



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

March 28, 2018

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

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

SUBJECT: SB 2906 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Wednesday, March 28 2018, 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this measure to the extent that this appropriation does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish the position of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness in statute. In addition, the bill makes an appropriation and attaches the Governor's Coordinator of Homelessness to the Department of Human Services for administrative purposes, but requires the position to report to the Governor.

Homelessness remains one of the most pressing challenges facing Hawaii. As the Chair of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH), the Coordinator worked together with the Governor and members of the council to adopt a comprehensive framework to address homelessness that focuses on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. In particular, the Coordinator has worked together with the Legislature, State departments and other stakeholders to increase resources for permanent housing programs, such as Housing First and Rapid Rehousing.

Between 2015 and 2017, the number of permanent housing beds for homeless individuals statewide increased by 1,986 – an increase of 146%, more than doubling the supply of permanent beds. The coordinated efforts to implement the State's framework to address

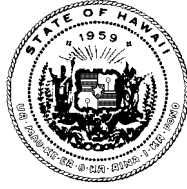
homelessness have made progress in reducing the number of homeless individuals statewide. In 2017, the statewide Point in Time (PIT) count found that the number of homeless people in Hawaii had decreased for the first time in eight years – a decrease of 701 people between 2016 and 2017.

Despite this progress, there remains a need to sustain a coordinated approach in partnership with the counties and the private sector. By incorporating the Coordinator’s position in statute and providing an appropriation, this measure helps to ensure that existing efforts continue.

In addition to passing this measure, the Coordinator respectfully requests the Legislature’s support of the Governor’s Executive Budget request, which includes over \$15 million for homeless programs administered by DHS and other State agencies that collectively represent an array of financial resources designed to provide one-time crisis assistance, as well as medium term (3-24 months) and longer-term support. This mix of short-, medium-, and long-term assistance is designed to transition at-risk and homeless individuals and families into stable housing, and is also designed to prevent homelessness by assisting formerly homeless individuals in maintaining housing over time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

March 27, 2018

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2906 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO THE GOVERNOR’S COORDINATOR ON
HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, Thursday, March 28, 2018, 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure to the extent that this appropriation does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish the position of the Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness in statute. In addition, the bill makes an appropriation and attaches the Governor’s Coordinator of Homelessness to the Department of Human Services for administrative purposes, and requires the position to report to the Governor.

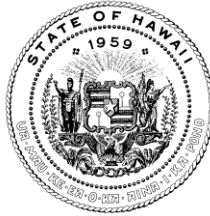
Currently the position of the Governor's Coordinator of Homelessness is located in the DHS Director's Office (HMS 904) as a special project, though the Coordinator's office is physically located with the Governor's staff. The Legislature should establish the position as a permanent position, exempt from provisions of Chapter 76, and should also consider additional appropriations for operational issues to cover basic functions of the position such as travel, postage, and copying.

For Hawaii to reach "functional zero," the State will continue to require a focused, strategic, and coordinated effort lead by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness who

has the ability, authority, and credentials of the Governor and the Legislature to work with all state departments, County governments, Federal agencies, and the private sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

4:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2906, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR OF HOMELESSNESS**

Senate Bill 2906, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1 proposes to: (1) statutorily establish the position of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, (2) establish clear lines of communication and (3) provide funding for the functions of the Office. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) is in strong support of this measure.**

The Governor's Office on Homelessness has provided much needed leadership and coordination for administrative agencies in addressing the problem of homelessness on our individual lands. This Office is crucial to effectively address homelessness because individual agencies, such as the Department are ill-equipped to address the problem alone. The Governor's Office on Homelessness has been able to coordinate strategic outreach, law enforcement, housing, and support services in support of state departments as well as with the Counties. This efficiency saves staff time and money for the State. Some of the work of this Office includes:

- Strategically addressing the issues of different homeless camps
- Ensuring that there is outreach provided to state lands
- Developing Standardized Notification Procedures
- Leveraging the resources of different departments for more effective clean-up operations (i.e. Nimitz Viaduct).
- Coordinating contracting services to more effectively move people into long-term housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2906 SD1 HD1: Relating to the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Finance

FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer

Hearing: **Wednesday, March 28, 2018; 4:00 PM; Room 308**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members, Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of **SB 2906 SD1 HD1**, which statutorily establishes the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness position. I am Terry Walsh, with Catholic Charities Hawaii. We are also a member of Partners in Care.

