

# SB 1014

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE HOUSELESS BILL OF RIGHTS.
Report Title:	Houseless Bill of Rights
Description:	Defines specific rights granted to a person who is houseless including equal access to housing, jobs, and shelters, equal treatment by government agencies, and access to life-sustaining activities and essential services.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HSH, JDL
Introducer(s):	RUDERMAN, Chun Oakland, Espero, Galuteria, Green, Harimoto, Keith-Agaran, Shimabukuro

**SB1014**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for HSH on Jan 31, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

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

# 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](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Daryl Selman, President  
Judith F. Clark, Executive Director  
Aloha House  
American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii  
Bay Clinic, Inc.  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu  
Big Island Substance Abuse Council  
Blueprint for Change  
Bobby Benson Center  
Catholic Charities Hawaii  
Child and Family Service  
Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii  
Courage House Hawaii  
Domestic Violence Action Center  
EPIC, Inc.  
Family Programs Hawaii  
Family Support Hawaii  
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  
Kaanalike  
Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health  
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)  
Project  
Kids Hurt Too  
Kokua Kalihi Valley  
Life Foundation  
Marimed Foundation  
Maui Youth and Family Services  
Palama Settlement  
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.  
Parents and Children Together (PACT)  
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii  
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  
YWCA of Kauai

January 28, 2015

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland  
And members of the Committee on Human Services

## **Testimony on SB 1014 Relating to the Houseless Bill of Rights**

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving agencies, supports SB 1014 Relating to the Houseless Bill of Rights.

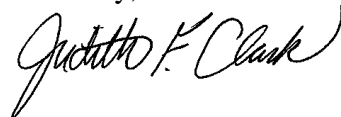
Homeless persons often experience discrimination based on their appearance or lack of permanent address. Employment, voting, emergency medical care, and access to government services are important for them.

In particular, the lack of access to hygiene and toilet facilities is of concern. Business owners and residents should be allowed to restrict the use of their facilities to customers and guests. At the same time, all persons, no matter what their housing status is, need access to toilets. When public toilets are not available, the result is unpleasant smells and sights, and a public health hazard that could result in serious illness.

One of the frequent complaints about homeless persons is that they are dirty and smell bad. If public toilet and showers were readily available to homeless people, nearly all of them would bathe and wash their clothing on a regular basis. They would be less noticeable and less likely to experience discrimination if they were able to keep themselves clean.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH

January 28, 2015

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING

Sen. Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair

Sen. Josh Green, Vice Chair

Sen. Breene Harimoto

Sen. Gil Riviere

Sen. Sam Slom

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Saturday, January 31, 2015

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1014 WITH AMENDMENTS  
RELATING TO THE HOUSELESS BILL OF RIGHTS**

Defines specific rights granted to a person who is houseless including equal access to housing, jobs, and shelters, equal treatment by government agencies, and access to life-sustaining activities and essential services.

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Dear Committee on Human Services & Housing:

The Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery (PASS) strongly supports SB1014. It is unfortunate that we must reify these basic rights for the houseless population, but due to recent policies resulting in the selective enforcement of certain laws targeting the houseless, we must create a living document to protect the basic human rights of the poor.

PASS suggests the SB1014 to be amended to allow any houseless person not only the the right to shelter but also the right to refuse shelter without discrimination or retaliation.

PASS finds that when a houseless person refuses to accept shelter, they may suffer prejudice, societal blame for their own poverty, and subsequent criminalization by recent laws outlawing their presence in public spaces.

Many houseless persons have good reason to refuse shelter. These reasons range from discrimination and mistreatment by shelter staff to being victims of serious crimes gone unaddressed and unreported within shelters. Other reasons are simple yet nevertheless also understandable such as: infestation of bed bugs, overcrowding, security issues, threats of mistreatment, and refusal to participate in questionable programs that do not help them better themselves and their economic situation.

The general public and the government may be unaware of these issues because state law is not adequately developed when it comes to protecting the houseless throughout their journey through the shelter system. Please pass SB1014.

Mahalo for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Xian  
Executive Director  
Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery

Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing  
Jan. 31, 2015 1:30 pm, Room 229

Bart Dame  
710 West Hind Drive  
Honolulu, HI 96821

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1014, RELATING TO THE HOUSELESS BILL OF RIGHTS

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Green and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying as an individual in strong support for SB1014.

I want to congratulate the Committee for considering this bill. On the eve of WWII, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt attempted to articulate a social vision for the emerging alliance in the struggle against Fascism. In this context, he spoke of the Four Freedoms:

[Freedom of speech](#)  
[Freedom of worship](#)  
[Freedom from want](#)  
[Freedom from fear](#)

The Four Freedoms were incorporated into the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They further inspired the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#), and the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#).

