

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

BRIDGET HOLTHUS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

January 30, 2017

TO: The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB588 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: January 30, 2017, 2:55 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) acknowledges the effort of the Legislature and community advocates to seek measures to improve emergency and transitional shelters, and offers comments. SB588 as drafted, would make sweeping changes to Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2016 and potentially have an adverse affect on the Governor's Executive Budget and current programs.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to define emergency shelter to mean a homeless facility designed to provide temporary shelter and services for up to six months. Allows homeless shelter stipends to be adjusted at the end of each year based upon achievement of performance measures. Requires homeless shelters to have no fewer than one shower, one sink, and one toilet per twenty-five residents and the minimum area of each partitioned space to be determined by the number of residents and capacity of the shelter. Establishes that the storage space at a homeless shelter shall be determined by each shelter's space availability. Removes DHS's authority to require shelters to comply with additional requirements.

Establishes and funds 2.0 FTE positions to assist in the implementation of the homeless shelter program. Appropriates funds for homeless shelters and other non-recurring costs.

The measure as drafted does not address the issue of partitions established by Act 234 (SLH 2016). Since its passage last summer, the concerns of service providers are that mandatory partitions could negatively affect shelters on certain islands and decrease the overall number of available beds. Additionally, no additional funding was appropriated to assist shelter providers with any improvements to accommodate partitions. HPO respectfully requests that the Legislature support the Administration's measures SB964 and HB1098, which would amend Act 234, SLH 2016, to give DHS discretion to require partitioned spaces and will extend the effective date for Act 234, SLH 2016, section 6(b) by one year.

HPO is also concerned that the proposed amendment to the definition of "emergency shelter" would cause confusion as it would conflict with the definition used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which is consistent with the state's current definition. The current pending shelter contracts, which were extensively revised to meet the provisions of Act 124 (SLH 2016) and Act 234 (SLH 2016), uses the HUD definition of "emergency shelter," that does not include a duration of time, specifically, "emergency shelter" is:

"any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary or transitional shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless."

If the Legislature intends to create a different definition of "emergency shelter," the conflict of definitions may result in HPO having to re-procure services, confuse providers, and potentially leave a gap in shelter services as HPO modifies requirements pursuant to the change in law. HPO requests an effective date that gives sufficient time to modify its RFPs and contract provisions, and takes into account resources and costs required for transition amongst providers if necessary.

If the Legislature moves forward with this measure, HPO requests an effective date that considers an extension of the effective date for Act 234 (SLH 2016) and to allow DHS time to implement any proposed changes and maintain on-going shelter services procured in compliance with Act 234 (SLH 2016) as it currently exists.

The Administration's proposed amendments to Act 234 (SLH 2016) are part of a comprehensive framework to address homelessness, which seeks to transition homeless individuals and families into permanent housing as quickly as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

January 30, 2017

TO: The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

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

SUBJECT: SB 588 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Monday, January 30, 2017, 2:55 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure, but is concerned about the cost implications generated by this proposal and potential adverse impact on priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. The Coordinator notes that the Administration's measures SB964 and HB1098 propose to amend Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2016, and asks for the Legislature's support of the Administration's bill.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to make a number of amendments to Act 234, SLH 2016. The bill also establishes and funds 2.0 FTE positions to assist in the implementation of the homeless shelter program, and appropriates funds for homeless shelters and other non-recurring costs.

The Coordinator notes that while this bill proposes a number of amendments to the current law, it does not address language in Act 234, SLH 2016 that requires emergency shelters to provide partitioned space for homeless persons or families. The Administration's proposal SB964, changes "shall" to "may" to give DHS the discretion to require partitions. Based on feedback from service providers, the requirement to

mandate partitioned space may have the unintended consequence of adversely impacting bed space at emergency shelters, especially those located on the neighbor islands.

In addition, to implement additional changes to the law, bill's effective date should consider the additional time DHS requires to implement any proposed changes, while maintaining current services as procured in compliance with Act 234 (SLH 2016) as currently enacted to avoid any gap in services or abrupt transitions.

The Coordinator further notes that the proposed amendments to the State definition of "emergency shelter" conflicts with the federal definition of "emergency shelter" and language in a recent Request for Proposals (RFP) for state homeless shelter services. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of "emergency shelter" does not include specific time requirements for length of stay. In addition, language in the recent RFP for shelter services specified that shelters will "offer individuals and [f]amilies experiencing [h]omelessness ongoing access to services until they secure permanent housing," including "not establishing arbitrary time limits on length of program participation." Proposed amendments could result in further modification to the language of DHS shelter contracts, which were completely overhauled in compliance with provisions of Act 124 (SLH 2016) and Act 234 (SLH 2016), and may impact program continuity and effectiveness, as well as displace homeless individuals and families statewide.

The Coordinator respectfully request that the Legislature support Administration measures SB964 and HB1098, which proposes to provide the option of establishing partitioned spaces, and extend the effective date for Act 234, SLH 2016, section 6(b) by one year.

The Administration's proposed amendments to Act 234, SLH 2016, are part of a comprehensive framework to address homelessness, which seeks to transition homeless individuals and families into permanent housing as quickly as possible. While no additional funding for shelters is included in the Governor's budget request, the Governor's Executive Budget request includes \$20.9 million for homeless services, as well

as \$150 million for the development of affordable rental housing and renovations to public housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 588: Homelessness

TO: Senator (Chair) Josh Green, Senator (Chair) Will Espero, and
Members of the Senate Committees on Human Services, and Housing

FROM: Sheila Beckham, CEO, and Jason Espero, Director of Homeless Services

Hearing: **Monday, January 30, 2016 (2:55pm), Conference Room 016**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB 588**.

Waikiki Health (WH) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization with a mission to provide quality medical and social services that are affordable and accessible for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay.

WH manages and operates Next Step Emergency Shelter, located in Kakaako Makai. Next Step Shelter provides safe and clean indoor living accommodations 24-hour 7 days a week to approximately 230 homeless individuals and families, prioritizing services to the chronically homeless, vulnerable, veterans, elderly, individuals with HIV/AIDS, and other chronic diseases.. Next Step Shelter operates using a Housing First intervention model delivered through a recovery-oriented housing-focused intensive case management approach.

New regulations to homeless shelters that will into effect on February 1, 2017, will impact the operations of many homeless shelters, including Next Step Shelter. Considering that each homeless shelter has its unique needs and features, specifications relating to certain regulations should be decided between the operator of the shelter and the State Department of Human Services Homeless Programs Office.

As a result of new shelter regulations, Next Step Shelter will not have the capacity to serve both individuals and families, resulting in 105 fewer beds at Next Step Shelter.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Sheila Beckham, RD, MPH



Jason Espero, MPA

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 8:22 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: honolulujd@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB588 on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM

SB588

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for HMS/HOU on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Massengale	Hawaii Habitat for Humanity Association, Inc.	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii Habitat for Humanity strongly supports SB588, and recommends passage.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 11:47 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: akamaimom@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB588 on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM

SB588

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for HMS/HOU on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Felicia Cowden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Homelessness is a big challenge on Kauai. I am not sure if this will help our island. All the islands need help. We must do what we can.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 10:48 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: williamrandysmith@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB588 on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM*

SB588

Submitted on: 1/27/2017

Testimony for HMS/HOU on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William R Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 11:14 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: hlee@uhahealth.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB588 on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM*

SB588

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for HMS/HOU on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Howard Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 11:19 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: pastordianem@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB588 on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM

SB588

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for HMS/HOU on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane S. Martinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB588 per input from those who are operating homeless shelters in this state. Thank you for continuing to work together to provide needed emergency shelter for those in our state.

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