



Help the Hawaii Homeless
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LATE TESTIMONY

House Committee on Housing
Wednesday, March 9, 2011, Room 325

RE: Testimony in Support of HCR 75/HR 68, with amendments

Aloha Chair Cabinilla, Vice Chair Chong, and members of the Committee on Housing;

HCR 75/HR 68, the opening of the Kakaako Waterfront Park parking lot, is a resolution that provides parking for the working homeless overnight until morning at the park.

Help the Hawaii Homeless is in support of this resolution and would like to commend the State of Hawaii on taking this proactive step towards insuring the safety and provision of our homeless neighbors that are gainfully employed.

We also commend the Kauai Planning and Action Alliance in the County of Kauai for setting a precedence for this measure. Hawaii should aggressively consider what effectively works for other states in all aspects of homelessness while customizing it to our needs.

We suggest that particulars, such as any parking permits (to specific lots) and rules/limitations, be clearly stated at these lots or on the permits. We also suggest that the State would use this as a "stepping stone" towards affordable housing and not as a permanent solution/lifestyle for our homeless neighbors.

There should be an active participation on the part of the Department of Public Housing, Department of Human Services, in cooperation with local non-profit agencies, to insure that these homeless neighbors have opportunities to gain better employment and housing. We suggest proposals from any non-profit agencies that will work to create programs for assisting these homeless at these lots, in particular, be considered.

Private companies and organizations should also be encouraged to open their lots to their own employees provided that they can secure indemnification under the State.

If this resolution is indeed successful, parking lots on the other parts of Oahu and the rest of the State, should be considered.

Mahalo nui loa,

Tisha Woytenko
President & Executive Director
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Proposed amendments HCR 75/HR 68

WHEREAS any parking permits (to specific lots) and rules/limitations, be clearly stated at these lots or on the permits; and

WHEREAS parking is made available specific to homeless neighbors who are gainfully employed owners of the vehicles and/or actively pursuing jobs through agencies; and

WHEREAS the State recognizes this as a “stepping stone” towards affordable housing and not as a permanent solution/lifestyle for our homeless neighbors; and

WHEREAS there will be an active participation on the part of the Department of Public Housing, Department of Human Services, in cooperation with local non-profit agencies, to insure that these homeless neighbors have opportunities to gain better employment and housing; and

WHEREAS proposals from any non-profit agencies that will work to create programs for assisting these homeless at the lot, in particular, will be considered; and

WHEREAS private companies and organizations are encouraged to open their lots to their own employees provided that they can secure indemnification under the State; and

WHEREAS if this resolution is indeed successful, parking lots on the other parts of Oahu and the rest of the State, should be considered.

Mahalo nui loa,

Tisha Woytenko
President & Executive Director
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