

TESTIMONY ON SCR 186 AND SR 142 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO CONSIDER BUILDING AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING THAT COULD BE USED FOR TRANSITIONAL, PERMANENT, OR RENT-TO-OWN HOUSING FOR HOMELESS NATIVE HAWAIIANS

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND TOURISM AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

March 25, 2013

2:45 PM

Conference Rm. 224

Aloha Chairs Chun Oakland and Galuteria, Vice-Chairs Green and Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Tourism and Hawaiian Affairs, **my name is Stephen Morse. I am the Executive Director of Blueprint for Change (BFC) and am here today to support SCR 186 and SR 142.**

Members, for the record, BFC is the fiscal, technical, and administrative support entity for five Neighborhood Place centers statewide that provide support and strengthening services to families at risk of child abuse and neglect under a POS contract with the Department of Human Services. Our Neighborhood Place programs are unique among CAN prevention programs for two reasons: (1) they are the only places where children and families at risk of child abuse and neglect can get services without a referral or appointment and by simply knocking on the door; and (2) because many of the children and families we serve are Native Hawaiian, the NP services are culturally congruent, and for the most part, non-clinical.

We find that one of the biggest risk factors for child neglect in the Native Hawaiian families we serve is that they are homeless, and often, homelessness becomes a revolving door for these families because of a myriad of other socioeconomic problems they are mired in, including unemployment and low incomes, substance abuse, and chronic health problems. If we are going to break the cycle of homelessness and prevent the generational neglect of children within these families, we need to develop innovative housing solutions that provide these families with both stable housing and access to wrap around social services.

Recently, State Homeless Coordinator, Colin Kippen, organized a group of social service providers, including myself, and asked for help in coming up with Native Hawaiian solutions for the Native Hawaiian homeless. Providing Native Hawaiians with rental housing opportunities on Hawaiian Home Lands is an alternative we have discussed in our small group meetings, because precedents have already been set and have been successful for transitional and rental housing on HHLs, namely the Waimanalo Kupuna Housing Project and the Ulu Ke Kukui Transitional Project in Ma`ili. I am confident that this working group is ready and willing to work with the Legislature and DHHL to explore other solutions.

Aloha and Mahalo for allowing us the opportunity to testify this afternoon.

SCR186

Submitted on: 3/25/2013

Testimony for THA/HMS on Mar 25, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jan E. Hanohano Dill - President	Partners In Development Foundation	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Given the large percentage of Native Hawaiians that make up the homeless population within our State, we have to in good conscience, support the intent of this Resolution. Additionally, we are working with other providers of services to homeless Native Hawaiians to address possible solutions. Mahalo, Jan E. Hanohano Dill / President

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