

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

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

February 4, 2009 9:00 a.m.  
Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of  
**H.B. 1187**  
**RELATING TO THE HOMELESS**

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the intent of H.B. 1187, 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.



**WAIKIKI HEALTH CENTER**  
REACHING OUT FROM THE HEART OF WAIKIKI.

**Testimony for:** COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

**Hearing Room, Date and Time:** Conference Room 309, Wednesday, February 4, 2009, 9:00 am

**Copies Needed:** 4

**HB 1187 RELATING TO HOMELESS**

Dear Chair Cabanilla and Vice Chair Chong and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am Darlene W. Hein, Director of Community Services and I am writing in favor of HB 1187 to assist individuals and families who want to return to their families.

As the director of the Care-A-Van Program that provides medical care, behavioral health, and social service for individual and families who are experiencing homelessness on the island of Oahu, I believe a return to home program is needed. The Care-A-Van program is one of the largest outreach programs in the state we frequently receive requests for help to get home from newly arrived individuals and families who have ended up homeless on Oahu. We also get requests from families to assist their family member to get back home.

This program can work if it is run correctly, is voluntary and ensures that individuals and families assisted have a support system to return to. Please pass HB 1187 out of committee.

Mahalo,

Darlene W. Hein  
Director of Community Services  
Waikiki Health Center  
Submitted: February 2, 2009

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 03, 2009 5:00 PM  
**To:** HSGtestimony  
**Cc:** thirr33@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1187 on 2/4/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HSG 2/4/2009 9:00:00 AM HB1187

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Arvid T. Youngquist  
Organization: The Mestizo Association  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [thirr33@gmail.com](mailto:thirr33@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/3/2009

Comments:  
Hawaii House Committee on Housing  
Chair Rida T.R. Cabanilla  
Vice Chair Pono Chong  
The Right Honorable  
Members of the HSG Committee

Please permit me to submit this brief testimony in support of HB 1187 Relating to Homeless.

It has 9 co-sponsors, including the Speaker Emeritus, Majority Whip, & 2 Assistant Majority Whips.

Recommend for consideration that the allocation amount be reduced from \$75,000 to \$50,000, since this is a difficult period to obtain funding for any program, let alone a new program.

The same goes for the effective date of July 1, 2009, since it's much too soon for the money committees to be able to ascertain the level or the start-up period, it should be postponed till effective June 1, 2010.

Other than the two reservations which I have stated, I feel that this much maligned piece of legislation, has merit, and the proviso safeguard a strictly voluntary program for the repatriation of our Homeless with the safeguards in place as individual support systems.

Hopefully, individuals & the major stakeholders will also provide their own take on this important legislation and the various non-profits and service organizations will step forward to put their own stamp on this proposal. This is a starting off-point.

Thank you again for this opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 1187 Relating to Homeless.

Submitted by a former Homeless (1952-1959).  
("1 of 16,588 local voices")



# VISITOR ALOHA SOCIETY OF HAWAII

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LESIGLATURE, REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

### COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Rep. Rida Cabanilla, Chair    Rep. Pono Chong, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 4, 2009  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 325  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Jessica Lani Rich and I am the President & Executive Director of the Visitor Aloha Society of Hawaii, also known as VASH for short. We are a non-profit agency dealing with visitors in emergency situations.

**I am testifying relating to House Bill 1187 and I am in favor of this bill.** The reason I support this bill is that our office provides assistance to hundreds of visitors in crisis every year. We deal with visitors who are victims of crimes, which include having their car broken into; to visitors who even die while they are on vacation for numerous reasons. Our office is contacted on a regular basis by people who started out as visitors but then became homeless. Many of these visitors have children and find themselves in homeless shelters.

The Visitor Aloha Society does not purchase airline tickets for visitors. Visitors must have a round-trip ticket to qualify for our services but most people don't know that so they call us for help. Our office has been asked for assistance from 18 year old young women who respond to jobs on the internet and when they get here the work was not what they expected. They come from families who cannot afford to send them back home so they become homeless. We fear that these young women could land up on the streets as prostitutes if they are not helped with airline tickets. Our office has also been asked to assist families who come to Hawaii on vacation and don't buy a round trip ticket, if they are robbed, they also land up in a homeless shelter. Another common problem is visitors who go online for vacation rentals and will pay hundreds of dollars only to find out that they have no place to stay. These people also land up homeless.

A most recent case we assisted involved a 79 year old man who came here as a visitor with no round-trip ticket. If there were funds available, he could have been sent home to his family. If the state could help out many people who are in homeless shelters by buying them a ticket home, not only is it a humane thing to do but it is also very cost effective. We are in the front line helping visitors in crisis who said if they could only have a ticket home it would solve their problem of homelessness and isolation. Many have a better life waiting for them back home. I am in support of House Bill 1187 because it assists the homeless in reuniting with their family members. They would not have to suffer if they had plane tickets. On behalf of the Visitor Aloha Society of Hawaii, I thank you.

Submitted by Jessica Lani Rich, President & Executive Director, Visitor Aloha Society of HI

Waikiki Shopping Plaza • 2250 Kalakaua Avenue, Suite 403-3 • Honolulu, HI 96815  
Phone: (808) 926-8274 • Fax: (808)926-0500 • Email: [visitorexec@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:visitorexec@hawaii.rr.com)