Domestically, the Democrats attempted to push for universal healthcare and anti-poverty programs to guarantee American citizens certain rights to a minimal standard of living.

The Hawaiian Kingdom, under Kamehameha, famously declared the Law of the Splintered Paddle, Kānāwai Māmalahoe :

E nā kānaka,  
E mālama ‘oukou i ke akua  
A e mālama ho‘i ke kanaka nui a me kanaka iki;  
E hele ka ‘elemakule, ka luahine, a me ke kama  
A moe i ke ala  
‘A‘ohe mea nāna e ho‘opilikia.  
Hewa nō, make.

In English:

Oh people,  
Honor thy god;  
respect alike [the rights of] people both great and humble;  
May everyone, from the old men and women to the children  
Be free to go forth and lie in the road (i.e. by the roadside or pathway)  
Without fear of harm.  
Break this law, and die.

I could cite chapter and verse from the Christian Bible, wherein people are admonished to take care of the poor, feed and clothe the homeless. From a more secular, European humanist perspective, the great 19th century French writer, Anatole France, wrote how:

“**The law, in its majestic** equality, forbids the rich as well as the poor to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets, and to steal bread.”

How can we continue to ignore these signposts our ancestors, from a variety of traditions, have left over the centuries to guide us in how to treat the poor among us? So I salute the authors of this bill and urge you to pass it along to continue the discussion. What rights can we agree to grant our fellow human beings? How can we protect them from the indignities being inflicted upon them by the current and very retrograde policies approved by the City Council and Mayor of Honolulu, which criminalize activities which arise necessarily from their condition of being houseless?

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this groundbreaking bill.

**SB1014**

Submitted on: 1/28/2015

Testimony for HSH on Jan 31, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kara	Individual	Support	No



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HSH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [neswmusic@yahoo.com](mailto:neswmusic@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1014 on Jan 31, 2015 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Friday, January 30, 2015 2:54:32 PM

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**SB1014**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for HSH on Jan 31, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rick Morse	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**SB1014**

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for HSH on Jan 31, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Committee on Human Services and Housing I am grateful that Senators Ruderman, Chun Oakland, Espero, Galuteria, Green, Harimoto, Keith-Agaran, and Shimabukuro envision a better world ---that our community should strive to be evolved and compassionate, and to that end, have introduced SB 1014. SB1014, called the "houseless person's bill of rights" is critically needed at this time and I strongly support it. I find it alarming that more and more our Mayor and City Council seem to take their cue from worlds described by the likes of Charles Dickens and Victor Hugo. It's very heartening to see that this bill has been introduced to address the serious situation developing in our community as a result of these laws targeting the houseless. Often made "faceless," it has become all too common for folks to forget that those that are living in poverty are still human beings and deserve the rights people of all classes expect in this country. It's unfortunate that the Mayor and City Council have chosen a tactic to address homelessness, that in reality, simply makes the situation drastically worse, and that bills like SB1014 are even necessary. But that's the reality we are in right now. So please pass this bill. Mahalo for your consideration, Sherry Pollack  
Ahuimanu

I strongly support SB1014 to establish The Houseless Bill of Rights granting houseless people equal access to housing, jobs, shelters, equal treatment by government agencies, and access to life-sustaining activities and essential services.

Criminalization of the homeless is a human rights violation recognized by the United Nations. The UN has called upon the United States to repeal laws criminalizing homelessness.

City-run sweeps or “raids” on families in homeless encampments cause:

- 1) Houseless persons losing their jobs as they miss work to tend to their belongings during raids;
- 2) Difficulty for social services providers to maintain contact with the houseless and to direct them toward permanent housing and medical services;
- 3) Confiscation and unconstitutional disposal of identification and important documents such as Social Security cards, birth certificates, and marriage licenses, all of which are documents needed to obtain and maintain benefits, housing, housing first, employment and medication for serious medical conditions;
- 4) Relegating the victims of these raids to prolonged poverty since raids are responsible for the confiscation of all property belonging to the houseless person involved.

Criminalizing the homeless has proven massively ineffective in other places (San Francisco, Los Angeles, South Carolina, Massachusetts, Florida, etc.) as well as in Honolulu, and only succeeds in wasting taxpayer dollars. Once the “offenders” have served their time, they go back to the streets and sidewalks and the State and City will have accomplished nothing. The only thing these policies do is make it even harder for homeless persons to exit out of poverty since they will then have an additional hardship: a criminal record.

Please expedite the establishment of The Houseless Bill of Rights.

Thank you,

Sylvia Pope-Young

**SB1014**

Submitted on: 1/29/2015

Testimony for HSH on Jan 31, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No