

SB 2906

SD-1

RELATING TO THE  
GOVERNOR'S  
COORDINATOR ON  
HOMELESSNESS

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that homelessness in  
2       Hawaii has reached epidemic proportions. Homelessness impacts  
3       residents and visitors alike and more must be done to mitigate  
4       homelessness through various services. Since 2011, the governor  
5       has appointed a coordinator on homelessness to coordinate  
6       homelessness efforts statewide. The Hawaii interagency council  
7       on homelessness was established by Act 105, Session Laws of  
8       Hawaii 2012 (codified as part XVIII of chapter 346, Hawaii  
9       Revised Statutes), with the governor's coordinator on  
10      homelessness designated to serve as chair. However, the  
11      governor's coordinator on homelessness position has not been  
12      statutorily established.

13      The purpose of this Act is to establish clear lines of  
14      accountability and to empower the governor's coordinator on  
15      homelessness by:

16      (1) Statutorily establishing the position; and



(2) Specifying that the governor's coordinator on homelessness reports directly to the governor, thereby allowing direct access to agencies for more efficient coordination.

SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part XVII to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**"§346- Governor's coordinator on homelessness; establishment; responsibilities.** (a) There is established within the department for administrative purposes only, a full-time governor's coordinator on homelessness to organize, manage, and oversee the coordination of statewide efforts to end homelessness. The governor's coordinator on homelessness shall be appointed by the governor pursuant to section 26-34. The governor's coordinator on homelessness shall report directly to the governor and shall:

(1) Serve as the principal officer in state government responsible for the performance, development, and oversight of programs, policies, and activities relating to homelessness;



- 1        (2) Be responsible for ensuring the development,  
2        implementation, and management of plans developed by  
3        the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness  
4        pursuant to section 346-381;
- 5        (3) Coordinate with the homeless coordinator of each  
6        county to ensure statewide coordination, minimize  
7        duplication of efforts, and monitor and benchmark  
8        progress on the mitigation and management of  
9        homelessness in each county;
- 10       (4) Communicate with departments and agencies providing  
11       rental subsidies and housing assistance; and
- 12       (5) Develop and implement plans to increase affordable  
13       housing units through the identification of viable  
14       lands and supporting housing projects to ensure  
15       coordination and collaboration.
- 16       (b) The governor's coordinator on homelessness may:
- 17       (1) Employ persons exempt from chapters 76 and 89; and  
18       (2) Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 necessary for the  
19       purposes of this section.
- 20       (c) The office of the governor shall provide office space  
21       to the governor's coordinator on homelessness and related staff;



1 provided that if the office of the governor is unable to provide  
2 adequate office space, the department shall provide adequate  
3 office space to the governor's coordinator on homelessness and  
4 related staff."

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019:

8 (1) To establish the governor's coordinator on  
9 homelessness as a full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
10 position; and

11 (2) For other expenses of the governor's coordinator on  
12 homelessness, including hiring of necessary staff.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
14 human services for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



# S.B. NO. 2906 S.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness; DHS; Establishment;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the position of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness in statute. Attaches the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to the Department of Human Services for administrative purposes, but requires the position to report to the Governor. Makes an appropriation. Effective 7/1/2050.  
(SD1)

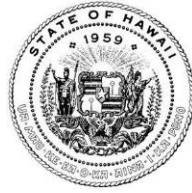
*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*



SB 2906

SD-1

TESTIMONY



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

March 22, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
House Committee on Health and Human Services

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

SUBJECT: **SB 2906 SD1 – RELATING TO THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 6, 2018, 2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this measure to the extent that this appropriation does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to establish the position of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness in statute. In addition, the bill makes an appropriation and attaches the Governor's Coordinator of Homelessness to the Department of Human Services for administrative purposes, but requires the position to report to the Governor.

Homelessness remains one of the most pressing challenges facing Hawaii. As the Chair of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH), the Coordinator worked together with the Governor and members of the council to adopt a comprehensive framework to address homelessness that focuses on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. In particular, the Coordinator has worked together with the Legislature, State departments and other stakeholders to increase resources for permanent housing programs, such as Housing First and Rapid Rehousing.

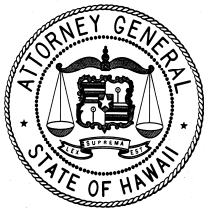


Between 2015 and 2017, the number of permanent housing beds for homeless individuals statewide increased by 1,986 – an increase of 146%, more than doubling the supply of permanent beds. The coordinated efforts to implement the State’s framework to address homelessness have made progress in reducing the number of homeless individuals statewide. In 2017, the statewide Point in Time (PIT) count found that the number of homeless people in Hawaii had decreased for the first time in eight years – a decrease of 701 people between 2016 and 2017.

Despite this progress, there remains a need to sustain a coordinated approach in partnership with the counties and the private sector. By incorporating the Coordinator’s position in statute and providing an appropriation, this measure helps to ensure that existing efforts continue.

In addition to passing this measure, the Coordinator respectfully requests the Legislature’s support of the Governor’s Executive Budget request, which includes over \$15 million for homeless programs administered by DHS and other State agencies that collectively represent an array of financial resources designed to provide one-time crisis assistance, as well as medium term (3-24 months) and longer-term support. This mix of short-, medium-, and long-term assistance is designed to transition at-risk and homeless individuals and families into stable housing, and is also designed to prevent homelessness by assisting formerly homeless individuals in maintaining housing over time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2018**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 2906, S.D. 1, RELATING TO THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT AND ON  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**DATE:** Thursday, March 22, 2018

**TIME:** 8:30 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 309

**TESTIFIER(S):** Russell A. Suzuki, Acting Attorney General, or  
James W. Walther, Deputy Attorney General

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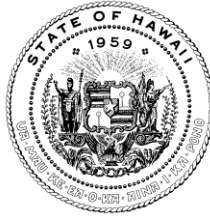
Chairs Johanson and Mizuno and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments. This bill establishes the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness as a permanent position attached to the Department of Human Services for administrative purposes. See section 2, page 2, lines 9 – 11.

In section 2, page 2, lines 13-14, the bill provides that the "governor's coordinator on homelessness shall be appointed by the governor pursuant to section 26-34" of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). This provision is confusing and could create a problem for implementation because section 26-34, HRS, pertains to the appointment of members to boards and commissions. Moreover, it is usually boards, commissions, or offices that are administratively attached to principal departments, not specific positions.

The Governor's coordinator is not a member of or being appointed to a board or commission, so it is unclear what the purpose of the references to section 26-34, HRS, is in the context of this bill. We are unable to provide alternatives at this time, but we are available to work with the Committees on other wording, for instance if there is a need for provisions regarding the appointment and tenure of the position.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committees on**

**LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
And  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

**Thursday, March 22, 2018  
8:30 AM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2906, SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR OF HOMELESSNESS**

Senate Bill 2906, Senate Draft 1 proposes to statutorily establish the position of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, establish clear lines of communication and provide funding for the functions of the office. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) is in strong support of this measure.**

The Governor's Office on Homelessness has provided much needed leadership and coordination for administrative agencies in addressing the problem of homelessness on our individual lands. This Office is crucial to effectively address homelessness because individual agencies, such as the Department are ill-equipped to address the problem alone. The Governor's Office on Homelessness has been able to coordinate strategic outreach, law enforcement, housing, and support services in support of state departments as well as with the Counties. This efficiency saves staff and money for the State. Some of the work of this Office includes:

- Strategically addressing the issues of different homeless camps
- Ensuring that there is outreach provided to state lands
- Developing Standardized Notification Procedures
- Leveraging the resources of different departments for more effective clean-up operations (i.e. Nimitz Viaduct).
- Coordinating contracting services to more effectively move people into long-term housing.

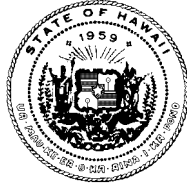
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 20, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
House Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2906 SD1 – RELATING TO THE GOVERNOR’S COORDINATOR ON  
HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Thursday, March 22, 2018, 8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

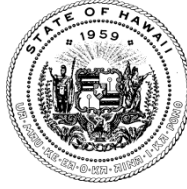
**POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure to the extent that this appropriation does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to establish the position of the Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness in statute. In addition, the bill makes an appropriation and attaches the Governor’s Coordinator of Homelessness to the Department of Human Services for administrative purposes, and requires the position to report to the Governor.

Currently the position of the Governor's Coordinator of Homelessness is located in the DHS Director's Office (HMS 904) as a special project, though the Coordinator's office is physically located with the Governor's staff. The Legislature should establish the position as a permanent position, exempt from provisions of Chapter 76, and should also consider additional appropriations for operational issues to cover basic functions of the position such as travel, postage, and copying.

For Hawaii to reach "functional zero," the State will continue to require a focused, strategic, and coordinated effort lead by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness who has the ability, authority, and credentials of the Governor and the Legislature to work with all state departments, County governments, Federal agencies, and the private sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**Testimony by:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
ROY CATALANI  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 22, 2018  
8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 309

**S.B. 2906, S.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS**

House Committee(s) on Labor and Public Employment & Health and Human Services

The Department of Transportation (DOT) appreciates the opportunity to **support** S.B. 2906, S.D. 1.

