

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN  
DIRECTOR

BARBARA A. YAMASHITA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

January 28, 2014

**MEMORANDUM:**

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2535– RELATING TO HOUSING**

Hearing: Tuesday, January 28, 2014; 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 016; State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S. B. 2535 is to appropriate funds to the Department of Health for substance abuse treatment and mental health support services, and for clean and sober housing support services; appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services for various homeless and homeless prevention services and programs; and to transfer the homeless assistance working group from the Department of Human Services to the Legislature.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the Legislature's support of the Homeless Programs Office (HPO) and supports the intent of Parts II, III, IV, and V of this bill provided it does not adversely affect priorities set forth in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

Regarding Part III, Sections 6 and 7 of this bill, the Department asks that the Legislature support the Department's priorities as requested in the Executive

Supplemental Budget submitted by Governor Abercrombie which contains a request for \$1,500,000 for continuation of the Housing First Program. The second year of the State's Housing First program will be favorably impacted by the Department of Health's recent award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant for intensive support services for unsheltered homeless who have severe psychiatric disabilities and/or co-occurring substance abuse disorders. Legislative support of the Governor's budget request will allow the Housing First program to be operated for a third fiscal year with substantial opportunity for leveraging of funding with the DOH's program.

Regarding Part V, Section 11: HUD requires Continuum of Care permanent supportive housing programs to provide a 25% match (either cash or in-kind) against the total amount of their grant. State matching funds for these programs are utilized by the agencies to meet match requirements and to pay for part of what are essentially very substantial administrative demands. For example, every month providers must not only work with clients placed in housing and ensure support services are provided, but they must also pay landlords for every single person who is housed. Matching funds will assist each provider in achieving their matching requirements, thus enabling the State's two continuum of care providers to continue requesting HUD funds.

Regarding parts VI and VII, the Department notes that the Homeless Assistance Working Group (HAWG) as established in Act 222, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, was successful in engaging different factions of the community to address homelessness and its solutions. We would note that the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) is tasked with much of the same work as HAWG, and the HICH has embarked on an ambitious agenda to end homelessness. The HICH statewide plan as well as systemic changes to the provision of homeless services (aligned with national initiatives and evidence based practices such as Housing First) are being implemented. The

HAWG is duplicative of the intent of the HICH. The consolidation of the efforts of the HAWG into the HICH would be a more effective use of resources.

The Department defers to the Department of Health on the other sections of this bill.

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



LATE



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

**STANLEY CHANG**

*Councilmember - District IV*  
Phone: (808) 768-5004  
Fax: (808) 768-5000  
caldistrict4@honolulu.gov  
www.honolulu.gov/council/d4

January 27, 2014  
TESTIMONY OF STANLEY CHANG  
CONCILMEMBER FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
On  
S.B. No. 2535, RELATING TO HOUSING  
Committee on Human Services/Committee on Health  
Tuesday, January 28, 2013  
1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 016

Dear Chairs Chun Oakland and Green and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S.B. 2535 Relating to Voting in my capacity as Councilmember of the City and County of Honolulu.

S.B. 2535 appropriates funds to the Department of Health for substance abuse treatment, mental health support services, and clean and sober housing services (Part I), appropriates funds for a rental assistance program, also known as a shallow subsidy program (Part II), 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 (Parts III and IV), appropriates matching funds for the federal continuum of care permanent supportive housing programs to provide rental assistance in connection with supportive services (Part V), appropriates funds for the Homeless Assistance Working Group (Part VI), transfers the homeless assistance working group from the Department of Human Services to the legislature (Part VII), and 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.

Hawaii faces an ever increasing homeless population. Funding these programs would help homeless individuals by addressing their many needs ranging from to mental health to housing.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for your favorable passage of S.B. 2535 Relating to Housing and thank the Committee for allowing me to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stanley Chang".

**LATE**



**CITY COUNCIL**

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

**STANLEY CHANG**

*Councilmember - District IV*

Phone: (808) 768-5004

Fax: (808) 768-5000

[ccldistrict4@honolulu.gov](mailto:ccldistrict4@honolulu.gov)

[www.honolulu.gov/council/d4](http://www.honolulu.gov/council/d4)

Stanley Chang  
Councilmember, District IV





LATE

## PARTNERS IN CARE Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

---

### 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:** Peter K. Mattoon, Advocacy Committee Co-Chair, Partners In Care  
**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 Peter K. Mattoon, and I am an Advocacy Committee Co-Chair for Partners In Care (PIC), a coalition of care providers focusing on the needs of homeless persons and strategies to end homelessness. Partners In Care 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 is the way to end chronic homelessness.** For example, Utah has seen the rate of chronic homelessness reduced by 74% since 2007 since the program was implemented and is actually closing shelters. Programs consistently report high success rates of keeping residents in permanent housing.

**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 Partners In Care the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2535 providing funds for Housing First, Continuum of Care, and Shallow Subsidy programs.

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



**HPCA**

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

**LATE**

**Senate Committee on Human Services**

The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

The Hon. Josh Green, Vice Chair

**Senate Committee on Health**

The Hon. Josh Green, Chair

The Hon. Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

**Testimony on Senate Bill 2535**

**Relating to Housing**

**Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer**

**01/28/2014, 1:15 P.M., Room 016**

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports Senate Bill 2535.

Housing is health. Hawaii's community health centers provided health care and other services to 12,459 unique patients experiencing homelessness in 2012. Housing, the lack of affordable housing, and homelessness are all social determinants of health: they are circumstances that influence the health of individuals and the health of communities, more so than an individual's genetic code.

Senate Bill 2535 provides a comprehensive approach to assisting individuals and families experiencing homelessness through a variety of services including medical assistance, shallow-subsidy rental assistance, investment in the Housing First model for chronically homeless individuals, funding to prevent homelessness and provide rapid re-housing, funding for the continuum of care permanent supportive housing programs, and funding for the construction and demonstration of innovative temporary housing solutions as they relate to the working group's findings and recommendations. In addition this measure makes changes to the current homeless assistance working group of which the HPCA has been a participant. Although helping individuals and families out of homelessness and into permanent, stable housing takes a combination of efforts around housing, health care, employment opportunities, child care, and other issues, Senate Bill 2535 provides an array of housing options and investment in substance abuse and mental health needs that is a good start to helping some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

For these reasons, the HPCA supports this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**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
sherrian witt	Witt Counseling Service	Support	No

Comments: I support this measure, as adequate housing and support is needed for the Homeless, mentally ill, socio-economically disadvantaged. Our Veterans are too often apart of the population of the Homeless. Hawaii has higher than average rents for the United States and lacks affordable housing. Please make funds available for this/In todays world many families are living on the street due to loss of jobs and/or losing their homes in the mortgage debacle. According to statistics 1 in 5 Americans suffer from Mental Illness. This equates to a very large part of our population being in need. Sherrian Witt, M.A., L.M.H.C. Witt Counseling Service. Hilo, Hawaii 808-928=8138



**LATE**

**SB2535**

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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

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

Comments: to: Senate House and Human Services Committee Aloha Sen.'s Chun-Oakland, Green, and the members of their committees, On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help give our strongest support for SB2535. The omnibus bill is fundamental to helping in our states drive to help the homeless, develop new low income housing units, and develop working class housing. Scott Wall VP/Legislative Advocate Community Alliance for Mental Health

LATE

**SB2535**

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Skye Moore	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support 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.