

WAIKIKI HEALTH CENTER

*Quality medical and social services,
regardless of ability to pay*

LATE**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 519, HD 1: RELATING TO HOUSING**

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, and Members,
Committee on Ways and Means

From: Marc Gannon, LSW, MBA;
Chief of Community Health Services

Hearing: March 22, 2013; 9:00 am; CR 211

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Waikiki Health Center supports HB 519 related to the Housing First Program. We have found that the Housing First Model effectively serves a select group of highly medically-vulnerable individuals, who would otherwise remain on the street and more likely engage in substance abuse and other dangerous behaviors. The Housing First model provides a non-judgmental approach to housing the chronically homeless by finding a secure living situation without forcing individuals into treatment or other housing stipulations. Through this model, treatment and social service assistance can be highly effective. We support funding of 1.5 million for the Housing First program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 519.