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HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

March 11, 2020

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: **SB 2942– RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator appreciates the intent of this measure, requests clarification, offers comments, and defers to the counties.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to develop and implement separate regional plans for various neighborhoods across the State to coordinate the services and shelter facilities of public agencies and nonprofit organizations to meet the concerns of impacted communities and needs of the homeless population.

The Coordinator requests clarification if the proposed amendment to section 346-381.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), is intended to be included in the work of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) as described in section 346-381(b), HRS. Per section 346-381(b), the HICH is tasked to "formulate, and advise the governor on the implementation of, a unified ten-year statewide plan to address homelessness in all Hawaii counties."

The HICH includes membership from multiple State agencies, as well as the four counties, the Continua of Care (CoCs), the business community, and the faith-based community. The counties of Honolulu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii each have a county coordinator to develop and implement local plans to address homelessness in their region. The Coordinator works closely with the four county homeless coordinators who serve as designees

for their respective Mayors on the HICH. In addition, the Coordinator and the four county coordinators work closely with the CoCs – Partners in Care for Oahu, and Bridging the Gap for Hawaii island, Maui, and Kauai – that are regional planning bodies tasked by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with coordinating housing and services at the local level for homeless individuals and families.

With input from the counties and the CoCs, the Coordinator established regularly monthly meetings with federal, state, and county agencies that fund homeless services, as well as monthly meetings with technical assistance providers and consulting groups working on homeless issues in Hawaii. The discussions with the counties, funders, and CoCs informed the use of Ohana Zone funds by the State, and resulted in the development of new programs such as the Homeless Outreach and Navigation for Unsheltered Persons (HONU) program that provides mobile services to address the needs of rural areas on Oahu that do not have existing emergency shelter capacity.

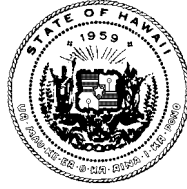
The collaborative efforts between the State and counties contributed to an overall statewide decline in the Point in Time count of homeless individuals by 19.1% (1,509 individuals) between 2016 and 2019, including a 39% decrease (1,473 individuals) in homeless families. During this same period, during the term of the Coordinator, the number of individuals exiting from homeless programs to permanent housing increased by 73% - an increase from an average of 357 per month to an average of 616 per month.

Also, recall Act 162 (2019) was the Legislature and State's effort to increase capacity of community providers to become providers of homeless services. Act 162 (2019) directed DHS in partnership with the State Procurement Office to provide training on government procurement and other relevant procedures to nonprofit organizations that offer homeless outreach services or manage homeless housing programs in rural areas of the State. Four training events were held since the end of last session. On-going capacity building is necessary for communities to address the complex needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator respectfully requests that the Legislature consider appropriating resources directly to the four counties to support the implementation of

targeted regional plans; the Coordinator will continue to work with each county to address regional needs.

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

March 9, 2020

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2942 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: March 11, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill, offers comments, and defers to counties and other planning authorities.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill requires the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to develop and implement separate regional plans for various neighborhoods across the State to coordinate the services and shelter facilities of public agencies and nonprofit organizations to meet the concerns of impacted communities and needs of the homeless population.

DHS appreciates the effort to increase and coordinate homeless strategies. However, this proposal may duplicate current efforts. The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is the chair of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH). HICH is the current forum for strategy development in context of a statewide strategy to end homelessness. HICH may develop separate regional and implementation plans if it is not already happening.

Importantly, continued investment to increase the capacity of community organizations to provide government funded services is important. With funding provided through Act 162 (2019), the State Procurement Office (SPO) and DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO) developed a training for community providers interested in providing services to

individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Thus far SPO and HPO conducted four training sessions for interested community organizations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.



To: House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

Hearing: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 @ 10:00 AM in room 329

From: Heather Lusk, Executive Director, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Comments on SB2492

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

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) would like to offer comments on SB2942, relating to homelessness. HHHRC has worked closely with Mr. Scott Morishige, the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness since he first started in the position. Mr. Morishige was instrumental in the implementation of several projects we work with including Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) where much needed linkage with the Sheriffs and other public safety stakeholders. In fact, HHHRC strongly credits Scott with helping make the LEAD pilot successful with his willingness to work with our staff and the evaluators to ensure integration of our efforts into the greater homeless continuum of care. Mr. Morishige has been a much needed resource for those of us working to combat homelessness from the non-profit sector as he links us with efforts at the State and County level, helps build relationships among leaders and has shared valuable federal resources (such as from USICH) to inform our activities.

HHHRC's mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities. We foster health, wellness, and systemic change in Hawai'i and the Pacific through care services, advocacy, training, prevention, education, and capacity building. HHHRC works at the intersection of homelessness, substance use and mental health.

HHHRC respectfully requests that SB 2942 be amended to include comments about Mr. Morishige's accomplishments as well as provide the flexibility for the Office of Governors' Coordinator on Homelessness so it can continue to provide the support to agencies like HHHRC.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

COMMENTS FOR SB 2942: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair, Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair; and
Members of Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: Wednesday, 3/11/20; 10:00 AM; Conference Room 329

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for SB 2942, which would require the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to develop and implement separate regional plans for various neighborhoods across the State. I am Rob Van Tassell, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are 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 70 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. **Our current homeless programs work very closely with Mr. Scott Morishige and his team.**

There is regular and consistent coordination and communication between all parties. In fact, Mr. Morishige's team has been vital for our Housing First Program as they help to find clients that our staff cannot locate. Mr. Morishige also brings in other entities to help identify clients to link them back to the appropriate provider or assist with coordination. These entities include but are not limited to: staff from public libraries, Department of Transportation, City and County of Honolulu, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, and many others. In addition, we also have witnessed Mr. Morishige respond quickly and help to coordinate efforts on the neighbor islands working not only with our agency, but many other non-profits that provide homeless services.

He is a leader in the homeless field and has a big impact on services. This is evident in his work as head of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH). This assembly provides an environment for providers from across the state and counties to discuss and provide input that impacts our homeless system and resources. Mr. Morishige is fair and ensures that each provider is heard and considers all members' suggestions and comments.

As a contracted service provider with the State and the City and County of Honolulu, Catholic Charities Hawaii is concerned that assigning these additional tasks will take away momentum from the efficient system that Mr. Morishige has helped to build and streamline. It also would appear that it might duplicate efforts already undertaken for regional approaches to end homelessness. Furthermore, local stakeholders and services providers know the needs of their communities. Each have developed plans already for their communities and we have seen Mr. Morishige and his team very involved in supporting these regional initiatives.

For questions, please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at 373-0356.



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COMMENTS REGARDING SB 2942: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members
FROM: Brandee Menino, CEO, Hope Services Hawaii, Inc.
Hearing: Wednesday, 3/11/20; 10:00 am; Room 329

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **comments regarding SB 2942**, which would require the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to develop and implement separate regional plans for various neighborhoods across the State to coordinate the services and shelter facilities of public agencies and nonprofit organizations to meet the concerns of impacted communities and needs of the homeless population.

We appreciate the legislature's recognition of the uniqueness of our counties, and the need to tailor solutions to the individual neighborhoods in which they'll be implemented, and to collaborate with the nonprofits who will implement them. We know that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to homelessness, and we are grateful that our representatives agree. In fact, the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, Mr. Scott Morishige, has carried out this idea in every interaction I have had with him. Mr. Morishige's approach has both reflective and reflexive--taking note of the differences between Oahu and the neighbor islands, and working to ensure that the state's actions, positions, and policies support our population and our work here on Hawai'i Island.

Perhaps most importantly, Mr. Morishige is *present*. He regularly checks in to make sure we are receiving the support we need from his office, and frequently visits sites across the neighbor islands. He is exceptionally accessible and responsive, and has reliably assisted us with difficult and urgent requests.

As the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is already cooperating with nonprofit organizations on the neighbor islands, we would like to request clarification on what outcomes are expected from this bill since local plans are developed locally by the communities on each island. Hawai'i Island's local coalition of stakeholders, Community Alliance Partners, has a data driven plan with a 3-year strategic direction that aligns with the State Plan.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of our comments **regarding SB2942**.

Sincerely,

Brandee Menino,
Chief Executive Officer

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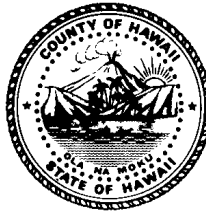
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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

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March 10, 2020

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON SB 2942, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS
Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
Wednesday, March 11, 2020
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329

Aloha Chair Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2942, relating to homelessness. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Public Safety Committee.

The purpose of this measure is to require the governor's coordinator on homelessness to develop and implement separate regional plans for various neighborhoods across the state to coordinate the services and shelter facilities of public agencies, and nonprofit organizations to meet the concerns of impacted communities and the needs of the homeless populations. Homelessness is a significant issue throughout the State of Hawai'i. To collaborate with various local nonprofit organizations to address the homelessness issue will assist with bridging gaps of service that otherwise is understaffed or even unknown. We all must work together to make any headway to assist with the homeless issues that face the State of Hawai'i.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

SB-2942

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 3:51:55 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vickie Parker Kam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Thank you for hearing testimony relating to homelessness and how to address it within our state. I am writing you in strong support of SB2942. Each community in Hawaii has its own needs, infrastructure and concerns. However, planning ahead to address the needs of our homeless population and incorporating each communities strengths is key to success of the programs, services and facilities offered. This bill will allow for individualized planning and preparation.

Mahalo - Vickie Kam

SB-2942

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 4:23:31 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB2942. Many in the homeless population can be helped if there are enough services and funding to assist them.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui

LATE

DAVID NAKAMA

TO: The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenatentura, Chair
Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

FROM: David Nakama, County of Maui Homeless Program Coordinator

SUBJECT: SB 2942 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Date of Hearing: March 11, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

I have had the privilege of being the Homeless Program Coordinator for the County of Maui and serving on the board for Bridging the Gap Continuum of Care for the past three (3) years. I have a couple of concerns regarding this bill. It states, *“...the State is failing to collaborate with various local nonprofit organizations throughout the State to address the homelessness issue.”* With all due respect, I would disagree with this statement as the Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness, Scott Morishige, has been in regular, constant contact with my office for a multitude of matters relating to projects, funding, concerns, and updates. Mr. Morishige has been extremely accessible and responsive to all of our inquiries relating to homelessness from Maui County. The level of collaboration from Mr. Morishige’s office has been, quite frankly, beyond my expectations, working closely together on matters such as the Ohana Zones Project and on-going cleanup efforts on government lands, to name a few.

Another concern is that this bill seems vague and indistinct in the ask of the Governor’s coordinator on homelessness. As Mr. Morishige already is the chair of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness at which all of the County’s and Continua of Care are represented, this bill may be duplicating efforts already in place. Also, this bill has the potential of causing unintended confusion with various stakeholders at the local level.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in this matter.

Respectfully,

David Nakama

Harry Kim
Mayor



Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

LATE

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March 10, 2020

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

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 2942 Relating to Homelessness

My staff has worked alongside the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness over the last few years, as Hawai'i County has developed and implemented strategies and programs that provide opportunities to connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to appropriate housing and services.

Staff inform me that the relationship has been a good one, with Mr. Morishige committed and dedicated to working collaboratively with both the private and public sector in finding viable solutions and ensuring that everyone is pulling together to address homelessness in our State, while taking into consideration the various dynamics of each community and county and allowing for innovative and creative approaches to be tested and implemented.

Since Mr. Morishige already is the chair of the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness, at which all of the counties are represented, SB 2942 may be duplicating efforts already in place.

I look forward to continued success in working with the Governor's Coordinator to address the needs of our most vulnerable community members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

SB-2942

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 9:15:11 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments: