

HB 1187

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



CHAD K. TANIGUCHI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Statement of
Chad K. Taniguchi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

March 19, 2009 2:15 P.M.
Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
H.B. 1187, HD1
RELATING TO THE HOMELESS

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the intent of H.B. 1187, HD1, which provides for a return-to-home program for persons stranded in this State.

While we acknowledge the good intent of this bill, we caution that it may have the unintended effect of increasing the number of homeless persons entering Hawaii, once it is known that a person who gets here on their own will be able to get transportation back home provided by the State. We are concerned that some may misuse this program to take a "free vacation" to Hawaii.

For that reason we recommend that the program be limited to families with minor children who are stranded. Families would be less likely than single individuals to decide to come to Hawaii temporarily, with the intent of getting a free trip back to their home.

Testimony 1187 - support

Netra Halperin

March 19, 2009

Senate Human Services

Rm. 016 2:15 pm

Good afternoon Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the committee,

My name is Netra Halperin. I have worked extensively as a social worker on Maui. The purpose of the return to home program is to assist homeless people from other states voluntarily return to home. This isn't meant to solve the entire homeless problem in the state of Hawaii, only the specific population that came to Hawaii with dreams of Hula girls serving Mai Thais on the beach and has then encountered the harsh reality of homelessness in Hawaii. It is meant for the out-of-state homeless that already have family, friends or other support services in the place where they are requesting transport to.

This program will work with homeless services, local airlines and charter companies to obtain tickets. It will get participants ready for travel and also follow up one month later. This will cost between \$400 and \$600 per person.

On the other hand it now costs the State of Hawaii between \$30,000 and \$35,000 per year, per homeless person in services, which include

extensive hospital stays and medical care, shelter, food and social and other support services. This doesn't even include children incurring developmental delays with later costs.

This bill would save the state of Hawaii thousands of dollars and much un-necessary suffering.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.



Waianae Community Outreach

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HOPE for a New Beginning Shelter

(Helping Our People Excel)
*Bldg 50 Belleau Woods, Kapolei, HI 96707
Ph: (808) 682-4673 Fax: (808) 682-4670*

Partnerships in Building Community

"I put my hand in your hand, what I cannot do alone, we will do together"

Date: March 18, 2009

To: Sen. S. Chun-Oakland, Chair Human Services Committee
Sen. L. Ihara Jr., Vice Chair Human Services Committee

Hearing: March 19, 2009 2:15pm Rm: 016

Re: HB1187HD1: RELATING TO THE HOMELESS

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and committee members:

My name is Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan. I'm the administrative advisor to the board of directors' for Waianae Community Outreach. I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** this and ask that you **NOT PASS** it.

Although I appreciate the Representative's intention to assist the "out-of-state" homeless, I think this measure will only open more "dependency" on our state to address individuals and families who think Hawaii would be the better place to come and see if they can make it here without a plan not to be homeless. The ultimate intent would allow people to come to our state and be assured they will be assisted to return, basically, come to Hawaii with a one-way ticket and don't worry Hawaii will send me home!

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony. Should you have any questions or need additional information feel free to call me at 682-4673 or 783-9302.

Mahalo,

Mission

Provide Comprehensive services with Aloha to individuals & families in need so they can become Self-Sufficient

Vision

Healthy Self-Sufficient Resilient Individuals & Families

Values

Understanding
Respect
Responsibility
Integrity
Compassion
Honesty