

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Sunday, March 01, 2015 9:05 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject: Public Health, Safety & Welfare Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

All fields marked "*" are required and must be completed in order for this form to be valid.
Note: Registrations are not accepted prior to the agendas being posted.

Name(*) Carolina Jesus
Phone (*) 808-383-9498
Email (*) shelterofwisdom@gmail.com
Meeting Date (*) 2015-03-03
Council/PH Committee (*) PublicHealth
Agenda Item (*) Res 15-56 Homeless
Your position on the matter (*) Comment
Representing (*) Organization
Organization Shelter of Wisdom
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? (*) No

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Written Testimony

We would like to present to you a simple solution to homelessness which any one can duplicate to achieve similar results. Shelter of Wisdom created a model that has been successful since 2008 in providing emergency shelter and transitional placement into permanent housing for about 150 single homeless men. We have never received any funding and we do not have any employees. We are run by a handful of dedicated volunteers and the men themselves. Currently we provide shelter for 63 men who live in 6 shelter homes on 3 properties in Honolulu. To begin the shelter, we simply fronted the money to rent and furnish a home in the community, which we carefully chose based on its floor plan, location, and rent cost. The men pay a shelter fee, which is affordable for them, and sufficient to cover the operational cost of the house. After we collect all the shelter fees in the beginning of the month, we usually have enough money to cover the expenses. Sometimes we do not cover the expenses, but we also receive donations from the public which helps offset losses. Every homeless man can get income: either he has a psychiatric, physical, or substance abuse problem; which,

if he is receiving treatment, may be considered a disability. This makes him eligible to receive income from General Assistance or Social Security Benefits. If he does not have any such problems then he can get a job. All of the men, who remain compliant with our common sense rules, obtain permanent housing through the various rent subsidy programs and the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. We assist them with finding a rental unit, move in costs, household furnishings, and we have a small truck to move them with. Once they are living independently in their rental unit, we continue to be available to help them. They often need assistance with all kinds of issues, and are at risk of losing their housing without continuing support. We would like to propose that any handful of people can copy this model. It is simply "people helping people"; just doing what ever it takes to help that man as if he was yourself in that situation; or your grandfather, father, brother, son, husband, boyfriend, or best friend. The same model works for women also; we used to have one. Any agency with funding could do the same thing even better, because they have money and employees. We are available to share this model with any one who is interested. Simply call Carolina Jesus, our founder, at 383-9498.

**Testimony
Attachment**

**Accept Terms and
Conditions (*)** 1