



STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of
Karen Seddon
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 28, 2012, 9:00 a.m.
Room 211, State Capitol

In consideration of
S.B. 2319, S.D. 1 RELATING TO THE HOMELESS.

The HHFDC **supports the intent** of section 3 of S.B. 2319, S.D. 1, which would appropriate \$15,000,000 in general funds into the Rental Housing Trust Fund, to the extent it does not adversely impact priorities set forth in the Executive Supplemental budget request. We defer to the Departments of Human Services and Health, as appropriate, with respect to the remainder of this bill.

We would like to point out that HHFDC has a pending Supplemental budget request for an infusion of \$5,000,000 in General Obligation Bond funds into the Trust Fund. The only dedicated source of funding for the Rental Housing Trust Fund is a 25 percent share of conveyance tax proceeds. The Legislature has also appropriated CIP funds. Applications for Trust Fund loans far exceed the amount available in the fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on this bill.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF SB 2319 SD1: RELATING TO THE HOMELESS

TO: Senator David Ige, Chair, Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair, and Members,
Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawaii

Hearing: Tuesday, 2/28/12, 9:00 am; CR 211

Chair Ige, Chair Kidani, and Members, Committees on Ways & Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on SB 2319. I am Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison for Catholic Charities Hawaii. Catholic Charities Hawaii strongly supports this bill, with the amendments in SD1. This bill is important not only to create new rentals but to prevent homelessness and to create a new strategy of shallow subsidies to house homeless families in existing housing while new affordable rentals are being built.

The Rental Housing Trust Fund (RHTF) has a proven track record of utilizing all its funding to produce housing. As of 6/30/11, 4,140 affordable housing units have been created. The RHTF is critical to leverage federal funds to make affordable housing projects pencil out. In the current economic crisis, affordable rentals are even more in demand as workers lose jobs or have hours reduced. The production of affordable units cannot fill the demand. We support the \$10 Million allocation listed in HB 2012 (State Budget bill), but urge that a total of \$15 Million be allocated for FY 12-13 due to growing homelessness and the desperate need for more affordable housing. **\$15 Million** is a challenge, but also an opportunity to build housing when costs are lower and economic stimulus is needed. Housing production helps Hawaii's economy.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i gets hundreds of calls each month for help with housing. Neighborhoods are being flooded with more homeless persons. A **\$2 Million** appropriation for homeless prevention would provide critical short-term assistance to help families obtain or retain housing before they become homeless. We must lessen the wave of people falling into homelessness.

In transitional shelters, homeless families work hard to change their lives, practice good budgeting, get a job and are ready to pay rent—but they still cannot afford market rents. For many, public housing has seemed to be the only option. Funding of **\$1.5 Million for shallow rent subsidies** would provide a new and critical option to more rapidly move these families into permanent housing. A shallow rent subsidy (maximum of \$300/month) would enable 400-500 sheltered homeless families to move onto permanent housing in the community.

Funding for mental health services and Shelter Plus Care are other crucial supports to both prevent people from becoming homeless as well as to stabilize them and keep them in affordable housing. With matching funds, Shelter Plus Care programs can compete to obtain more federal funds to pay rents for vulnerable disabled homeless to move into permanent housing.

We urge your support for SB 2319 and its multiple strategies to end homelessness in our State.





HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 2102, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone/TTY: (808) 949-2922 Toll Free: 1-800-882-1057 Fax: (808) 949-2928

E-mail: info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org Website: www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org

THE SENATE THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2012

Committee on Ways and Means Testimony in Support of S.B. 2319, SD1 Relating to The Homeless

**Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 9:00 A.M.
Conference Room 211**

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center testifies in support of this bill.

In particular, we support the provisions herein, as well as any efforts by the legislature, to provide additional funding for mental health services for all individuals, be they homeless or not. We are very concerned that the state has retreated in its efforts in the past few years to provide adequate community based mental health services. In fact, there is certainly evidence that some percentage of people who are homeless also have a mental illness. To that extent, any funds that the legislature can provide will help alleviate problems facing both groups of individuals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



From: [Cynthia K.L. Rezendes](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for SB 2319 SD1
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2012 10:21:51 AM
Attachments: [SB2319 SD1 Testimony February 28 2012.docx](#)

Aloha,

Please find attached the testimony from the Leeward Housing Coalition in Support of

SB 2319 SD1
February 28, 2012, 9:00 a.m
Room 211

Mahalo,

Cynthia K.L. Rezendes

"E malama kakou i ka `aina no na pua"

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

ATTN: CHAIRS DAVID IGE

Testimony Supporting SB 2319 SD1: RELATING TO THE HOMELESS

February 28, 2012, 9:00 a.m.

Conference Room 211

Aloha,

The Leeward Housing Coalition supports the intent of SB 2319 SD1 in providing funding for addressing numerous programs which assist families and individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless due to various reasons.

As a coalition which has members who have over 20 years of experience dealing with homeless or at risk families and individuals, we recognize the importance of having funding to help these families and individuals while they are struggling to make major life changes to improve their lot and/or become better productive, participating citizens within society.

These funds will go a long way to helping those who assist the State in helping the homeless and also provide needed funds to help the houseless be able to become or remain housed.

Thank you for supporting this measure.

The Leeward Housing Coalition



PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF SB 2319 SD1: RELATING TO THE HOMELESS

TO: Senator David Ige, Chair, Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Gladys Peraro, Advocacy Chair, Partners In Care (PIC)

Hearing: Tuesday, 2/28/12, 9:00 am; CR 211

Chair Ige, Chair Kidani, and Members, Committees on Ways & Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments on SB2319 relating to the homeless. I am Gladys Peraro, Advocacy Chair for Partners In Care (PIC). Our coalition focuses on the needs of homeless persons and strategies to end homelessness. Partners In Care strongly supports this bill, with amendments in SD1. The bill is vital, in not only creating new rental inventory, but also in preventing homelessness as well as creating shallow subsidies to house homeless families in existing housing while new affordable rentals are being built.

The Rental Housing Trust Fund (RHTF) has a proven record of utilizing all of its funding to produce housing opportunities. As of June 30, 2011, 4,140 affordable housing units were created. The RHTF is critical to leverage federal funds to make affordable housing projects feasible. In the current economic crisis, affordable rentals ever more in demand, even more so as workers experience job loss or decreased hours in current positions. The production of affordable units cannot fill the current demand. We support the \$10 Million allocation listed in HB 2012 (State Budget bill), but urge that a total of \$15 Million be allocated for FY 12-13 due to growing homelessness and the desperate need for more affordable housing. PIC understands that **\$15 Million** is a challenge, but as challenging as it is, it is also a valuable opportunity to build housing while costs are lower and economic stimulus is needed, with an added benefit in that housing production helps stimulate Hawaii's economy.

PIC member agencies receive countless calls each month for assistance in securing housing opportunities. Neighborhoods are experiencing increases in homeless persons in areas across the island. A **\$2 Million** appropriation for homeless prevention would provide critical short-term assistance to help families obtain or retain housing before they become homeless. One of the most important ways to prevent homelessness is to keep at risk households from becoming homeless in the first place.

In transitional shelters, homeless families work hard to change their lives by participating in classes such as budgeting, job readiness, and workforce development, with a goal of obtaining jobs which allow them to pay rent—but they still cannot afford market rents. For many, public housing has seemed to be the only option. Funding of **\$1.5 Million for shallow rent subsidies** would provide a new and critical option to more rapidly move these families into permanent housing opportunities. A shallow rental subsidy, not to exceed \$300/month would enable 400 to 500 sheltered homeless families the opportunity to move into permanent housing in the community.

Funding for mental health services and Shelter Plus Care are other critical supports to both prevent people from becoming homeless as well as to stabilize them and keep them in affordable housing. With matching funds, Shelter Plus Care programs can compete to obtain more federal funds to pay rents for the most vulnerable as well as disabled homeless to move into permanent housing solutions.

We urge your support for SB 2319 and its multi-faceted strategies to end homelessness in our State.

Partners In Care, c/o Aloha United Way, 200 N. Vineyard Blvd. Suite 700
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2319 on 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2012 11:49:28 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2319

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Scott Wall
Organization: United Self Help
E-mail: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/26/2012

Comments:

Some might not think so but we believe that this is one of the most important bills that you will deal with this year. It is an integral part of rebuilding the health care system and a fundamental part of dealing with the homeless problem which has been plaguing this state.

A large amount of the homeless population suffer from mental illness and an even larger portion suffer from substance abuse. The only way to deal with this is to take a holistic approach.

It simply can not be dealt with in a piecemeal fashion. Unless you can address the substance abuse, mental health needs, and the absolute requirement for transitional housing you might just as well be burning up the taxpayers money.

This population has the highest incidence of recidivism and rehospitalization of any other group of people in the country.

It cost \$50,000 a year for jail, \$1,200 a night for the hospital, and to provide proper mental health services for the homeless would cost around \$5,300 according to the Department of Health. This includes substance abuse treatment.

The Shelter Plus Housing Program funded in this bill is an evidence based practice and works. Please help these people and save the taxpayers money at the same time.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: tim@igdahonolulu.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2319 on 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2012 5:08:30 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2319

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Timothy Webb
Organization: International Game Developers Association, Honolulu
E-mail: tim@igdahonolulu.org
Submitted on: 2/25/2012

Comments:



HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

6301 Pali Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224

Email: WAMtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 @ 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room: 211

DATE: February 22, 2012
TO: **Senate Committee on Ways and Means**
Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
From: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director
Re: Support for SB 2319 SD 1 Relating to Homeless

Honorable Chairs and members of the joint Senate Committees on Human Services and Health, I am Walter Yoshimitsu, **representing the Hawaii Catholic Conference**. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents Roman Catholics in Hawaii.

We support this bill because we agree with this legislature that “homelessness continues to be one of the State’s most significant and challenging social problems.” As you may already know, the Diocese of Honolulu unveiled a strategic plan a few years ago entitled, “Witness to Jesus: Diocesan Road Map for Pastoral, Program, and Facility Needs.” That plan, following closely to the dedication and service of Mother Marianne Cope and Father Damien, declared homelessness and affordable housing as one of its six primary areas of focus. That priority is still of the utmost importance to our diocese. In that manner, we fully support the Rental Housing Trust Fund.

The bill appropriates crucial funding (\$15 Million) to the rental housing trust fund. The Hawaii Catholic Conference has supported the Rental Housing Trust Fund from the very beginning. We strongly believe that the funding has consistently been used to produce much-needed housing. Recent statistics tell us that over four-thousand homes have been created utilizing this fund. That is a great accomplishment in this dire economy.

Another key component for the conference is that we appreciate the appropriation of funding to the department of health for substance abuse treatment and mental health support services. Mental health services face the double whammy of higher demand and fewer resources in our island state. The impact of the recession on mental health services is already being felt and we strongly support the establishment of funding to make a difference in the community.

We understand that many services are vying for funding at this critical time and we appreciate your ongoing support for the Rental Housing Trust Fund.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ajc@aloha.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2319 on 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2012 3:36:10 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2319

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alikea Campbell
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ajc@aloha.net
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments:
I support the passage of this important bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 28, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2319, S.D.1 – RELATING TO THE HOMELESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2012; 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to the Homeless Programs Office of the Department of Human Services for homeless prevention, rental assistance, and support services programs; to the Hawaii Housing and Finance Corporation for the rental housing trust fund; and to the Department of Health (DOH) for substance abuse treatment, mental health support services, and clean and sober housing services.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services greatly appreciates the intent of this bill as it is supportive of our objectives. We are, however, concerned about the cost implications generated by this proposal and the possible detriment to the Department's priorities as requested in the Executive Supplemental Budget submitted by Governor Abercrombie.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.