

Homeless Strategy & Updates

Briefing for the House Committee on Health &
Homelessness

November 27, 2023

Myths That Misdirect Us

1. Most homeless people are newcomers
2. Our people are “service resistant”
3. Rising mental illness and addiction is increasing homelessness
4. Services and temporary shelters will end homelessness

Real Root Causes

1. No housing for very-low-income folks
2. Overflowing safety net for those with special needs
3. Loss of family and community

The Challenge & Goal

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Honolulu County	1,663	2,635	4,298
Hawaii County	278	725	1,003
Kauai County	58	430	488
Maui County	317	387	704
Total	2,316	4,177	6,493

Sources: Partners in Care and Bridging the Gap, 2023 PIT Count Reports (May, 2023)

Goal: Cut unsheltered homelessness in half (~2000 people) in the next 3 years, with a visible reduction in the number of people on the street.

- proportional across regions and islands
- against headwinds: end of COVID funds; high housing costs

Five Priorities

1. Deeply Affordable Homes – Conventional Housing Models
2. Deeply Affordable Homes – Kauhale (Community Housing)
3. Space for Mental Health & Substance Use Healing
4. Clear Bottlenecks along path from Outreach to Housing
5. Flip NIMBY to YIMBY to Support all of the Above

Definition of “deeply affordable” homes

...for housing, healing, and rebuilding community.



Deeply Affordable Homes – Kauhale

Kauhale – lasting affordability, rooted in community and *kuleana*

- Demonstrate new, cost-effective models of housing and healing
- Intentionally designed and operated to build community
- Shared spaces for cooking, dining, recreation, gardening, agriculture
- Common property is managed and maintained by community members:
e.g., security, groundskeeping, maintenance, improvement projects
- **Not just tiny home villages – repurposed hotels, offices, dorms, apartments**
- **Not perpetual services – residents step up to care for place and people**

Phase 1
DRAFT

Kauhale: Current Resources

- **Kauhale Initiative Funding FY23** **\$15M**
 - 12 villages in the next 3 years
 - 6 Oahu, 2 each Neighbor Isle County
 - Operating costs decrease as resident take *kuleana*
- **Kauhale Initiative Funding FY24** **\$33M**
 - TBD

RUNNING LIST OF POTENTIAL KAUHALE PROJECTS
updated 11/2023

		Location	Retained	New	Total**
VIABLE SITES AND OPERATORS					
Waikiki Vista	SOHHS & City	Honolulu	0	125	125
Middle Street Kauhale	SOHHS	Honolulu	0	54	54
Central Maui Kauhale	SOHHS	Kahului	0	200	200
Mapunapuna Kauhale	SOHHS	Honolulu	0	30	30
Hawaii State Hospital Kauhale	Gov's Mental Health Lead	Kaneohe	0	25	25
Iwilei Mental Health Kauhale	Gov's Mental Health Lead	Honolulu	0	TBD	TBD
Hawaii Island Home for Recovery	Hawaii Island Home for Recovery	Hilo	0	50	50
Puuhonua O Waianae Phase II	Dynamic Community Solutions	Waianae	0	125	125
Nanakuli Kauhale	Family Promise Hawaii	Nanakuli	0	20	20
Kauhale Haleiwa for Youth	Achieve Zero & RYSE	Haleiwa	0	15	15
Youth Drop In Center & Housing	RYSE	Waianae	0	20	20
Sacred Hearts Village Phase II & III	Hope Services	Pahoa	32	50	82
			32	714	746
PENDING FURTHER TALKS					
Urban Honolulu Vertical Kauhale	City-owned building conversion	Honolulu	0	80	80
Big Island Wellness Kauhale	pending land discussions; oper identified	E Hawaii	0	TBD	TBD
Kauai Safe Parking + Kauhale	pending land discussions; oper identified	Anahola	0	40	40
Hui Mahiai Aina	pending flood mitigation; oper identified	Waimanalo	0	200	200
Molokai Kauhale	pending land discussions; oper identified	Kaunakakai	0	25	25
Sand Island Kauhale	pending site and infrastructure assessment	Honolulu	0	60	60
Wahiawa Navigation Ctr + Kauhale	pending negotiations with building owner	Wahiawa	0	30	30
Ewa Beach-Waipahu Kauhale	pending land discussions; oper identified	Waipahu	0	TBD	TBD
			435		435
COMMUNITY-BASED PROPOSALS					
"RFP" for community-based proposals, selection in Spring 2024. Goal: 5 projects with combined 200 occupan			0	200	200
			0	200	200
GRAND TOTAL			32	1,349	1,381

* Note this list is subject to change as pre-development site planning and discussions with operators progress.

Ohana Zones Pilot Program

- **Legislature created in 2018 (SLH 2018 Act 209)**
 - “addressing homelessness requires the courage to try something new.”
 - “welcoming, safe haven[s] where individuals experiencing homelessness and those who serve them treat each other as extended family.”
 - flexibility and expedience with exemptions from procurement and development/construction regulations

Ohana Zones Pilot Program

- **Ohana Zones FY2018-19** **\$17M**
 - Distributed thru DOH, HHFDC, DHS HPO and others
 - Wide variety of projects and programs

- **Ohana Zones FY2022-23** **\$15M**
 - Distributed thru Counties
 - Increasingly used for unmet needs for supportive housing

- **Ohana Zones FY2023-24** **\$15M**
 - New focus on projects that:
 - (1) Start-up funding for projects/programs that lead to sustained housing placements, including supportive housing
 - (2) Use OZ flexibility to fill gaps not be served other funding:
 - populations that don't fit "chronic homeless" definition
 - pathways that complement CES
 - housing models that are not supported by HUD

Permanent Supportive Housing Pilot

“Affordable, permanent housing and services for people with special needs” e.g., mental, physical, or developmental disabilities and kupuna

- **\$2,784,000 for project-based supportive services**
 - SOHHS
 - 800/unit/mo
 - intended to be matched with Medicaid
- **\$1,740,000 for project-based rent assistance**
 - HPHA
 - up to 20 years of rental assistance
- **\$476,000 for data collection system**
 - SOHHS

Permanent Supportive Housing Pilot

Status Updates:

- Identifying existing properties where services and rental subsidies can create permanent supportive housing
- Working with MedQuest to incorporate Medicaid capacity-building and billing provisions into service provider contracts
- Coordinating with HPHA to match services funds with rental assistance

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No Ending Homelessness Without Homes



We need to ask...

“Transition to where?”

“Diversion to where?”

“Respite to where?”

“Stabilization to where?”

Too often, the answer is:

“Back to the street.”

No Home Without Community

