually including engagement, stabilization, primary treatment, and continuing care. In a rental support environment, these phases can be re-engaged as needed to the extent follow-up is needed. This support of recovery would greatly increase outcomes.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.

Tyrell Maae

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 1:22 PM  
To: HMS Testimony  
Cc: jedill@pidfoundation.org  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SB91 on Jan 28, 2013 13:30PM\*

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**SB91**

Submitted on: 1/28/2013  
Testimony for HMS on Jan 28, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jan E. Hanohano Dill - President	Partners In Development Foundation	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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