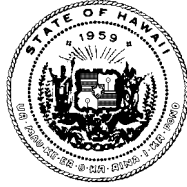


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 26, 2018

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

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

Hearing: Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211, 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.

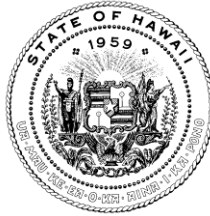
Currently the position of the Governor's Coordinator of Homelessness is located in the DHS Director's Office (HMS 904) as a special project, though the Coordinator's office is physically located with the Governor's staff. The Legislature should establish the position as a permanent position, exempt from 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



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Wednesday, February 28, 2018
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

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

Senate Bill 2906 proposes to statutorily establish the position of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, establish clear lines of communication and 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 outreach, law enforcement and clean-ups across departments as well as with the Counties. This efficiency saves staff and money for the State. Some of the work of this Office includes:

- 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.

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



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

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

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means

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

Hearing: Wednesday, 2/28/18; 11:00 AM; Conference Room 211

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means:

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

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

After years of ever increasing homelessness, Hawai'i finally saw a decrease in the Point in Time Count for homeless in 2017. Catholic Charities Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i.

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





HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice

Supporting SB 2906

Relating to the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Scheduled for Hearing Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 11:00am, Conference Room 221

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice Hawai'i Appleseed is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of SB 2906, which statutorily establishes the Governor's coordinator on homelessness position. The position has proven to be key to addressing homelessness in Hawai'i, and it is important that the position be made permanent to allow the stability and long-term planning necessary to address homelessness in Hawai'i.

Homelessness is one of the biggest problems facing Hawai'i. Our state has the highest housing costs in the nation and the lowest wages when adjusted for cost of living. Not surprisingly, we also have the highest homelessness rate in the nation, with 7,220 unsheltered homeless at last count. Thanks to a growing focus on homelessness in recent years, we have started to turn the tide on homelessness, reducing the homelessness rate for the first time in years last year.

The Governor's coordinator on homelessness has played a critical role in these efforts. The coordinator serves as an important bridge between the work of the state, the counties, and of NGOs involved in addressing homelessness. The coordinator is well-situated to be able to look at the big-picture, with access to information about the resources available to combat homelessness and an understanding about what is happening on the ground. The coordinator's work is invaluable in helping to connect and guide the efforts of the stakeholders engaged in addressing homelessness.

For these reasons, Hawai'i Appleseed supports SB 2906. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

SB-2906

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 4:23:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thelma Akita-Kealoha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I totally support this bill. I feel that the Homeless Coordinator position is very valuable to neighbor islands as well as Oahu. This position has offered support to the neighbor islands and has been knowledgeable and involved in our efforts as well. So he is not only a bridge there but one for all the islands across the State!

I request that you statutorily establish this position to continue the leadership and collaboration that is needed for our State in addressing homelessness!

Mahalo,

Thelma Akita-Kealoha

SB-2906

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 9:23:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: