

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

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**DAWN N.S. CHANG**  
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of  
DAWN N.S. CHANG  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
AND  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Wednesday, March 13, 2024  
3:00 PM**

**State Capitol Conference Room 225 and Videoconference**

**In Consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2084 HD1  
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

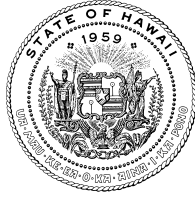
The purpose of House Bill 2084 HD1 is to establish a vacated homeless encampment clean up task force within the Department of Transportation. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) offers comments and one amendment to this bill.

For the last eight years the Department of Transportation (DOT) has been cleaning up homeless encampments on government lands, including those of the DLNR, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL), the Department of Education (DOE), the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) and others with general funding from the legislature. That funding is set to end this fiscal year. DOT has also partnered with Army Garrison Hawaii to clean joint areas.

It is not clear that this bill would address homelessness on State lands any better or more efficiently than the status quo, and may have the result of limiting the lands on which homelessness can be addressed with DOT assistance.

DLNR recommends amending Section 2 of this bill, as related to the membership of the task force, to include the "chairperson of the board of land and natural resources or a designee[.]"

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on this bill.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of **John Mizuno**  
Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness  
Before the Senate Committees on  
**PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
**AND**  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
Wednesday, March 13, 2024  
3:00 p.m., Conference Room 225

In consideration of  
**House Bill No. 2084 HD1**  
**RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Aloha Chairs Wakai and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Elefante and Aquino, and Committee Members,

I am writing to provide comments for HB2084 HD1, which appropriates funds and establishes a Vacated Encampment Clean-Up Task Force to identify potential state entities to enter into intergovernmental agreements to coordinate the cleanup of vacated homeless encampments located on lands managed by the United States Army Garrison Hawai'i. I respectfully request that any appropriation does not reduce or replace priorities in the executive budget.

I appreciate that this measure focuses on clean-up of **vacated homeless encampments**. I have witnessed the harmful effects that enforcement and/or sweeps have on individuals experiencing homelessness. To ensure that only vacated homeless encampments are cleaned up, I humbly request that "vacated homeless encampment" be defined in this measure:

"Vacated Homeless Encampment means a homeless encampment that has been abandoned by **all people previously living there** for some time as determined by the Vacated Homeless Encampment Clean-Up Task Force."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for HB2084 HD1.

Mahalo,

John Mizuno  
Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness



**COMMENTS ON HB 2084, HD1  
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference  
Hawaii State Capitol; 415 South Beretania Street

Chairs San Buenaventura and Wakai, Vice Chairs Aquino and Elefante, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") wishes to offer comments on HB 2084, HD1 which establishes a vacated homeless encampment clean up task force to identify parcels of land that require intergovernmental coordination to clean up vacated homeless encampments located on lands managed by government agencies, including but not limited to the United States Army Garrison Hawai'i, and execute a memorandum of understanding to clean up vacated homeless encampments located on the identified parcels.

The MAC was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

The proposal to establish a homelessness encampment clean up task force within the Department of Transportation is well-intentioned. However, there is already an existing, effective collaboration between the United States Army Garrison and the Department of Transportation which successfully works on, among other issues, the challenges of homelessness on state- and federally-owned lands.



The Department of Transportation, with its clearance capability, has been working to address the environmental and public health hazards posed by vacated encampments. The proposed task force seems redundant given this established commitment and relationship.

Respectfully, it would be more beneficial to focus on strengthening this relationship and leveraging their combined capabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments.

**LATE**

**HB-2084-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 5:08:41 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/13/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Meehan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I fully support HB2084 HD1.**

About 14 months ago, I worked with Representative Trish La Chica in identifying a large homeless encampment at Mile Marker 15 along Kamehameha Highway in Waipahu. The activities at this encampment were disruptive to the adjacent community of Koa Ridge, where I reside with my family. Often, there were late night altercatons among occupants of the encampment. As well, people living at this encampment had been seen walking thru Koa Ridge during both day and nighttime hours. As a homeowner, I felt this posed a safety concern for myself, my family and my neighbors.

Through the efforts of La Chica's office and in coordination with the U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii (USAGH), the Kam Highway site was cleaned up. It was a significant effort as the site had literally tons of debris that needed to be cleared out.

The establishment of a **homeless encampment clean up task force** is extremely impartment. It supports the efforts of La Chica's office and others, mitigates issues that arose on lands managed by government agencies including the United States Army Garrison Hawaii and insures vacated and cleaned up sites do not get re-occupied.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB2084 HD1.

Sincerely,

Ted Meehan

Waipahu, HI