

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

LATE TESTIMONY

House Committee on Housing

S.B. 2804, SD2, Relating to the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

March 21, 2012

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports SB2804, SD2.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Administrative costs are needed to fund the activities of the Hawaii Interagency
3 Council on Homelessness (HICH).

4 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill establishes the HICH under the Department of Human Services
5 for administrative purposes.

6 The DOH has been an active participant in the Council since its inception. The Director of
7 Health is a member of the full Council. The Deputy Director of the Behavioral Health Administration
8 chairs one of its subcommittees. The Adult Mental Health Division and the Alcohol and Drug Addiction
9 Division have seats on subcommittee workgroups.

10 We support establishing the HICH by statute to enable it to continue its valuable work towards
11 the goal of ending homelessness in Hawaii.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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LATE TESTIMONY

March 20, 2012

To: The Honorable Rida T.R. Cabanilla, Chair, Ken Ito, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Housing

Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

From: Dwight Takamine, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

**Re: S.B. No. 2804, SD 2, Relating to the Hawaii Interagency Council
on Homelessness**

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

- The proposed legislation seeks to establish the Hawaii interagency council ("Council") on homelessness in Hawaii Revised Statutes to sustain the interagency council that was temporarily established under Executive Order No. 11-21 on July 19, 2011.
- The Council shall formulate and coordinate a unified 10-year plan in all counties, facilitate acquisition of federal funding for homeless programs, recommend policy and regulatory changes, and promote integration of services to reduce duplication.

II. CURRENT LAW

We defer to the Department of Human Services regarding current laws on this subject.

III. COMMENTS ON S.B. NO. 2084 SD 2

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (department) supports this bill as it provides an integrated approach to address the complex and interrelated issues of homelessness that affect Hawaii's workforce. The department has long been a partner with the Department of Human Services to assist disadvantaged persons secure employment and become contributing members of Hawaii's community. This bill provides a mechanism to maximize resources of each agency through increased collaboration of planning and implementation of services.



LATE TESTIMONY

SB2804 SD2
RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS
House Committee on Housing

March 21, 2012

9:00 a.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs is disappointed that less than 24 hours notice was given regarding the addition of SB2804 SD2 to this hearing. As a result, many homeless advocates in the state will not be able to testify on this bill. This concern notwithstanding, OHA **SUPPORTS** SB2804 SD2, which would establish the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness to be administratively placed within the department of human services and makes an appropriation.

A considerable number of Native Hawaiians are homeless, and a coordinated effort to address homelessness in Hawaii will provide the guidance and direction the state needs to combat this significant issue. Native Hawaiians experience disproportionately high rates of unsheltered homelessness and make up a significant portion of the population in shelters. A high percentage of Native Hawaiians also spend a significant amount of their income on housing costs and must compete for both rental and homeownership opportunities in an inflated market. OHA has awarded a number of grants to community organizations to help address the issues that face our homeless population. These grantees include Family Promise, Catholic Charities of Hawaii, and Kahikolu Hale o Waianae, among various other service providers.

We appreciate the intent of this bill and know that OHA representation at the council can provide unique insight into the issues and concerns that face our beneficiaries.

OHA urges the committee to PASS SB2804 SD2. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Daryl Selman, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Aloha House

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii

Assistive Technology Resource Ctrs. of HI

Bay Clinic, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blueprint for Change

Bobby Benson Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'aina Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kula No Na Poe Hawaii

Lanai Community Health Center

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

The Maui Farm, Inc.

Maui Youth and Family Services

Palama Settlement

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

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center
- Kona Unit

REAL

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

The Children's Alliance of Hawaii

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

YouthVision

YWCA of Kauai

March 21, 2012

LATE TESTIMONY

To: Representative Rida Cabanilla, Chair
And members of the Committee on Housing

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2804 SD 2 RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB2804 SD 2 Relating to the Hawaii State Council on Homelessness and proposes an amendment to the composition of the Council membership

Runaway, homeless and street youth are an often overlooked segment of the homeless population and one that has unique needs and challenges. These youth are separated from their families and are living without adult support and guidance.

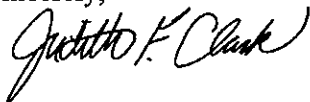
Their reasons for living on the streets differ from adults and families. Adults and families commonly become homeless due to loss of employment, income that is inadequate to afford housing, or chronic mental illness. In contrast, family conflict is often the primary reason why youth leave home, including relationship with a stepparent, sexual activity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, school problems, and alcohol and drug use.

Unaccompanied minors living on the street are at high risk of physical violence and sexual trafficking. They experience poor nutrition, health problems, and difficulty in attending school. Hawaii Youth Services Network encounters more than 700 runaway, homeless, and street youth annually through its statewide partnership of street outreach and emergency shelter programs.

For these reasons, Hawaii Youth Services Network recommends that one member of the Council on Homelessness be experienced in working with runaway, homeless and street youth to ensure that their needs are addressed.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:36 PM
To: HSGtestimony
Cc: deborahn@oha.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2804 on 3/21/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HSG 3/21/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2804

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Organization: Office of Hawaiian Affairs
E-mail: deborahn@oha.org
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

Comments:



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2804 SD2: RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative Rida Cabanilla, Chair, Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Housing

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

Hearing: Wednesday, March 21, 2012; 9:00 a.m.; CR 325

Chair Cabanilla, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the Committee on Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2804, which establishes the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness. I am Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison at Catholic Charities Hawaii. Catholic Charities Hawaii supports this bill as an important step to coordinate the State's resources to end homelessness.

We prefer the language in SB2804 to other versions since it is straight forward and brings the right members to the table to collaborate and coordinate action on this complex issue.

Homelessness is growing in Hawaii. The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness would bring together diverse government entities from both the State and Counties, as well as representatives from the homeless coalitions (Continuums of Care), business, faith based organizations, etc. All parts of our community need to be involved to resolve this sometimes overwhelming social problem. The Council has already begun its work and is identifying critical strategic goals and initiatives that would prevent homelessness as well as ensure that homeless persons obtain permanent housing and become reintegrated into the community. By establishing the Council by statute, this will further enhance the Council's ability to implement solutions for homelessness and ensure continuity as administrations change.

There is no quick fix to ending homelessness. It requires ongoing effort and collaboration which the Interagency Council on Homelessness would provide.

We urge the Legislature to provide an allocation for the administrative costs for the Council, so as not to impact on direct service funding to homeless programs.

Thank you for considering our comments in support of SB 2804, and especially for your concern and your support to end the crisis in homelessness.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone (808)527-HOPE(4673) • www.CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org



Isaac S. Arasato

UH Manoa School of Social Work

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Rep. Rida T.R. Cabnilla, Chair

Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 325

LATE TESTIMONY

RE: SB2804 SD2 RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS.

Establishes the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness to be administratively placed with the department of human services. Makes an appropriation for administrative expenses.

Aloha Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Isaac Arasato and I am a graduate student attending the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work and I am testifying **IN SUPPORT** of **SB2804**.

Homelessness is a growing concern in Hawaii. The problem is very noticeable throughout the city of Honolulu. For the past year, streets throughout the city have been lined with homeless men, women, and children. Most noticeable, until December of 2011, the sidewalks of S. King St near old stadium park, has been loaded with camping tents and shopping carts. After the cities removal of the personal possessions of these people, they were forced to relocate to another site. A sad reality is that some of the homeless people actually hold jobs but are not able to afford rent.

As a future social worker, I realize that I may be involved with helping the homeless population. I am in support of this bill because I believe that the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness will have a significant impact on solving the issue of homelessness in Hawaii.

I urge you to please support SB2804.

Mahalo,

Isaac Arasato



PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2804 SD2: RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative Rida Cabanilla, Chair; Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair, and Members,
Committee on Housing

FROM: Gladys Peraro, Partners In Care (PIC), Advocacy Committee Chair

Hearing: Wednesday, March 21, 2012; 9:00 a.m.; CR 325

LATE TESTIMONY

Chari Cabanilla, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the Committee on Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2804, which establishes the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness. I am Gladys Peraro, Advocacy Chair for Partners In Care (PIC). Our coalition focuses on the needs of homeless persons and strategies to end homelessness. PIC supports this bill as an important step to coordinate the State's resources to end homelessness in Hawaii.

Partners In Care prefers the language in SB2804, to other versions as it is direct and will ensure that the members needed to implement change will be present at the meetings in order to collaborate and facilitate action on this complex issue.

Homelessness is growing in Hawaii. This complex issue requires greater teamwork and coordination on strategic initiatives if we are to end homelessness. The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness would bring together diverse government entities from the State and Counties, as well as representatives from the homeless coalitions (Continuums of Care), businesses, faith based and other community organizations. All parts of our community need to be involved if a resolution to this oft time overwhelming social problem is to be achieved. The Council has already begun its work and is identifying critical strategic goals and initiatives that would prevent homelessness as well as ensure that homeless persons obtain permanent housing to become reintegrated into the community. By establishing the Council by statute, this will further enhance the Council's ability to implement solutions for homelessness and ensure continuity as administrations change.

Change will require ongoing effort and collaboration, which the Interagency Council on Homelessness would provide. There is no quick fix to ending homelessness.

We urge the Legislature to provide an *allocation for the administrative costs for the Council*, so as not to impact on direct service funding to homeless programs.

Thank you for hearing our testimony in support of SB 2804, and especially for your concern and your support to end the crisis in homelessness.

Partners In Care, c/o Aloha United Way, 200 N. Vineyard Blvd. Suite 700
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Partners in Care is a membership organization of homeless service providers, other service professionals, units of local and state government, homeless consumers, and other community representatives located in Hawai'i on O'ahu. It is a planning, coordinating, and advocacy body that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill gaps in the Continuum of Care on O'ahu.