



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

February 14, 2019

TO: The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

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

SUBJECT: **HB 999 – RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM CIVIL SERVICE**

Hearing: Thursday, February 14, 2019, 8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 312, State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness strongly supports this measure.

The Coordinator supports section 2, which exempts the Coordinator from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and clarifies that the Coordinator is appointed by the Governor.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to permanently exempt from civil services a number of positions in the Department of Human Services (DHS), including the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. The bill will also temporarily exempt from civil services certain positions in the DHS Med-QUEST Division and in the office of the director.

The Coordinator acknowledges the need for a permanent position to coordinate statewide efforts to address homelessness, including partnerships with the counties and the private sector. For two consecutive years, homelessness in Hawaii has decreased – including the fourth largest numeric decrease in homelessness nationally in 2018 – and the leadership, coordination, and strategies that support this progress should be sustained.

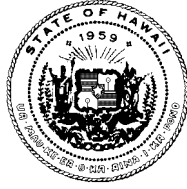
The position of Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is temporary and was first established in 2011 in the DHS Director's Office (HMS 904). Currently, the Coordinator continues to be placed in the DHS Director's Office through a special project and is physically located in the Office of the Governor. The Coordinator serves as Chair of the Hawaii

Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) and has worked with the Governor, his cabinet, and the HICH to adopt a comprehensive framework and strategic plan to address homelessness by focusing on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety.

The recent progress in addressing homelessness under the Coordinator's tenure is not simply tied to a reduction in homeless individuals. As the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Hawaii has decreased, the number of beds to address homelessness has also increased. This information is captured in the annual Housing Inventory Count (HIC), which is a report provided to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) each year. Between 2015 and 2018, the total number of temporary and permanent beds in the HIC increased significantly from 5,700 to 8,008. This increase – particularly the increase in permanent beds – correlates with increases in State and local funding for permanent supportive housing and housing-focused programs, such as the State's Housing First and Rapid Re-Housing program, during this same period.

The Coordinator's efforts also include a specific focus on public safety and working closely with State land management and law enforcement agencies. This work has resulted in the development of internal guidelines and standard notification procedures to address unauthorized camping and trespass on state lands, as well as the integration of homeless outreach and enforcement efforts. In addition, the Coordinator worked with DOH to support new programs, such as the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program, which partners with law enforcement to divert homeless individuals from the criminal justice system and connect them to services. In 2018, coordinated enforcement efforts linked with outreach connected over 400 homeless individuals from encampments to shelter, housing, medical respite and residential treatment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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

February 13, 2019

TO: The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 999 – RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM CIVIL SERVICE**

Hearing: Thursday, February 14, 2019, 8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration measure to exempt from civil service, critical leadership positions in the Office of the Director and the Med-QUEST division. The complexity and magnitude of benefits and services that DHS is responsible to deliver to residents of the State requires the ability to attract and retain qualified, experienced, and innovative individuals with the requisite subject matter expertise to transform DHS into an efficient and performance based entity.

The bill further codifies the position of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness in statute and clarifies the appointment by the Governor recognizing the necessity of State wide coordinator to address the complex issues of homelessness. The bill also establishes the position of Executive Director of the State Commission on Fatherhood to increase the capacity of the Commission to address the role and condition of fatherhood in the State.

These positions currently exist as temporarily exempt positions or as special projects, except for the new position of the Executive Director of the State Commission on Fatherhood.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill is to permanently exempt from civil service the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness; the Executive Director of the State Commission on Fatherhood; in the Med-QUEST Division: division administrator, finance officer, health care

services branch administrator, medical director, clinical standards administrator; and in the Director's office of the Department of Human Services: the enterprise officer, information security and privacy compliance officer, security and privacy compliance engineer, and security and privacy compliance analyst. Temporarily exempts from civil service in the med-QUEST division: the research/health analytics manager; and in the director's office of the Department of Human services: the community/project development director, the policy director, and the special assistant to the Director.

The position of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is responsible for coordinating the state's response to homelessness that requires tremendous effort and diplomacy to facilitate communication and bridge all branches of government, federal and county agencies, service providers, advocates, and community members to cooperate on a focused and strategic plan to address the complexities of homelessness in Hawaii. This position also requires expertise, experience, flexibility, and integrity able to balance and articulate the complex needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness with the knowledge of available resources and ability of the system to respond. The position is currently a special project administratively within the Office of the Director of DHS, and is physically housed in the Office of the Governor.

The department requests the permanent exemption of a new position of the executive director of the Commission on Fatherhood. The Legislature established the Commission on Fatherhood by Act 156, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003. Chapter 577E, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), provides the purpose and duty of the Commission on Fatherhood is to serve in an advisory capacity to state agencies to promote healthy family relationships between parents and children. Commissioners are volunteers who live and work in different counties, consequently, the ability of the commission to fulfill its statutory duties has been limited and incremental. To allow the commission efforts to come to fruition, the commission requires an executive director to implement decisions of the commission. The position is not currently funded in the department budget; however, the Commission does have the capacity to raise private funds as a potential funding source for the position.

The department seeks permanent exemption from civil service for five administrative positions in MQD: the division administrator, finance officer, health care

services branch administrator, medical director, and clinical standards administrator. Act 79, SLH 2016, established these positions as temporarily exempt for three years. Prior to that, these positions existed in the 1990 QUEST special project that has become the State's Medicaid program.

The Med-QUEST division's Medicaid program is the most effective and cost efficient way to provide health care coverage to low-income adults, children, elders, and people with disabilities. The program is complex as it requires compliance with a myriad of federal regulations and the integration of current health care trends in service delivery, while meeting the variety of needs of Hawaii's population. These positions require unique knowledge and experience typically gained through employment in health care-related organizations (e.g., hospitals, clinics, insurance companies, etc.) or the federal government, or require clinical credentials or licenses. The conversion to permanent exempt status is necessary to allow flexibility to attract, hire, and retain highly qualified staff to manage critical on-going functions of the more than \$2.6 billion medical assistance programs.

The department also requests the temporary exemption from civil service for three years be continued for the position of research/health analytics manager in MQD while the department works to convert that position to a civil service position. This research/health analytics manager position was also created through Act 79, SLH 2016. However, per Act 55 (2018), establishing the health analytics program within DHS, the legislature also created two permanent exempt positions for the health analytics program and consequently, MQD is in the process of converting the research/health analytics manager to civil service. Through the Health Analytics Program, MQD has begun the work to analyze all state funded medical claims to assist policy makers and program administrators on issues impacting community health and health care delivery.

In the office of the Director of DHS, the department requests to permanently exempt from civil service the following positions: the DHS enterprise officer, information security and privacy compliance officer, security and privacy compliance engineer, and security and privacy compliance analyst.

As part of the department's overall IT modernization effort, the department enterprise officer will oversee the IT Modernization Project from a departmental perspective

and is responsible for the continuing development, implementation, maintenance, and integration of DHS programs on to the enterprise system. Once integrated, the enterprise system will require continuous oversight from a departmental perspective to maintain a unified a system as programs are added or modified, laws or regulations require system modification, and to manage rapidly changing IT environment. The enterprise officer is also tasked with establishing departmental data governance policies and practices that will enable integration of program data, and data analytics that will lead to improved business processes, allow resource re-allocation, and service innovation.

As technology becomes more complex, and bad actors become more sophisticated and aggressive, the department requires a more robust DHS Security Management Program. The chief information security and privacy compliance officer is responsible for the department's information security strategy, oversight, solutions, compliance, policy management, and staff training. Protecting personal information and ensuring system integrity are amongst the highest DHS responsibilities and priorities.

To assist the information security and privacy compliance officer, DHS requires that the security and privacy compliance analyst and the security and privacy compliance engineer to both be DHS employees and requests that these positions also be exempt from civil service. Due to difficulty in recruiting and filling information security positions, DHS used contractors to develop and implement the privacy and security practices.

