

SB 94

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS.

Report Title: Hawaii Interagency Council on Homeless; Membership

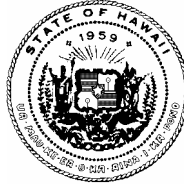
Description: Adds the executive director of the Hawaii public housing authority to the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness.

Companion:

Package: Housing and Homeless

Current Referral: HMS

Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND, GALUTERIA, GREEN, RUDERMAN, Dela Cruz, Gabbard, Kahele, Shimabukuro, L. Thielen



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

January 26, 2013

TO: The Honorable Susan Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 94 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Saturday, January 26, 2013; 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 94 is to add the Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) to the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill to add the Executive Director of the HPHA as a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH).

The addition of the Executive Director of the HPHA to the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness will increase the communication, collaboration, and coordination of the work of the HICH, will promote increased efficiency and effectiveness amongst all of its members, and will enable the creation and implementation of more robust, relevant, and comprehensive plans to end homelessness in Hawaii.

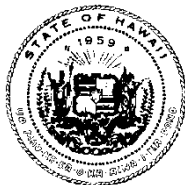
The Hawaii Public Housing Authority's (HPHA) mission is to provide safe, decent, sanitary, and affordable housing to extremely low income Hawaii residents. It administers

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. HPHA's involvement, insight, and collaboration with other members of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) are crucial to addressing the affordable housing needs of Hawaii's low income citizens, some who are homeless or on the brink of homelessness.

The Administration has also proposed a bill, S.B. 1121, to add the Executive Director of the HPHA to the HICH.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

January 26, 2013 1:15P.M.
Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
Senate Bill 94
Relating to the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness

Honorable Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding Senate Bill (S.B.) 94, relating to public housing program administration.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) appreciates the intent of this measure, which would add the executive director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness, and will defer to the committee on its decision. The HPHA respectfully requests that the Committee consider SB 1121 regarding membership on the interagency council.

The HPHA stands ready to assist and be a part of solving the homeless issue. The agency supports and appreciates all of the hard work that the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness has performed, and hopes to be a part of that solution.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Human Services with the agency's position regarding S.B. 94. We respectfully request consideration of administration bill SB 1121. Thank you for your continued support.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 94: RELATING TO HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Human Services

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

Hearing: Saturday, 1/26/13; 1:15 pm; CR 229

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committee on Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 94, which adds the Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to 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.

Homelessness is growing in Hawaii. This complex issue requires greater collaboration and coordination on strategic initiatives if we are to end homelessness in Hawaii. The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness has been established to gather diverse government entities, as well as representatives from the homeless coalitions (Continuums of Care), business, faith based organizations, etc. All parts of our community need to be involved to resolve this sometimes overwhelming social problem. The Council has already begun its work to identify critical strategic goals and initiatives to end homelessness in Hawaii.

There is one gap in the membership of this council. The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) is not a designated member, yet it is a major resource currently 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. 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 urge the Legislature to add the Executive Director of the HPHA to the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Thank you for hearing our testimony in support of SB 94, and especially for your concern and your support to end the crisis in homelessness.



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 94: RELATING TO HAWAII INTERAGENCY
COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Senator Josh Green, M.D.,
Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Human Services

FROM: Connie Mitchell, Executive Director, IHS, The Institute for Human
Services, Inc.

Hearing: Saturday, 1/26/13; 1:15 pm; CR 229

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committee on Human
Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 94, which adds the Executive Director
of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to the Hawaii Interagency Council on
Homelessness. On behalf of HIS, The Institute for Human Services, I am submitting
this testimony in support of SB94 recognizing the critical importance of the Public
Housing Authority's role in ending homelessness in Hawaii.

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While the establishment of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness was
landmark legislation in our campaign against homelessness in Hawaii, the failure to
include Hawaii Public Housing Authority must surely have been an oversight. For
many homeless families and individuals, public housing programs have been a
lifeline for them out of homelessness. This important resource must be coordinated
with the State's other resources to ensure that policies best allocate resources
toward self-sufficiency among those in need. Current policies within HPHA
sometimes pose barriers to deserving homeless households from accessing this
valuable resource. These need to be worked through with dialogue including
representation from HPHA.

The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness includes a very diverse collection
of State authorities. Please include the Executive Director of the Hawaii Public
Housing Authority (HPHA) as a designated member through this bill. .

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of SB 94 and your ongoing
concern for our homeless citizens.

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 94: RELATING TO HAWAII INTERAGENCY
COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice
Chair, and Members, Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cynthia K.L. Rezentes

Hearing: Saturday, 1/26/13; 1:15 pm; CR 229

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committee on Human
Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 94, which adds the Executive Director of
the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to the Hawaii Interagency Council on
Homelessness.

Homelessness continues to be a challenge for the entire State of Hawai`i and new
efforts continue to be made to bring collaboration between government agencies,
homeless coalitions (Continuums of Care), business, faith-based organizations, etc. to
determine the best approach to work towards reducing homelessness. As the Hawaii
Interagency Council on Homelessness was established to help gather this diverse
group of organizations and individuals together to do just that, one partner in the effort
has not been included.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) is not a designated member, yet it is a
major resource currently for homeless families, senior citizens, and some disabled
citizens to obtain low cost housing. As the recipient of many of our homeless families
transitioning out of emergency and transitional shelters, they are a part of the solution
and should be a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness since
they are directly affected by decisions and plans that will be made regarding best
management practices to help our less fortunate citizens.

I urge the Legislature to add the Executive Director of the HPHA to the Hawaii
Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Thank you for hearing my testimony in support of SB 94.