



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

February 9, 2016

TO: The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2663 – RELATING TO A TRANSITIONAL HOUSING CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 9, 2016; 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) opposes this measure as it does not align with the priorities set forth by the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) state plan, nor is it consistent with the Department’s work to create a Housing First system of care for homeless individuals and families. Moreover, we are concerned about the cost implications generated by this proposal.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to require the Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR), in consultation with the office of the Governor and DHS, to establish a transitional housing center for homeless at Sand Island State recreation area. The bill would also appropriate funds for its purpose.

For at least the past four years the Department has been aligning its programs to create a Housing First system of care. This means that we are working toward matching individual needs with appropriate resources so that there is no over-, or under-, resourcing for any individual or group of individuals. We have utilized technical assistance from HUD and the VA to learn about nationally recognized best practices that have been effectively addressing homelessness in cities across the nation including Salt Lake City, Houston, and Phoenix. What we have learned is that

investing in a coordinated system that addresses a continuum of human needs (including physical and mental health, housing, and economics) and a concurrent plan to expand affordable housing inventory is the best possible solution to homelessness.

Unfortunately, this proposed measure is contradictory to that strategy as it focuses on temporary shelter and safe zone alternatives that do little to achieve the goal of permanent housing for the homeless.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
HUMAN SERVICES**

**Tuesday, February 9, 2016
9:00 AM
State Capitol Conference Room 329**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2663
RELATING TO A TRANSITIONAL HOUSING CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS**

House Bill 2663 proposes to require that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) establish a transitional housing center for homeless persons on Sand Island State Recreation Area (SISRA). **The Department opposes this bill for the reasons listed below.**

1. Portions of SISRA have been developed with federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) monies, which establishes a covenant requiring recreational uses.
2. SISRA is frequently used, and converting the park into a transitional housing shelter will affect:
 - a) Members of the public who use this area for family recreation and camping: In 2015 there were 637 camping permits issued to 3,694 members of the public;
 - b) 9 canoe clubs that have extensive membership and that store and use the 80 canoes, and 3 dragon boats for children and adult practices;
 - c) The Hawaii Softball Foundation, which, along with Maryknoll School has refurbished the playing fields in response to demand for both baseball and softball fields in the urban core; and
 - d) The BMX (children's bicycle course) and RC (remote control cars) track sites.
3. If this park is to be repurposed for homeless shelter purposes, then another urban shoreline park should be developed to offset this impact to the recreational public.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

4. If a transitional shelter is built at Sand Island, it is unlikely that other parts of the park can be used for continued park purposes. The Permittees managing the BMX and RC track sites are continually dealing with vandalism and within the last month there have been confrontations between some of the homeless people and the patrons of the two tracks. These permitted community organizations are concerned that an increase in homeless people will contribute to the vandalism and confrontations currently occurring from the illicit homeless camps on site. While security measures would be implemented if a transitional shelter were built in the area, patrons of the park would likely continue to feel unsafe.
5. It is not within the mission of the Department to either provide or manage homeless shelters. Should the Legislature want to proceed with this plan, then there should be consideration given and action taken to transfer the property to a more appropriate agency through an executive order or other means. However, the LWCF covenant requires that equal acreage must be supplied if the LWCF property is re-purposed for non- recreational uses.

The Department is mandated to focus on its mission to “enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii’s unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawaii nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.” This bill will detract from our mission and have a significant impact on Oahu’s public who use SISRA for a variety of recreational activities and therefore the Department **opposes** this measure.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 9, 2016

TO: The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **HB 2663 – RELATING TO A TRANSITIONAL HOUSING CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS.**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness opposes this measure, as it appears to conflict with the priorities of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness. The Coordinator also expresses concern about the impact that this measure may have on priorities identified in the Executive Budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to require DLNR, in consultation with the office of the Governor and DHS, to establish a transitional housing center for homeless at Sand Island State recreation area. In addition, the bill appropriates an unspecified amount for the establishment of the transitional housing center.

To better understand the issue of homelessness, the Coordinator has convened meetings with service providers and community stakeholders, and has reviewed national literature related to "best practice" approaches to this issue. The intent of the Coordinator is to align Hawaii's efforts to end homelessness with national best practices and evidence-based interventions.

A 2013 report issued by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research, found that transitional housing was generally a more expensive intervention to address the needs of homeless individuals compared to other housing interventions. The report also recommends that

communities “avoid extensive use of high-cost homeless programs (i.e. transitional housing) for individuals or families who primarily need permanent housing without supports or those whose service needs can be met by mainstream systems.” This measure does not appear to be in alignment with these recommendations.