However, as DHS is also regulated by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, IRS code prohibits human services contractors from accessing federal tax information and consequently, the security analyst and security engineer positions need to be department employees to access federal tax information that may be in the DHS enterprise system. Further, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Medicaid program require the department to have a robust information security system with specific components, monitoring, and security controls.

Additional temporarily exempt positions are requested in the office of the director of DHS: Community/project development director; policy director; and the special assistant to the director. These positions currently exist in director's office as temporary exempt or as special projects.

These positions are required to effectively lead and manage DHS programs, improve access to services and the quality of services, improve the working conditions at DHS to improve recruitment and retention of the human services work force, improve and standardize procurement and other administrative processes, respond to legislative changes, establish and maintain clear communication, and establish collaborative relationships with recipients, policy makers, other departments and branches of government, and community partners and members.

In Act 79, SLH 2016, the legislature also established temporary exempt positions of the community/project development director and the policy director in the office of the director of DHS. DHS requests to extend these temporary exemptions for an additional three years.

The community/project development director is tasked with embedding and operationalizing 'Ohana Nui, the department's multi-generational approach to end intergenerational poverty. The community/project development director will continue to lead required internal organizational change management that is required for DHS to transform to an integrated service delivery model. Additionally, the community/project development director collaborates with external community members and providers to work with DHS to co-create solutions to positively influence community wide changes that support multi-generational success and reduce poverty in general.

The policy director reviews and identifies policy, legislation, and strategies impacting the programs that will lead to improved service delivery and positive outcomes. The policy director assists the director and program administrators in the department's effort to identify key program changes that will remove system barriers and incorporate a multi-generational 'Ohana Nui service delivery approach. Data sharing policies and data governance, both internal and external are major tasks that the department needs to address to truly become an integrated service delivery system.

The special assistant to the director of DHS is tasked with addressing internal policy and improving ongoing operations. As the department experiences retirement of many dedicated DHS workers who take with them centuries of experience and system know how,

maintaining and improving continuity of practice and facilitating knowledge transfer are primary tasks of the special assistant. Developing and coordinating departmental administrative rules drafting and procurement processes are key initiatives that will improve departmental efficiencies and transparency. Simplifying business processes and workflows so that they will eventually become part of the DHS enterprise system are the ultimate goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive  
Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of  
Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center  
EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of  
West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action  
Network

Hawaii Health & Harm  
Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native

Hawaiian Health Care  
Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together  
(PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest and  
Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services  
& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family  
Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community  
Center

The Catalyst Group

February 12, 2019

Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair

And members of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 999 RELATING TO EXEMPTION FROM CIVIL SERVICE

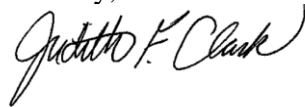
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 999 Relating to Exemption from Civil Service.

Homelessness is a complex issue requiring strong and stable leadership. The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness was established as a temporary position that cannot be extended indefinitely, yet the solutions to Hawaii's homelessness require long term planning, and multi-agency coordination.

The position of Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness should be made permanent and exempted from civil service.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

To: Committee Chair Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Committee Vice Chair Representative Nadine Nakamura  
Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

Date: February 14 2019; Room 329

RE: **Support for HB 999; Relating to exemptions from civil services**

The Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide public-private collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS brings together government and non-governmental organizations to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki. The Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide public-private collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS partners are working to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki. ECAS supports HB 999, which would exempt positions within the Department of Human Services from civil service, including the Executive Director of the State Commission on Fatherhood.

This measure would enhance the capacity of the Commission to support and expand the role of men in the lives of children across the state of Hawai'i. Research shows that when fathers play an active and supportive role in their children's lives, children are more likely to do well in school, avoid risky teen behaviors, and reach adulthood successfully.

SB 999 would strengthen the capacity of the State Commission on Fatherhood to advance this vital mission and for this reason, we urge the Committee to support its passage. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



# **PARTNERS IN CARE**

*Oahu's Continuum of Care*

---

***Our mission is to eliminate homelessness through open and inclusive participation and the coordination of integrated responses.***

## **Testimony in Support of HB 999: Related to Exemptions from Civil Service**

TO: Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Partners in Care (PIC)

HEARING: Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312

---

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and members of the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 999, and in particular, Section 2, which would permanently exempt from civil service the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. Partners in Care (PIC)—a coalition of more than 50 organizations working to address homelessness—supports this portion of the bill because it would make permanent a position that is key to coordinating the work of the many stakeholders in Hawai'i working to address homelessness.

Homelessness is a complex problem. No one entity can address the problem on its own and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. PIC (which serves Oahu) and its counterpart Bridging the Gap (which serves the rest of the state) are themselves examples of the type of collaboration and coordination that is needed. Years ago, a family facing homelessness would arrive at service provider's door and receive whatever the provider had to offer whether or not it was the best suited service for the situation. Or the family might be sent away with only a list of other providers and a prayer that one of them could help. Today, regardless of which provider's door they knock on, families are assessed and matched with the services and providers that can best address their particular situation. This type of collaboration is helping to ensure that the resources we commit to addressing homelessness are used effectively and efficiently.

Coordination between service providers is not enough. Hawai'i's housing and homelessness problems are of such great magnitude and complexity that they require an all-hands-on-deck approach. We need to have cooperation between all sectors—government, business, and non-profits—to address these issues. The position of Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, first established in 2011, has helped to serve as a hub for this type of cooperation. For example, the Coordinator serves as Chair of the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH), which is composed of state department directors, federal agency representatives, and leaders of the business and nonprofit community. Over the past eight years, the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness has proved to be a critical component of a well-organized response to homelessness. The position should be made permanent to ensure that the progress being made toward a fully-coordinated response to homelessness continues.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. We appreciate the opportunity to express our support of HB 999, Section 2, to make the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness position permanent.

**PARTNERS IN CARE, OAHU'S CONTINUUM OF CARE**

**200 North Vineyard • Suite 210 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 • [www.PartnersinCareOahu.org](http://www.PartnersinCareOahu.org)**

**HB-999**

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 8:54:18 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kawika Riley	Hawaii Commission on Fatherhood	Support	No

## Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness,

On behalf of the Commission on Fatherhood, mahalo for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 990, relating to exemptions from civil service. Among other provisions, this bill would allow for the State to staff its Commission on Fatherhood with an Executive Director, providing much needed staff support to better enable our Commission to fulfill our mission.

The Hawai'i State Commission on Fatherhood is an all-volunteer commission established by the State for the purposes codified in Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 557-E. Our duties include the identification of obstacles that limit the involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, and recommending policies and practices regarding fathers and their children. While the Commission serves an important function for the State, our activities have generally been limited due to the lack of staff, limited budget, and difficulty in recruiting and retaining members of the Commission.

In recent years we have improved and increased our activity. Some of successes from the most recent fiscal year include:

- Developing procedures for reviewing and taking positions on pending public policy, and supporting measures such as paid family leave
- Formulating a sponsorship process that enables us to redirect resources from conducting our own events to supporting fatherhood events being held by community organizations and nonprofits, thereby increasing our reach without replicating activities already occurring across the State
- Completing outreach visits to each of the major counties, and hearing from fathers and service providers to develop a better understanding of the needs of Hawaii dads

This year we continue to make progress, and recently passed a strategic plan framework that aligns our agenda with the social determinants of health recognized in the State's 'Ohana Nui framework.

Unfortunately, the absence of any staff greatly limits our ability to provide Hawaii fathers and families with the support they need. While this measure does not fund an employee for the Commission, we see authorizing the position as an important step. We understand that our statute allows us to receive external (non-state) funds, giving us flexibility to seek external funding or leverage resources if the position is established as provided for in this bill.

In closing, we reiterate our **STRONG SUPPORT** for HB 999.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Commission.

Sincerely,

Kawika Riley

Vice Chairman, Hawai'i State Commission on Fatherhood



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 999: Relating to Exemptions from Civil Service

TO: Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair, Representative Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawaii

Hearing: Thursday, 2/14/19; 9:00 am; Conference Room 329

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and Members, Committee on Human Services and Homelessness:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of HB 999**, to permanently exempt from civil service the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness position. I am Betty Lou Larson, 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 70 years. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawaii. Ending homelessness is a top priority for 2019.

After years of ever increasing homelessness, Hawaii finally saw almost an 18% decrease in the Point in Time Count for homeless from 2016 to 2018. 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. **Placing this position in the Department of Human Services and making it permanent facilitates long term planning with the department, as well as the Administration.** 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 pass this measure to continue the strong leadership and collaboration that is needed for our State to strongly address homelessness. Please contact me at (808) 373-0356 or [bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org) with any questions.



Catholic  
Charities  
USA



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone (808) 373-0356 • [bettylou.larson@CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org)



## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB HB 999 – Relating to Exemption from Civil Service

**TO:** Representative San Buenaventura, Chair and Representative Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair;  
Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

**FROM:** Heather Lusk, Executive Director of the Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

**RE:** Hearing Thursday Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am room 329

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony support of HB999 which would permanently exempt the **Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness** and continue the appointment of the position by the Governor. As Vice Chair of Partners in Care, Oahu's homeless coalition as well as a provider of homeless services, I feel strongly that this position helps coordinate state, county and federal resources and is an effective liaison for those of us in the community doing the frontline work.

*Reducing harm, promoting health, creating wellness and fighting stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific.* The Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center serves Hawai'i's communities by reducing the harm and fighting the stigma of HIV, hepatitis, homelessness, substance use, mental illness, and poverty in our community. We focus our efforts those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: LGBTQ, transgender, people who use drugs, people living with and/or affected by HIV and hepatitis, and the Native Hawaiian community. We cultivate relationships between our participants, community members, and providers through advocacy, training, education, and capacity building to foster health, wellness, and systemic change in Hawai'i and the Pacific.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure. We need the Governor's Coordinator on homelessness to continue working with us by permanently exempting the position and keeping it within the Governor's purview.

Sincerely,



Heather Lusk  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 999

TO: House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Nikos Leverenz  
Grants, Development & Policy Manager

DATE: February 14, 2019 (9 AM)

---

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Nakamura, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHC) **supports** HB 999, which would permanently exempt the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness from civil service.

We are a proud member of Partners in Care (PIC)—a coalition of more than 50 organizations working to address homelessness. Homelessness is a complex problem. No one entity can address the problem on its own and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. PIC (which serves Oahu) and its counterpart Bridging the Gap (which serves the rest of the state) are themselves examples of the type of collaboration and coordination that is needed.

The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, first established in 2011, has helped to serve as a hub for collaboration to ensure that state resources to address homelessness are used effectively and efficiently. A key component of this collaboration: the Coordinator serves as Chair of the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH), composed of state department directors, federal agency representatives, and leaders of the business and nonprofit community.

The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness has proved to be a critical component of a well-organized response to homelessness. The position should be made permanent to ensure that the progress being made toward a fully-coordinated response to homelessness continues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

February 12, 2019

To: Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
Representative Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

From: Laura Nevitt, Policy Director  
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **H.B. 999— RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM CIVIL SERVICE.**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329, February 14 2019 9:00 AM**

---

**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), I am writing in SUPPORT of H.B. 999, which Permanently exempts from civil service the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness; the Executive Director of the State Commission on Fatherhood; in the Med-QUEST Division: division administrator, finance officer, health care services branch administrator, medical director, clinical standards administrator; and in the Director's office of the Department of Human Services: the enterprise officer, information security and privacy compliance officer, security and privacy compliance engineer, and security and privacy compliance analyst. Temporarily exempts from civil service in the med-QUEST division: the research/health analytics manager; and in the director's office of the Department of Human services: the community/project development director, the policy director, and the special assistant to the Director.**

The mission of the Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood (COF) is to promote healthy family relationships by emphasizing the important role fathers play in the lives of their children. The Commission serves in an advisory capacity to state agencies and makes recommendations on programs, services, contracts, policies, and laws relating to children and families.

An increasing body of evidence indicates that children are more likely to thrive with the support, guidance, and nurturing of both parents. Yet, many children across the country are growing up without fathers. As a result, they may lack appropriate male role models and face greater risks of health, emotional, educational, and behavioral problems during their developmental years

Because HCAN is committed to improving lives and being a strong voice advocating for Hawai'i's children, we believe it is important that the State Commission on Fatherhood have the staff they need in order to do their work

**For these reasons, HCAN asks that you pass H.B 999.**

*HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.*



*Inspiring Hope, Changing Lives*

Visit us on the web: [www.hopeserviceshawaii.org](http://www.hopeserviceshawaii.org)

Connect via email: [info@hopeserviceshawaii.org](mailto:info@hopeserviceshawaii.org)

HOPE Help Line: 808-935-3050

Hearing: **HB 999 in support**  
Date: February 14, 2019  
Location: State Capitol, Room 329

**LATE**

Aloha Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

I am submitting testimony on behalf of HOPE Services Hawai'i, a nonprofit homelessness service provider, in support of HB 999, specifically Section 2.

Homelessness is a complex issue with a plethora of symptoms, and a variety of solutions offered by a wide range of organizations. Since 2011, the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness has served as a master weaver, connecting nonprofits, faith-based organizations, businesses, and government partners throughout the state, allowing them to maximize efficiency in the fight to end homelessness. This collaboration has allowed coalitions like Bridging the Gap and Partners in Care to deploy more organized, efficient, and effective strategies to help clients successfully navigate out of homelessness. No single organization or agency can be expected to offer every solution, and the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness has provided the framework to ensure we can refer our clients to partners who have the appropriate resources to assist them.

Homelessness doesn't have a one size fits all solution, and we need all hands on deck to provide the services our clients need. Making the position of the Governor's Organization on Homelessness permanent is a significant component of this collaboration. I strongly urge you to help Hawaii's most vulnerable to get the best services possible, by supporting HB 999.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brandee Menino,  
Chief Executive Officer

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



HOPE SERVICES HAWAII, INC.  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICE  
357 Waianuenue Avenue  
Hilo, HI 96720  
phone: (808) 935-3050  
fax: (808) 935-3794

HALE MALUHIA  
EMERGENCY SHELTER  
110 Ululani Street  
Hilo, HI 96720  
phone: (808) 443-4717  
fax: (808) 934-7456

KIHEI PUA  
EMERGENCY SHELTER  
115 Kapi'olani Street  
Hilo, HI 96720  
phone: (808) 933-6053  
fax: (808) 934-0904

VETERAN HOUSING  
PROGRAMS  
21 West Ohea Street  
Hilo, HI 96720  
phone: (808) 934-8658  
fax: (808) 934-8658

FRIENDLY PLACE  
RESOURCE CENTER  
74-5593 Pawai Place  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
phone: (808) 933-6062  
fax: (808) 329-6219

WEST HAWAII EMERGENCY  
HOUSING PROGRAM  
74-5593 Pawai Place  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
phone: (808) 217-5560  
fax: (808) 327-2171

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
President  
Anne Harpham

Interim Vice-President/  
Treasurer  
Charlene Iboshi

Secretary  
Rev. Robert Stark, SSS

Directors  
Carol R. Ignacio  
Gwen DeCoito  
Patrick Hurney  
Dean Au

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP  
Chief Executive Officer  
Brandee Menino

**HB-999**

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 1:35:53 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Goodman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of HB 999: Related to Exemptions from Civil Service**

TO: Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Mike Goodman, Director, Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force & Member Partners In Care

HEARING: Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 999.

