

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony in Support
Fair Housing Coalition
HB533 HUS on Tuesday, 02-12-13 9:30AM in CR 329.

Committee on Human Services
Rep. Mele Carroll and members of the HUS Cte.

Good afternoon Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the committee,

The purpose of the return to home program is to assist eligible homeless individuals, who through circumstance of no fault of their own, to return to their home state especially if there is a support network available at their home state.

The program is to make it possible for those who are stranded in Hawaii and want to go home, to get home.

This isn't meant to solve the entire homeless problem in the state of Hawaii, only the specific population that came to Hawaii with dreams of Hula girls serving Mai Thais on the beach and has then encountered the harsh reality of homelessness in Hawaii.

It is meant for the out-of-state homeless that already have family, friends or other support services in the place where they are requesting transport to.

This program will work with homeless services, local airlines and charter companies to obtain tickets. It will get participants ready for travel and also follow up one month later. This will cost between \$400 and \$600 per person.

On the other hand it now costs the State of Hawaii between \$30,000 and \$35,000 per year, per homeless person in services, which include extensive hospital stays and medical care, shelter, food and social and other support services. This doesn't even include children incurring developmental delays with later costs.

This bill would save the state of Hawaii thousands of dollars and much un-necessary suffering.

LATE TESTIMONY

NIMFA MOLINA

Testimony in Support of HB 533

HUS Cte. Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013 , 9:30 AM in CR 329.

Aloha Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the HUS committee,

I am in support of HB 533 to support the RETURN TO HOME Program that helps stranded homeless persons get back home to their loved ones and social and familial support base.

The return to home program helps eligible homeless individuals who are destitute to return to their home state where their family and social service agencies can assist them to get back on their feet.

Many of those who are homeless and on Hawaii social welfare system can consume State and Non Profit funds to the tune of \$35,000 to \$50,000 per year, in human services, which may include such expenses as hospital stays, medical care, emergency shelters, housing , food and social and other support services. This doesn't even include children incurring developmental delays with later costs.

This program will work with homeless services, local airlines and charter companies to obtain tickets. It will get participants ready for travel and also follow up one month later. This will cost an average of \$500 per person for a one way ticket to mainland.

This bill would save the state of Hawaii a lot on money and bring security of home to homeless.