

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
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March 19, 2021

TO: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

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

SUBJECT: **SCR 218 / SR 178 – URGING THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON
HOMELESSNESS TO INCLUDE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A LGBTQ+ FOCUSED
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE HAWAII
INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS TO ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC
NEEDS OF LGBTQ+ YOUTH ACROSS THE STATE**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 3:10 p.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of these resolutions, and respectfully offers comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of these resolutions is to urge the Coordinator to include a representative from a LGBTQ+ focused nonprofit organization in the membership of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) to address the needs of LGBTQ+ youth across the state.

The membership of the HICH is mandated by statute in section 346-382, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The HICH currently has 27 designated members, including representation from federal, state and local government, homeless service providers, the faith-based community, and the business sector. Legislation would be required to add a LGBTQ+ organization specifically as a designated member of the HICH.

The Coordinator notes that the current membership includes representatives from the Continuum of Care (CoC) for each county. The CoCs are coalitions of homeless service providers and other community stakeholders that coordinate housing and services funding for

homeless individuals and families. The membership of the CoC chapters for each county includes a wide variety of organizations, which include LGBTQ+ focused nonprofit organizations and representation. In addition, the CoCs include youth serving organizations, such as RYSE and Hale Kipa, which are engaged in specific programs for LGBTQ+ homeless youth through initiatives such as the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP).

Recently, the Coordinator convened meetings with Department of Human Services Child Welfare Services (CWS) staff and youth organizations from the CoCs to discuss issues related to expanding access to emergency shelter for unaccompanied minors under the age of 18. The meeting resulted in proposed amendments agreed to by all parties for HB282, which is currently moving through the Legislature. The Coordinator will work with the CoCs and other HICH members to encourage them to bring issues relevant to the LGBTQ+ and homeless youth populations for discussion and action by the HICH.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

SR-178

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 10:52:35 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/23/2021 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization, fully supports SR 178.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

Chair

LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

SR-178

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 2:55:36 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/23/2021 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Testifying for Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii supports SR 178. Thank you!

SR-178

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 10:17:07 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/23/2021 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Hamid	Testifying for AF3IRM Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Honorable Members,

Please pass SCR218/SR178. The 2017 and 2018 [Hawai'i Department of Health's Sexual and Gender Minority Reports](#) showed that a disproportionate amount of our LGBTQ youth are at risk for or are experiencing houslessness. Please ensure that an LGBTQ focused non-profit is a member of the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness so both our youth and adult LGBTQ community members can receive the support they need.

Mahalo,

AF3IRM Hawai'i

SR-178

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 10:39:08 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/23/2021 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha HMS Committee,

As a public health professional and concerned community member, I urge you to **pass SR178 without amendments.**

The 2017 and 2018 [Hawai'i Department of Health's Sexual and Gender Minority Reports](#) showed that a disproportionate amount of our LGBTQ youth are at risk for or are experiencing houslessness. Please ensure that an LGBTQ focused non-profit is a member of the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness so both our youth and adult LGBTQ community members can receive the support they need.

I personally collaborate with many local LGBTQIA+ community members and agencies, who have contributed to the development of this measure in its current form. **Please pass this resolution as it is.**

With aloha,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

SR-178

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 10:00:21 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/23/2021 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Michal Hamid	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Honorable Members,

Please pass SCR218/SR178. The 2017 and 2018 [Hawai'i Department of Health's Sexual and Gender Minority Reports](#) showed that a disproportionate amount of our LGBTQ youth are at risk for or are experiencing houslessness. Please ensure that an LGBTQ focused non-profit is a member of the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness so both our youth and adult LGBTQ community members can receive the support they need.

Mahalo,

Sarah Michal Hamid