

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 15 2011

RE: S.B. No. 900
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 900 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness and to make an appropriation for its administrative expenses.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i, Chancery Office of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Honolulu, and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services and Catholic Charities Hawai'i.

Your Committee finds that homelessness is a societal problem that has plagued Hawaii and the nation for many years. Although your Committee believes that great strides have been made in addressing the issue of homelessness, Hawaii has experienced an increase in the number of homeless persons. Homelessness remains a complex issue, and solutions need to involve coordination, planning, implementation, and funding among state and county agencies, non-profit entities, and the federal government.

Your Committee further finds that in June 2010, the cabinet secretaries from the federal Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs joined the United States Interagency Council on



Homelessness, which comprises nineteen federal agencies to coordinate the nation's housing, health, employment security, education, and human services functions and to create a national partnership between every level of government and the private sector to maximize the effectiveness of the federal government's response in addressing homelessness.

Your Committee additionally finds that the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness unveiled and submitted to the President and Congress the nation's first comprehensive strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness - a plan that the federal government describes as the most far-reaching and ambitious program in history to prevent and end homelessness. Working together with Congress, state and local officials, faith-based and community organizations, and business and philanthropic leaders across the country, the plan will harness public and private resources to build on proven local level innovations.

Your Committee also finds that Hawaii must have in place a mechanism similar to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to formulate and coordinate a unified plan to address homelessness in all counties and facilitate the acquisition of federal funding for homeless programs. The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness recommends that the states establish such a state agency whether by legislative action or executive order, or both.

Your Committee has heard the concerns regarding the Department of Human Services' ability to effectively administer and implement a statewide interagency council on homelessness and believes this issue merits further discussion by the Committee on Ways and Means.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Amending section 3 of this measure to include designees from the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, Hawaii Community Development Authority, and the Hawai'i Association of Realtors to serve on the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness; and
- (2) 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 Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 900, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 900, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

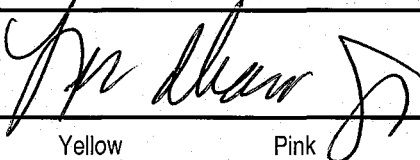
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Human Services,

Suzanne Chun Oakland
SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Sixth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services
HMS

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 900	Committee Referral: HMS, WAM	Date: 2-3-11		
<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
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)	✓			
GREEN, M.D., Josh	✓			
SLOM, Sam				✓
TOTAL	3	0	0	1
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