

LATE TESTIMONY

HOMELESS / AFFORDABLE HOUSING INSTITUTE (HAHI)
House Committees On Human Services / Housing
Thursday, March 21, 2013 at 11:15 AM ; State Capitol, CR 329
Testimony in Support of SB 515 SD2

Chair Mele Carroll and Chair Rida Cabanilla and Members of HUS and HSG ctes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 515 SD2.

The HOMELESS & AFFORDABLE HOUSING INSTITUTE (HAHI) supports enactment of this measure which appropriates funds for various homeless programs.

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate unspecified funds to the homeless programs office of the department of human services and the rental housing trust fund. It appropriates unspecified funds to the department of health for substance abuse treatment, mental health support services, and clean and sober housing services and appropriates funds for a rental assistance program, also known as a shallow subsidy program.

It also appropriates funds to the Hawaii public housing authority to continue to administer housing first programs for chronically homeless individuals and to reestablish the homeless prevention and rapid re-housing program. It appropriates funds out of the rental housing trust fund and appropriates matching funds for the federal shelter plus care program to provide rental assistance in connection with supportive services. It's effective 07/01/2050. (SD2)

We are in support of many of the programs like Clean and Sober, Chronic Homeless, Housing First Program, Shelter Plus, etc. In addition, some very worthy programs should also be included such as: temporary night time parking lots as shelters, the Return-To-Home Program, Safe Haven as temporary and full time and I would like to see the establishment of the Tent City program, if regulated, it is a lot better than what we have now, where homeless are camping illegally all over the sidewalks and walkways and everywhere.

Thank you very much for your support with amendments.



PARTNERS IN CARE **LATE TESTIMONY**

Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 515 SD2: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair; Representative Rida T. R. Cabanilla, Chair; and Members, Committees on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Gladys Peraro, Co-Chair Advocacy Committee, Partners In Care

Hearing: Thursday, 3/21,13; 11:15 am; CR 329

Chair Carroll, Chair Cabanilla, and Members, Committees on Human Services and Housing:

Thank you on behalf of Partners In Care (PIC), for the opportunity to provide testimony for SB 515, SD2, with one amendment suggested below for Part II. I am Gladys L. Peraro, Advocacy Committee Co-Chair for Partners In Care, the coalition care providers focused on the needs of homeless persons and strategies to end homelessness. Partners In Care strongly supports this bill. This bill is important in creating new rentals, which is a critical step toward the goal of ending homelessness. Partners In Care Supports:

Part I, Sections 3 & 4- Funding the Rental Housing Trust Fund: The Rental Housing Trust Fund (RHTF) has a proven track record of utilizing all its funding to produce housing. As of June 30, 2012, **4,250** affordable rental units have been created. To make a truly significant impact on the 13,000 affordable units that are needed in Hawaii, a significant allocation is needed to the Trust Fund. In FY 2012, the Trust Fund received \$37 million in project requests, but could only fund \$20.7 million for four (4) out of the nine (9) projects. FIVE more projects could have started construction if only there were additional funds readily available. *Investing in the Rental Housing Trust Fund will leave a legacy of housing as well as continue to help Hawaii's economy.*

Part II, Section 8: In transitional shelters, homeless families work hard to change their lives, learn financial literacy and budgeting, obtain employment, and prioritize paying rent, but still find it near impossible to pay market rents. For many, public housing seems to be the only option; however, funding of **\$1.5 Million for ongoing Rental Assistance would provide a new and critical option to more rapidly move working families into permanent housing**. *Partners In Care supports this measure with one suggested amendment to provide funding for adequate staffing for DHS's Homeless Programs Office to implement, administer, and evaluate this new program.*

Part III, Section 10 & 11: Funding for Housing First (**\$1.5 million**) and Shelter Plus Care (**\$400,000**) are other crucial supports to assist chronic and/or disabled homeless persons to gain housing and provide the needed collaborative supportive services to stabilize them in affordable housing. The Housing First model is proving a cost-effective measure to ending homelessness.

Part IV, Section 11: Prevention is one of the critical elements to ending homelessness. Partners In Care provider agencies receive hundreds of calls each month requesting assistance with housing needs. A **\$1 Million** appropriation for homeless prevention would provide critical short-term assistance to help families obtain housing or retain the housing they currently have.

Partners In Care urges your support for SB 515, SD2, and its multiple strategies to end homelessness in our State.

Partners In Care, c/o Aloha United Way, 200 N. Vineyard Blvd. Suite 700
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Partners in Care is a membership organization of homeless service providers, other service professionals, units of local and state government, homeless consumers, and other community representatives located in Hawai'i on O'ahu. It is a planning, coordinating, and advocacy body that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill gaps in the Continuum of Care on O'ahu.