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii for over 60 years. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawaii. Ending homelessness is a top priority for 2018.

After years of ever increasing homelessness, Hawaii finally saw a decrease in the Point in Time Count for homeless in 2017. Catholic Charities Hawaii has seen extensive planning, collaboration and the development of a new system to address the many facets of homelessness, in coordination with the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. This position has proven to be key to addressing homelessness. It is very important that the position be made permanent. This will enable the stability and long term planning that is needed to effectively address homelessness throughout our state.

Catholic Charities Hawaii and Partners in Care work closely with this position. The coordinator serves as an important bridge between the work of the state, multiple state departments and agencies, the counties, and the many non-profits who provide services to end homelessness. The Coordinator enhances the collaboration to effectively and efficiently plan and move initiatives forward and at a faster pace than in the past. The Coordinator position is essential for the state to look at the big picture and match resources to needs, based upon a broad understanding of what is happening in the community and among service providers. This Coordinator's position has been invaluable to help stakeholders become engaged in addressing homelessness. This measure would ensure ongoing accountability and coordination between the many departments and agencies that work to end homelessness. This position is also invaluable to the State to coordinate strategic plans and benchmarks to address this critical issue for Hawaii.

We urge you to statutorily establish this position to continue the strong leadership and collaboration that is need for our State to strongly address homelessness.

Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org, if you have any questions.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
Hopeline: (808)524-4673 • www.CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org





DATE: Wednesday, March 28, 2018; 4:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO
Parents And Children Together

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB 2906 – RELATING TO THE GOVERNOR’S
COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS

Parents And Children Together STRONGLY supports of SB 2906 – Relating to the Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness.

Hawaii continues to struggle with one of the highest percentage of homelessness in the nation. A clear strategy to support our individuals and families must be at the forefront of our legislative decisions. It is also critical that we provide the necessary infrastructure to support these ongoing strategies.

The Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness is a critical position to ensure the key strategies are being implemented and the true needs of the people are being addressed. We support the appropriation of funds in this bill for the fulltime position for the Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness. Furthermore, the position has built up many relationships with the community and has a deep understanding for the individual needs of those who find themselves homeless. Funding this position will ensure that there are no disruptions to services.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 16 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 2906**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair, Members, House Committee on Finance

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2906 SD 1 HD 1 RELATING TO THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: March 28, 2018, 4:00 pm, CR 308

Thank you for allowing us to testify **in support of Senate Bill 2906 SD 1 HD 1**, which statutorily establishes the position of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, attaches it to the Department of Human Services and has it report directly to the Governor.

Mental Health America of Hawaii is a 501(c)3 organization founded in Hawai'i 76 years ago, that serves the community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education and service. The position of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is important to us because it provides leadership from the administration on the issue of homelessness, coordinating public and private partners to ensure the development and implementation of effective strategies to eliminate homelessness in Hawaii.

During his tenure, Scott Morishige has demonstrated how broad and essential this role is in coordinating the efforts of community partners and the various government agencies that are involved while maintaining transparency in sharing information with the public through the media. He has made the administration much more accessible to the public on the issue of homelessness by fielding calls, inquiries and comments on a regular basis.

Thank you for considering my testimony **in support of SB 2906 SD 1 HD 1**. Please contact me at trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.

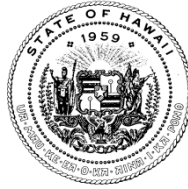
SB-2906-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 3:49:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:



Testimony by:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
ROY CATALANI
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

LATE

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 28, 2018
4:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 309

S.B. 2906, S.D. 1, H.D. 1
RELATING TO THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS

House Committee on Finance

The Department of Transportation (DOT) appreciates the opportunity to **support** S.B. 2906, S.D. 1., H.D. 1

The DOT emphasizes the importance of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. We have worked very closely with the Coordinator on Homelessness to ensure that each department, county, and law enforcement agency were coordinated in each effort allowing a more proactive approach to connecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness to homeless services and shelters.

Through the Homelessness Coordinator's efforts and the efforts of coordinated agencies, there has been a decrease of 701 people in the statewide homeless point-in-time count, the first decrease in eight years. Making this position permanent with adequate funding will provide the continuity necessary to continue to make substantive improvements to the State's efforts to address homelessness in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.