The Coordinator notes that the measure also includes language that would permit tents, as well as the ability of homeless individuals to live in their vehicles, within the transitional housing center. In a 2013 report to the Legislature, a working group of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) researched the feasibility of establishing campgrounds for the homeless and found that “creating camping areas for homeless individuals in our parks and in our public buildings . . . is unworkable, is unadvisable, and should not be pursued.” The findings of the working group were adopted as the official position of the HICH. The measure appears to be in conflict with the position of the HICH, and does not appear to be in alignment with the HICH Strategic Plan to End Homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 12:48 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: aandrea99@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2663 on Feb 9, 2016 09:00AM

HB2663

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 9, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Secular Coalition for Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: Please support this important bill. It is the least we can do for our homeless population, many of whom are mentally ill and/or former veterans.

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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February 4, 2016

TO: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Human Services

RE: H.B. 2663: Relating to Transitional Housing Center for the Homeless - **SUPPORT**
Date: February 9, 2016
Time: 9:00 AM
Place: Conference Room 329

FROM: Camille Cristobal

Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to submit testimony in support for H.B. 2663. My name is Camille Cristobal, and I am a graduate student at the University of Hawaii – Manoa. I am testifying in strong favor of H.B. 2663 This bill will require the department of land and natural resources, in consultation with the office of the governor and the department of human services, to establish a transitional housing center for the homeless at Sand Island state recreation area.

I support this bill for the following reasons:

- It is clear that Hawai'i's homeless population is growing and an increasing number of affordable housing options need to be available for families and individuals. Increasing the number of transitional housing options for families and individuals will provide the much needed housing options.
- I believe providing other necessary services from nonprofit organizations, churches, and businesses is needed in order to help provide additional resources and support to help homeless families and individuals transition out of transitional housing.
- The freedom for homeless persons to utilize the space they are appropriated with by allowing tents, tiny homes, or other low cost structures as approved by the State allows more homeless persons to utilize the transitional housing center because they are given the option to live as they choose.

Passing this bill would help to support the need for affordable housing options for families and individuals. Providing additional services besides housing will provide additional resources and support that homeless families and individuals need to help them get and maintain long term housing.

Thank you,
Camille Cristobal

LATE

PO Box 17603 • Honolulu, HI 96817-0603 • (808) 842.1359 • Fax (808) 841.1270
info@sibahawaii.org • sibahawaii.org

February 8, 2016

Hearing - HUS, 2/9/16, 9am

Committee on Human Services
House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2663 - Transitional Housing Center for the Homeless

Dear Honorable Chair Dee Morikawa:

The Sand Island Business Association developed and manages a 74-acre industrial park on behalf of its 100 small business owners on Sand Island. We have a 55-year lease with the Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR), effective July 1, 1992. The Sand Island Industrial Park is adjacent to the Sand Island Recreation Area, bordering on the mauka side.

Our sub-tenants have invested \$100 million in the infrastructure and leasehold improvements in the industrial park. Since 1992 to present, we have had to deal with vandalism and thefts in our industrial park. Some of our problems have occurred by homeless persons coming into our park. As a result, over the last five years, we have had to increase our security from just at night to day as well. As a result, our cost for security has increased from \$100,000 per year to \$125,000 per year over the last two years.

We supported the city's transitional center, Hale Mauiola, on Sand Island. Our support was based on the city's assurances that the center was temporary (up to three years), housing 100 persons, and facilities were to be secured. To date, we have had no problems with persons housed at Hale Mauiola.

House Bill 2663, appears to copy the city's Hale Mauiola, except on a much larger scale. We understand that the homeless issue is a community problem and the community at large must assist the State to solve this problem. We would like to be part of the solution.

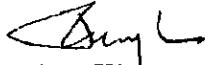
However, we see at least two issues that need to be addressed. First, how does this bill impact the public's use of the recreational park? It is a fact that there is less and less public recreational areas for use. Second, how will the State manage this 1,500-person transitional center? We are aware this bill tasks DLNR to come up with a plan. Our concern is how will the rules address the issue of an increase in homeless persons causing problems for our tenants and the management of our industrial park? Will our security cost increase because of this transitional center?

2/8/16 2:46:52 PM 302963 302963 (1 of 2)

SAND ISLAND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Therefore, until we have assurances that the management of the facilities will protect the safety of our tenants and their property, the Sand Island Business Association opposes this bill.

Very truly yours,



Rodney Kim
Executive Director