

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 04 2011

RE: S.B. No. 897  
S.D. 2

Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2011  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water, Land, and Housing, to which was referred S.B. No. 897, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, Homeless Programs Office of the Department of Human Services, and Hawai'i Association of REALTORS to conduct a survey to identify and inventory vacant housing units statewide that could be used as affordable rental housing; and
- (2) Require those agencies to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on the results of the survey.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Catholic Conference and the Hawaii Family Forum. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, Hawai'i Association of REALTORS, and Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan.

Your Committee finds that this measure attempts to address the needs of the growing homeless population in Hawaii and to increase the inventory of affordable rental housing by gathering data regarding vacancies and vacancy rates for affordable housing.



After considering the testimony received, your Committee finds that this measure does not meet its stated purpose of addressing the shortage of affordable rentals and would be costly to implement. A survey of vacant affordable housing requires data regarding vacancies, which would be a mere product of the specific point in time at which the data was collected. Vacancy rates change daily as tenants give notice and others are placed in units. Thus, the proposed survey would fail to credibly reflect current vacancies and vacancy rates.

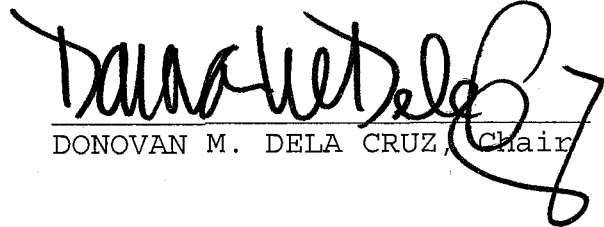
Your Committee further finds that S.B. No. 900, S.D. 1, establishes a Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness and provides for the specific duties of the Council. Your Committee believes that S.B. No. 900, S.D. 1, addresses the shortage of affordable rentals, and could be implemented at a savings to taxpayers. Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Removing its contents and replacing them with the contents of S.B. No. 900, S.D. 1, except for section 6 of S.B. No. 900, S.D. 1, and all references to that section, which appropriates funds for administrative expenses;
- (2) Changing the effective date to upon approval; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water, Land, and Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 897, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 897, S.D. 2.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Water, Land, and  
Housing,

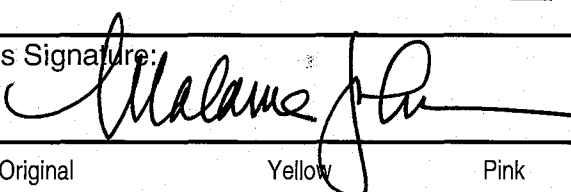


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Water, Land, and Housing**  
**WLH**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB897 SDI	HMS, WLH	03/01/2011		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	✓			
SOLOMON, Malama (VC)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	✓			
RYAN, Pohai	✓			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile				✓
TOKUDA, Jill N.				✓
SLOM, Sam	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>			<b>2</b>
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy	

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes