

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2011

RE: S.B. No. 906
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. 906 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to better assist individuals facing or experiencing homelessness by making a grant to fund a full-time 211 Homeless Care Coordinator position at Aloha United Way.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Aloha United Way and one individual. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Department of Human Services and the Chancery Office of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Honolulu.

Your Committee finds that one of the many challenges faced when addressing the State's homelessness problem is that although there is a wide variety of services that are available to help the homeless, services are provided by multiple agencies with different eligibility criteria and, in some cases, limited geographical coverage.

Your Committee further finds that Aloha United Way 211 is an excellent way to help people navigate through an often confusing array of services and providers. Aloha United Way 211 is a free, confidential information and referral service that is available



statewide, fifteen hours a day, five days a week. Dialing 2-1-1 immediately provides callers with access to a specialist who directs callers to more than four thousand programs and services as appropriate to their needs. Aloha United Way 211 offers vital information to people seeking referrals or access to homeless shelters, food pantries, rent payment assistance, health insurance, and other public assistance programs.

Your Committee also finds that in 2009, over forty-two thousand people called Aloha United Way 211. In 2010, Aloha United Way 211 handled forty-three thousand requests for help, leading to over sixty thousand referrals. With the downturn in the economy, many of these callers desired assistance with basic human needs such as shelter and food. Over six thousand calls were requests for services to help homeless individuals or those individuals on the verge of becoming homeless.

Your Committee notes that the cost to fund a part-time 211 Homeless Care Coordinator position at Aloha United Way would be \$30,000 a year.

Your Committee has heard the concerns regarding the limited availability of monies from the General Fund. Your Committee has also heard the concerns regarding the fact that requests for assistance are primarily being made at homeless drop-in centers. Your Committee believes that these concerns merit further discussion by the Committee on Ways and Means.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Amending section 1 of this measure to reflect the correct operating hours of Aloha United Way 211, based on testimony provided by Aloha United Way;
- (2) Deleting references to a "full-time 211 Homeless Care Coordinator position" and adding references to a "part-time 211 Homeless Care Coordinator position"; 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 Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 906, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second



Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 906, 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.:* <i>SB 906</i>	Committee Referral: <i>HMS, WAMM</i>	Date: <i>2-3-11</i>		
<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	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes