



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

March 28, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 94, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY
COUNCIL ON HOMELESS**

Hearing: Thursday, March 28, 2013; 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308; State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 94, H.D. 1, is to provide for the appointment of a House of Representatives member and a Senate member to serve as alternate members on the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness in the absence of the House and Senate member, respectively.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The original purpose of S.B. 94 was to add the Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) as a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH). The H.D. 1 does not include the Executive Director of the HPHA as a HICH member. The DHS respectfully requests that this bill be amended to again include the Executive Director of the HPHA as a member of the HICH.

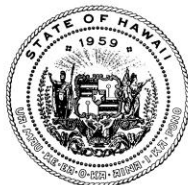
The addition of the Executive Director of the HPHA to the HICH was proposed to provide HPHA's involvement, insight, and collaboration with other members of the Hawaii

Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) which is crucial to addressing the affordable housing needs of Hawaii's low income citizens, some who are homeless or on the brink of homelessness.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority's (HPHA) mission is to provide safe, decent, sanitary, and affordable housing to extremely low income Hawaii residents. It administers and manages the Federal Public Housing Program, the State of Hawaii Public Housing Program, the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, the State of Hawaii Rental Supplement Program, and the Elderly Housing Program.

The Department of Human Services supports the participation of the Legislature in the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness and the addition of alternate members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, if necessary, due to absences of the primary members.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Finance

S.B. 94, HD1, Relating to Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

March 28, 2013, 2:00 p.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of S.B. 94, HD1 and the
2 amendments to the original measure.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of S.B. 94, HD1 is to provide for the appointment of a
4 member of the House of Representatives and a member of the Senate, and alternates, to the Hawaii
5 Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH). The amendment also eliminates the provision that adds
6 the Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) to the HICH.

7 The DOH respectfully requests that the committee consider including the Executive Director of
8 the HPHA, in addition to the legislative members. Adding the executive director will enhance the
9 diversity of the HICH's membership, and bring a unique perspective to the work of the group. This
10 addition will broaden the scope of the HICH's membership. The DOH has been, and will continue to
11 be, an involved participant in the important work of the HICH.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT, with amendment, FOR SB 94, HD1: RELATING TO HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto., Vice Chair, Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Finance

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

Hearing: Thursday, 3/28/13; 2:00 pm; CR 308

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support, with one amendment** on SB 94, HD1, which provides for alternative members of the House and Senate to serve on the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness. I am Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison at Catholic Charities Hawaii. Catholic Charities Hawaii supports this bill as an important step to coordinate the State's resources to end homelessness.

Participation by the Legislature is essential to address the state-wide issue of homelessness. We support this bill to provide for alternate members on the Council to service in the absence of the House and Senate member, respectively.

Suggested Amendment: Add the Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, as a member of this Council. There is a large gap in the membership of this council. The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) is not a designated member. However, it offers the major resource for homeless families and senior citizens to obtain low cost housing. HPHA needs to be part of the council to collaborate and strategize on how to create a system to end homelessness. There is no quick fix to ending homelessness. It requires ongoing effort and collaboration of diverse stakeholders.

Catholic Charities Hawaii feels that adding the Hawaii Public Housing Authority's Executive Director to this Council is needed to have all the major "players" at the table to achieve effective strategies

We appreciate the Legislature's concern and focus on homelessness and willingness to have its members participate in creating solutions via the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness. The Council has already begun its work to identify critical strategic goals and initiatives to end homelessness in Hawaii.

We urge you to support SB 94,HD1 and also to add the Executive Director of the HPHA as a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness. Thank you for your concern and your support to end the crisis of homelessness.