Our testimony pertains to Section 2, which would permanently exempt from civil service the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. We support this Section because it would make the position permanent. Homelessness is arguably the greatest on-going crisis ever faced by the State of Hawaii. A Statewide Coordinator has the potential to bring together the countless programs and services under a targeted, comprehensive plan to end homelessness. Therefore, the Coordinator's position should be permanent.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** Becky Bailey <saltwatergirly@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2019 6:13 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 999, Section 2

**LATE**

Testimony in Support of HB 999, Section 2: Related to Exemptions from Civil Service

TO: Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

HEARING: Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312

FROM: Becky Bailey

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and members of the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness:

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 999, and in particular, Section 2, which would permanently exempt from civil service the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness position.

Homelessness is a complex problem. No one entity can address the problem on its own and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. We need to have cooperation between all sectors—government, business, and non-profits—to address this issues. The position of Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness has helped to serve as a hub for this type of cooperation. The position should be made permanent to ensure that we continue to make progress toward a fully-coordinated response to homelessness.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

**nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Keala Noel <kealanoel@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2019 11:44 AM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 999, Section 2

Testimony in Support of HB 999, Section 2: Related to Exemptions from Civil Service

TO: Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

HEARING: Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312

FROM: Keala Noel

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and members of the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 999, and in particular, Section 2, which would permanently exempt from civil service the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness position.

Homelessness is a complex problem. No one entity can address the problem on its own and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. We need to have cooperation between all sectors—government, business, and non-profits—to address this issues. The position of Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness has helped to serve as a hub for this type of cooperation. The position should be made permanent to ensure that we continue to make progress toward a fully-coordinated response to homelessness.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

**nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Kristen Alice <kristenalice808@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2019 11:48 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 999, Section 2

Testimony in Support of HB 999, Section 2: Related to Exemptions from Civil Service

TO: Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

HEARING: Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312

FROM: Kristen Alice

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and members of the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness:

The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness allows government, nonprofits, and other organizations to collaborate and share data, in order to more efficiently focus their resources. This position has been invaluable in the past and will undoubtedly continue to pay for itself, as it increases effectiveness in the fight against homelessness. I urge you to support this bill.

Thank you,  
Kristen Alice

**nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** LaVerne Tolmie <ltrn54@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2019 12:44 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 999, Section 2

Testimony in Support of HB 999, Section 2: Related to Exemptions from Civil Service

TO: Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

HEARING: Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312

FROM: LaVerne Tolmie

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and members of the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 999, and in particular, Section 2, which would permanently exempt from civil service the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness position.

Homelessness is a complex problem. No one entity can address the problem on its own and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. We need to have cooperation between all sectors—government, business, and non-profits—to address this issues. The position of Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness has helped to serve as a hub for this type of cooperation. The position should be made permanent to ensure that we continue to make progress toward a fully-coordinated response to homelessness.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

**From:** Phil Acosta <pacosta@aleabridge.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2019 9:38 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 999, Section 2

**LATE**

Testimony in Support of HB 999, Section 2: Related to Exemptions from Civil Service

TO: Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

HEARING: Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312

FROM: Phil Acosta

Executive Director

ALEA Bridge

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and members of the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 999, and in particular, Section 2, which would permanently exempt from civil service the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness position.

Homelessness is a complex problem. No one entity can address the problem on its own and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. We need to have cooperation between all sectors—government, business, and non-profits—to address this issues. The position of Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness has helped to serve as a hub for this type of cooperation. The position should be made permanent to ensure that we continue to make progress toward a fully-coordinated response to homelessness.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

**nakamura1 - Nichol**

---

**From:** Richelle Concepcion <rsconcepcion@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2019 1:24 PM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 999, Section 2

Testimony in Support of HB 999, Section 2: Related to Exemptions from Civil Service

TO: Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

HEARING: Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312

FROM: Richelle Concepcion

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and members of the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 999, and in particular, Section 2, which would permanently exempt from civil service the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness position.

Homelessness is a complex problem. No one entity can address the problem on its own and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. We need to have cooperation between all sectors—government, business, and non-profits—to address this issues. The position of Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness has helped to serve as a hub for this type of cooperation. The position should be made permanent to ensure that we continue to make progress toward a fully-coordinated response to homelessness. I've previously worked with organizations who had a system of collaboration that was effective with helping homeless individuals with provision of care across many services which was extremely effective.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.