The DOT emphasizes the importance of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. We have worked very closely with the Coordinator on Homelessness to ensure that each department, county, and law enforcement were coordinated in each effort allowing a more proactive approach to connecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness to homeless services and shelters.

Through the Homelessness Coordinator's efforts, there has been a decrease of 701 people in the statewide homeless Point-In-Time count, the first decrease in eight years. Making this position permanent with adequate funding will provide the continuity necessary to make substantive improvement in the State's efforts to address homelessness in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

## Helping Hawai'i Live Well

**To:** Representative Aaron Johansen, Chair, Representative Daniel Holt, Vice Chair, Members, House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Representative John Mizuno, Chair, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair, Members, House Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

**Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2906 SD 1 RELATING TO THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS**

**Hearing: March 22, 2018, 8:30 am, CR 2309**

Thank you for allowing us to testify **in support of Senate Bill 2906 SD 1**, which statutorily establishes the position of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, attaches it to the Department of Human Services and has it report directly to the Governor.

Mental Health America of Hawaii is a 501(c)3 organization founded in Hawai'i 76 years ago, that serves the community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education and service. The position of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is important to us because it provides leadership from the administration on the issue of homelessness, coordinating public and private partners to ensure the development and implementation of effective strategies to eliminate homelessness in Hawaii.

During his tenure, Scott Morishige has demonstrated how broad and essential this role is in coordinating the efforts of community partners and the various government agencies that are involved while maintaining transparency in sharing information with the public through the media. He has made the administration much more accessible to the public on the issue of homelessness by fielding calls, inquiries and comments on a regular basis.

Thank you for considering my testimony **in support of SB 2906 SD 1**. Please contact me at [trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org](mailto:trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org) or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.



**DATE:** Thursday, March 22, 2018; 8:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

**TO:** The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bert Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services  
  
The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
The Honorable Daniel Hold, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

**FROM:** Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO  
Parents And Children Together

**RE:** Testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB 2906 – RELATING TO THE GOVERNOR’S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS

Parents And Children Together **STRONGLY** supports of SB 2906 – Relating to the Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness.

Hawaii continues to struggle with one of the highest percentage of homelessness in the nation. A clear strategy to support our individuals and families must be at the forefront of our legislative decisions. It is also critical that we provide the necessary infrastructure to support these ongoing strategies.

The Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness is a critical position to ensure the key strategies are being implemented and the true needs of the people are being addressed. We support the



appropriation of funds in this bill for the fulltime position for the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. Furthermore, the position has built up many relationships with the community and has a deep understanding for the individual needs of those who find themselves homeless. Funding this position will ensure that there are no disruptions to services.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 16 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 2906**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.



# HAWAII APPLESEED

## CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

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Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice

**Supporting SB 2906 SD1**

Relating to the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

House Committees on Labor & Public Employment and Health & Human Services

Scheduled for Hearing Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 8:30am, Conference Room 309

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*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice Hawai'i Appleseed is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.*

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Dear Chairs Johanson and Mizuno, and members of the Committees on Labor & Public Employment and Health & Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of SB 2906 SD1, which statutorily establishes the Governor's coordinator on homelessness position. The position has proven to be key to addressing homelessness in Hawai'i, and it is important that the position be made permanent to allow the stability and long-term planning necessary to address homelessness in Hawai'i.

Homelessness is one of the biggest problems facing Hawai'i. Our state has the highest housing costs in the nation and the lowest wages when adjusted for cost of living. Not surprisingly, we also have the highest homelessness rate in the nation, with 7,220 unsheltered homeless at last count. Thanks to a growing focus on homelessness in recent years, we have started to turn the tide on homelessness, reducing the homelessness rate for the first time in years last year.

The Governor's coordinator on homelessness has played a critical role in these efforts. The coordinator serves as an important bridge between the work of the state, the counties, and of NGOs involved in addressing homelessness. The coordinator is well-situated to be able to look at the big-picture, with access to information about the resources available to combat homelessness and an understanding about what is happening on the ground. The coordinator's work is invaluable in helping to connect and guide the efforts of the stakeholders engaged in addressing homelessness.

For these reasons, Hawai'i Appleseed supports SB 2906 SD1. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

**SB-2906-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 4:39:39 AM

Testimony for LAB on 3/22/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

SB 2906

SD-1

LATE  
TESTIMONY

**SB-2906-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 11:51:19 PM

Testimony for LAB on 3/22/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Crystal Caday Bargayo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill because the state needs a coordinator to assist the clients and agencies and be a liaison for the community and government.