



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 28, 2017

TO: The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

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

SUBJECT: HB 1098 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESS SHELTERS

Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this Administration bill. The Coordinator notes this bill addresses concerns raised by homeless service providers that the requirement in Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2016, for partitioned sleeping areas in homeless shelters, may result in a reduction of emergency shelter bed spaces.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to amend provisions of Act 234, SLH 2016, to provide emergency shelters with the flexibility to provide partitioned sleeping spaces for homeless persons or families based upon guidelines determined by the Department of Human Services (DHS). The bill also extends the effective date of Act 234, SLH 2016.

Act 234, SLH 2016, established minimum requirements for every homeless emergency shelter operated by a provider agency that is under contract with DHS. In an attempt to make the system of homeless shelters more cost effective and more appealing to families and individuals, the Act directed that payments be conditioned on performance measures and established audit provisions.

The Coordinator notes that providing the option to implement partitions will provide needed flexibility to emergency shelter providers. Without this flexibility, the requirement to mandate partitioned space may have the unintended consequence of adversely impacting bed space at certain shelters, especially those located on the neighbor islands. Emergency shelter

bed space is especially limited on the neighbor islands, which have seen the largest percentage increase in unsheltered homeless persons according to the 2016 statewide homeless point in time count.

The amendment to provide flexibility in regard to partitioned bed space will also impact bed spaces for shelters partially funded by other departments, such as the Department of Health (DOH). For example, mental health group homes are sometimes funded as emergency shelters by both DOH and DHS. If partitioned spaces are mandated, rather than optional, this may adversely impact limited bed space in some mental health group homes.

The Coordinator further notes that additional time is needed for DHS to obtain feedback from homeless service providers prior to the formal adoption of administrative rules to implement new shelter standards required by Act 234, SLH 2016.

The Administration's proposed amendments to Act 234 are part of a comprehensive framework to address homelessness, which seeks to transition homeless individuals and families into permanent housing as quickly as possible. The framework includes a focus on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. All three of these leverage points must be addressed to continue forward momentum in addressing the complex issue of homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
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P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 28, 2017

TO: The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB1098 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESS SHELTER**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration bill to address shelter requirements. This measure addresses concerns raised by homeless service providers that the requirement of Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2016, for partitioned sleeping areas in homeless shelters is resulting in a reduction of emergency shelter bed spaces.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the measure is to allow DHS the flexibility to determine the appropriate standard for partitioned space, based upon guidelines established by DHS, and ensure that shelter beds are not lost to the requirements of Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016. In addition, the measure extends the effective date to give DHS time to implement the act.

Act 234, SLH 2016, established minimum standards for every homeless shelter to make shelters more amenable to homeless clients. Act 234, SLH 2016, also required that payments be based off of performance measures and audit requirements to ensure that the State is receiving the most value and the best services.

Giving DHS discretion and the flexibility to determine which shelters will or will not have partitions may prevent the unintended consequence of reducing the amount of bed space available to homeless people.

The extension of the effective date of the Act, will provide DHS with more time to respond to feedback from affected service providers, and draft administrative rules on new shelter standards that will benefit homeless individuals and families, service providers, and the State.

The Administration's proposed amendments to Act 234, SLH 2016, are part of a comprehensive framework to address homelessness, which seeks to transition homeless individuals and families into permanent housing as quickly as possible. The framework includes a focus on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. All three of these leverage points must be addressed to continue forward momentum in addressing the complex issue of homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2017 12:20 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: gavin@hiappleseed.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1098 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM

HB1098

Submitted on: 2/25/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gavin Thornton	Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii Appleseed supports HB 1098, which addresses the Act 234's unintended consequence of reducing shelter space by requiring partitions. This bill provides an appropriate level of flexibility to ensure that decisions regarding partitions can take into account all the relevant factors and the unique circumstances of each shelter. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

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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CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1098 HD1: RELATING TO HOMELESS SHELTERS

TO: Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair, Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer

Hearing: Tuesday, 2/28/17; 2:00 PM; CR 325

Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members, Committee on Judiciary:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony **in support** of HB 1098 HD1, which provides that emergency shelters may have partitioned space for homeless persons/families based on guidelines from the Department of Human Services. It further extends the emergency and transitional shelter compliance requirements for Act 234 for contracts with DHS for one year. I am Terry Walsh, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 60 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, developmentally disabled, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Ending homelessness is a top priority for 2017.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i strongly believes in the dignity of the individual. We understand the intent of Act 234 to set standards for emergency and transitional shelters. However, this has led to unintended consequences. We support this bill since it addresses some of these unintended consequences as well as giving time for the Department of Human Services to get feedback from homeless service providers before the Department creates and adopts administrative rules to implement the new shelter standards set forth in Act 234, SLH 2016.

The issue of mandating partitions for all emergency shelters has been particularly troublesome. This bill would provide the option to install partitions and give needed flexibility to the many various types of emergency shelters. Without this flexibility, shelters may be adversely impacted and lose bed spaces. Neighbor Island shelter space is especially limited, having seen the largest percentage increase in unsheltered homeless per the 2016 statewide Point in Time Count.

We know we have a crisis. We know we are #1 rate in the nation for homelessness per capita. We need to give shelters flexibility to serve the homeless.

We urge you to support this bill to work towards our goal of ending homelessness in Hawaii. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at 373-0356, or at bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org, if you have any questions.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 12:53 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1098 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM

HB1098

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments: We STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 2:59 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1098 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM*

HB1098

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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