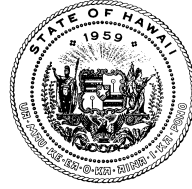


SB 2535

Measure Title:	RELATING TO HOUSING.
Report Title:	Homelessness; Housing; Homeless Assistance Working Group; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	<p>Part I: Appropriates funds to the department of health for substance abuse treatment, mental health support services, and clean and sober housing services. Part II: Appropriates funds for a rental assistance program, also known as a shallow subsidy program. Parts III and IV: Appropriates funds to the department of human services to continue to administer housing first programs for chronically homeless individuals and to reestablish the homeless prevention and rapid re-housing program. Part V: Appropriates matching funds for the federal continuum of care permanent supportive housing programs to provide rental assistance in connection with supportive services. Part VI: Appropriates funds for the homeless assistance working group. Part VII: Transfers the homeless assistance working group from the department of human services to the legislature. Requires the chairpersons of the senate and house of representatives committees on human services to convene the homeless assistance working group instead of the director of human services, or a designee.</p>
Companion:	<u>HB1934</u>
Package:	Housing and Homeless Legislative Package
Current Referral:	HMS/HTH, WAM
Introducer(s):	CHUN OAKLAND, Baker



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

**Senate Committees on Human Services and Health
S.B. 2535, Housing**

**Testimony of Gary L. Gill
Acting Director of Health**

January 28, 2014

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) appreciates the intent of this measure
2 provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities within our Executive Supplemental
3 Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** Section 2 appropriates \$300,000 for substance abuse treatment and mental health
5 support services and Section 3 appropriates \$200,000 for clean and sober housing support services to the
6 Department of Health.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** Sections 2 and 3 of the measure appropriate a total of \$500,000, to be
8 expended in Fiscal Year 2014-2015 by DOH for substance abuse treatment and mental health support
9 services and clean and sober housing support services.

10 Persons affected by substance use and mental health are at higher risk for homelessness, chronic
11 health conditions, involvement in the criminal justice system, social isolation and often become high
12 users of health care services. Programs that provide dual treatment focus both on the substance and on
13 mental health stabilization. Treatment episodes are generally longer in duration and more
14 comprehensive; typically, providing more positive client outcomes and a higher rate of long term
15 recovery. Long term recovery is also strongly tied to stable housing that is drug and alcohol free.

1 Stable housing is a critical component in the continuum of substance abuse treatment and
2 recovery. Approximately 17 percent of clients served by ADAD contracted providers did not have
3 stable housing at admission. At discharge and follow-up, unstable housing status was reduced to
4 14 percent and 7 percent, respectively.

5 As a member of the Governor’s Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness which is
6 comprised of community leaders, state department directors, and federal agency representatives, DOH is
7 involved with the development of a unified plan on addressing homelessness by increasing transitional
8 and permanent housing options and acquiring increased federal funding.

9 We are aware of the need for clean and sober housing support services for those who are
10 homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Within DOH, efforts to address homeless clients with mental
11 health, substance use and co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders are coordinated
12 between the Alcohol and Drug Abuse and Adult Mental Health Divisions to ensure that clients receive
13 appropriate care. It should be noted, however, that as needs are identified and priorities are assigned to
14 address the issue of homelessness, the proposed services in this measure must also be viewed within the
15 context of the Department’s Supplemental Budget Request.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Human Services; Senator Josh Green, Chair, Health; and members of the Committees on Human Services and Health

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

Hearing: **Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 1:15 pm; CR 106.**

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Green, and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of SB 2535, appropriating funding for a variety of critical programs targeted at addressing and ending homelessness.

I am Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison at Catholic Charities Hawaii. Catholic Charities Hawaii supports:

Part II: \$1,000,000 for the Shallow Rent Subsidy program to create another pathway out of homelessness for working homeless. Working families and individuals have income to pay rent but it is not sufficient to pay a full market rent. In transitional shelters, they have worked hard to change their lives, learn good budgeting skills, get a job and are ready to pay rent—but they still cannot afford market rents. For many homeless people, waiting for public housing seems to be the only option. A shallow rental subsidy of no more than \$300/month, after the family pays 40% of their income for rent, would enable these working people and their families to move into permanent housing.

Part III: a total of \$1,500,000 for ongoing funding for Housing First. Housing First is an evidence based initiative for moving chronically homeless people into permanent housing with wrap around services. **Housing First is cost-effective. The City of Seattle found that housing 95 homeless persons with alcoholism saved the city \$4 million in the first year of operation.** It cost \$13,440 per person (including housing costs) to administer their Housing First program, compared with a cost of \$86,062 per person annually before Housing First. Our homeless providers are collaborating with the state, counties, landlords, and other private entities, on Housing First. There is great energy to move forward and make a significant impact on ending homelessness.

Part V: \$500,000 for matching funds to HUD funded Continuum of Care permanent supportive housing programs. Statewide, these program bring in about \$8 million in federal monies to house homeless persons but they need to match these funds and provide the critical wrap-around services to stabilize them in affordable housing. The federal housing subsidies are the key to ending homelessness for these recipients, who pay 30% of their income on rent with this federal subsidy. The State can greatly leverage its funds with these federal funds to enable over 600 disabled homeless to be re-integrated into our communities and maintain housing.

We urge your support for these important pathways out of homelessness.



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Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting SB 2535 Relating to Housing
Senate Committee on Human Services and Committee on Health
Scheduled for Hearing Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 1:15 PM, Room 016

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) law firm created to advocate on behalf of low income individuals and families in Hawai'i on civil legal issues of statewide importance. Our core mission is to help our clients gain access to the resources, services, and fair treatment that they need to realize their opportunities for self-achievement and economic security.

Thank you for an opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Senate Bill 2535, which would fund critical programs to address homelessness, including Housing First, Continuum of Care permanent supportive housing, shallow subsidy rental assistance program, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and the homeless assistance working group. Hawai'i Appleseed supports all of these programs but would like to particularly emphasize the importance of funding Housing First and the shallow rental subsidy programs.

Housing First is an innovative and highly successful approach to housing the most challenging populations of individuals experiencing homelessness. A person who has been chronically homeless needs, first and foremost, stable permanent housing. Once placed in housing, the individual can receive the services and supports necessary to address the underlying issues that lead to homelessness in the first place, such as mental illness or substance use disorders. Housing First has worked around the country, in both urban and rural areas, and kept the most vulnerable individuals housed and improved their quality of life. The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness has long endorsed it as a best practice. Research has also demonstrated the cost-efficacy of this approach: it often costs less to house a chronically homeless person and provide comprehensive supportive services than to leave them unsheltered, due to the high costs of emergency interventions such as ER visits or incarceration that leave individuals homeless.

The shallow subsidy program is targeted to help homeless households who are ready to rent to leave transitional housing and move into a permanent, market rate unit. Many families in transitional housing are ready to rent, but even if they are working full time, their income may be too low to afford market rents. This is no surprise, given that Hawai'i has the highest cost of shelter in the country and a severe shortfall of affordable rentals. Almost three out of four extremely low-income households are paying more than half of their income on rent. For those living in poverty, the severe housing cost burden is even greater. The options for public housing or other subsidies are extremely limited and have long waitlists. As a result of this lack of affordable rentals, families who are ready to rebuild their lives in stable housing are instead stuck in transitional housing. With the shallow subsidy rental assistance program, a household would pay 40 percent of their income in rent and receive a maximum rental assistance payment of \$300 per month. This would help meet the gap for working homeless families who have income but cannot pay a full market rent.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2535 to fund these critical homeless intervention programs.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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TO: Sen. Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair, Committee on Human Services
Sen. Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Health & Vice Chair,
Committee on Human Services

Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, Committees on Human Services & Health

FROM: Scott Morishige, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: Senate Committees on Human Services & Health
Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 1:15 p.m. in Conf. Rm. 016

Testimony in Support of SB2535, Relating to Housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of SB2535, which appropriates funds for a range of critical programs aimed at addressing and ending homelessness in Hawaii. PHOCUSED is a statewide coalition of health, housing, and human services organizations committed to strengthening policies and programs that benefit the marginalized and underserved in Hawaii. In particular, PHOCUSED strongly supports the appropriation of funds to continue the State's existing Housing First and Shallow Subsidy rental assistance programs.

As a community, it is critical that we support a comprehensive array of programs and services that aid Hawaii's homeless individuals and families in their efforts to obtain and maintain permanent, stable housing.

The programs described in SB2535, such as Housing First not only assist in providing housing stability for homeless individuals and families, but also results in public cost savings by reducing public expenditures relating to hospitalization, emergency services, and incarceration of homeless individuals. Research has shown that the Housing First approach in particular has reduced public costs in other major metropolitan areas (i.e. Denver, Los Angeles, and Seattle) by as much as 75% for individuals, resulting in millions of dollars saved for those communities.

Once again, PHOCUSED strongly urges your support of this bill and your support of a comprehensive approach to addressing the critical issue of homelessness in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact PHOCUSED at 521-7462 or by e-mail at admin@phocused-hawaii.org.

Kaua`i Community Alliance

c/o Catholic Charities Hawai'i, 3016 'Umi Street, Suite 207, Lihu'e, HI 96766

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2535: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair; Senator Josh Green, Chair; Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair; and members of the Committees on Human Services and Health

FROM: Debra deLuis, Chair, Kaua'i alliance of Community Alliance

Hearing: Monday, January 27, 2014, 9:00 AM, Room 329

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Green, and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of SB 2535, appropriating funding for a variety of critical programs targeted at addressing and ending homelessness. I am Debra deLuis, and I am Chair for Kaua'i Community Alliance, a coalition of care providers focusing on the needs of homeless persons and strategies to end homelessness. Kaua'i Community Alliance supports:

Housing First Programs funding of \$1.5 million: Housing First is a best practice that places chronically homeless individuals in permanent housing with intensive support services. Individuals are stabilized as a result of permanent housing and comprehensive support services. As a result, costs such as hospitalization, emergency services, and incarceration are dramatically reduced. Communities around the country have seen large decreases in their chronically homeless population and costs associated with homelessness as a result of Housing First. Cities such as Denver, Los Angeles, and Seattle have reduced public costs by around 75% for each individual housed, resulting in millions of dollars saved. **The research indicates that Housing First ends chronic homelessness.**

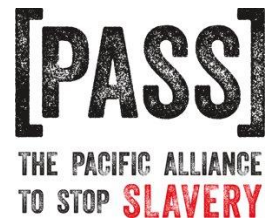
Permanent supportive housing funding of \$500,000 to provide matching funds for HUD-funded Continuum of Care programs: These programs draw down about \$8 million in federal housing subsidies for homeless individuals with disabilities. Currently, 600 homeless individuals with disabilities are able to maintain housing in our communities as a result of these programs. However, service providers must match these federal funds and provide the wraparound services needed to keep these individuals housed. By funding these programs, the state will be helping homeless individuals stabilize their lives and remain housed while also leveraging a large amount of federal funding.

Shallow Subsidy Program funding of \$1 million: Many homeless families work to attain self-sufficiency, but even once they find employment, they still struggle to find affordable housing. For many, public or deeply subsidized housing is all they can afford, yet the long wait for units or other subsidies means that these households languish in transitional housing. Under this program, families will pay 40% of their income toward rent, which will then be augmented by a maximum subsidy of \$300 to cover the gap between what they can pay and market rent. This program will provide another route to stable housing for families who are ready to rent. We also support the provision to use funds for DHS staff to administer the program.

Again, thank you for providing Kaua'i Community Alliance the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2535 providing funds for Housing First, Continuum of Care, and Shallow Subsidy programs.

**Kaua'i County Chapter, Bridging the Gap
The Neighbor Island Continuum of Care**

Kaua'i Community Alliance is a collaborative working together to end homelessness and create sustainable housing options on Kaua'i and in the State of Hawai'i.



January 24, 2014

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani
Senator Sam Slom
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland
Senator Sam Slom
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, January 28, 2014

TIME: 1:15pm

PLACE: Conference Room 016 State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2535
RELATING TO HOUSING

Aloha, Committee on Human Services and Committee on Health:

The Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery stands in strong support of this measure. Many of our survivors of human trafficking have at one point been houseless and all struggle to make ends meet in Hawaii, once they are rescued from trafficking. But this issue is certainly a priority for the entire community. Hawaii's cost of living makes it difficult for most of us to maintain a basic standard for living and we live paycheck to paycheck, many never being able to afford their own home.

According to the State Department of Human Services, between 2012 and 2013, the number of unsheltered houseless persons increased 4.6% on Oahu alone. The number of houseless families with children increased 5%. The time to act on this is now. We are able to reduce poverty and increase available affordable housing options for low-income families and those in danger of becoming houseless. If we start now, we will reap the benefits of a healthy community and therefore a healthy economy.

Please make this investment in the people of your community who need your help the most.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Xian
Executive Director

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Committee on Human Services
Senator Josh Green, Chair Committee on Health

FROM: Sheila Beckham
CEO, Waikiki Health

RE: SB2535 Relating to Housing

DATE: January 27, 2014

On behalf of Waikiki Health I would like to strongly urge your support of funding to continue administration of housing first programs targeting chronically homeless individuals. I additionally urge your continued support to reinstate homeless prevention and rapid re-housing programs.

Waikiki Health provided medical care, behavioral health and substance abuse treatment, housing and supportive enabling services to over 4000 individual homeless patients in 2012. Waikiki Health's Care-a-Van and Youth Outreach programs as well as the Next Step's emergency and transitional housing programs have provided shelter, job training, education, and referral to improve the quality of life among the populations we serve. However, limited funds for housing services impede our ability to effect the critically important services that are needed to enable the patients to experience long-term success.

We greatly appreciate your support and respectfully encourage your support of SB2535.

SB2535

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for HMS/HTH on Jan 28, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Wall	Community Alliance for Mental Health	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chairs Chun-Oakland, Green, and members of the committees, On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help we would like to strongly support SB2535. SB2535 is the critical core of addressing homelessness, substance abuse, mental health, and our states dramatic low cost housing shortage. We need this bill! Scott Wall VP/Legislative Advocate Community Alliance for Mental Health

SB2535

Submitted on: 1/24/2014

Testimony for HMS/HTH on Jan 28, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No