

# HB 1773 HD 1

Measure Title:	RELATING TO HOUSING.
Report Title:	Housing; Homeless; Shallow Rent Subsidy Program; Housing First; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Appropriates funds for the Shallow Rent Subsidy Program for homeless working individuals or families who are ready to rent permanent housing to obtain and maintain permanent housing. Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to continue to administer Housing First Programs for chronically homeless individuals. (HB1773 HD1)
Companion:	<a href="#"><u>SB2733</u></a>
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HOU/HMS, WAM
Introducer(s):	MORIKAWA, CREAGAN, DECOITE, EVANS, JOHANSON, KAWAKAMI, KOBAYASHI, LOWEN, MIZUNO, NAKASHIMA, ONISHI, OSHIRO, SAIKI, TAKUMI, Hashem



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

March 17, 2016

TO: The Honorable Senator Breene Harimoto, Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing

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

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **HB 1773 HD1 – RELATING TO HOUSING.**

Hearing: Thursday, March 17, 2016, 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this measure to the extent that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities identified in the Executive Budget. The Coordinator notes that the shallow rent subsidy program described in the bill is similar to the Rapid Re-Housing program in the Governor's Executive Budget. The Coordinator asks for the Legislature's support of the Executive Budget request, which includes \$3 million for Housing First and \$2 million for Rapid Re-Housing.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services (DHS), including \$3 million for the continuation of the State's Housing First program and \$2 million for the establishment of a shallow rent subsidy program. These appropriations align with Goal 2, Objectives 4 and 5 of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness' Strategic Plan to End Homelessness, which are to "Create and preserve affordable housing for people at 50% and below of median income," and "Create and preserve permanent supportive housing options for people who are homeless and have special needs, e.g. mentally ill, medically frail, physically disabled, elderly, released offenders, and substance affected."

House Bill 1773 HD1 is the companion measure to SB2733 SD1, which was previously heard by your committees. The House Committees on Human Services and Housing amended this measure by deleting the appropriation amounts and defecting the effective date. Your committees amended the measure by "[c]larifying that the maximum rent supplement under the shallow rent subsidy program shall be \$500 per month per household[.]" Standing Committee Report No. 2316. However, Senate committee on Ways and Means did not set SB2733 SD1 for hearing and the measure did not pass to the House.

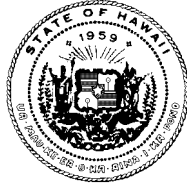
Housing First is an essential tool to address the needs of chronically homeless households and connect them quickly to permanent supportive housing. The State's Housing First program has permanently housed 108 chronically homeless persons since July 2014, including many individuals with serious and persistent mental illness and chronic health conditions.

The State's Housing First program has not only provided housing for these individuals, but has also stabilized their health conditions and reduced healthcare costs. A preliminary analysis by the University of Hawaii Center on the Family of a subset of State Housing First clients found that estimated healthcare costs for clients dropped an average of 43% in the six months following housing placement – from an average of \$10,570 per client per month to \$5,980 per client per month. While the program is currently limited to Oahu, there is a need for Housing First statewide. This measure would enable statewide expansion of the program.

In regard to the appropriation for shallow rent subsidy, the Coordinator defers to DHS as to specific issues related to implementation of the program, including cost implications. The Coordinator notes that the proposed Rapid Re-Housing program in the Governor's Executive Budget would target a similar target population as the shallow rent subsidy program, and would be targeted to sheltered homeless individuals and families in order to increase efficiency and maximize utilization of the State's shelter inventory.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



RACHAEL WONG, DrPH  
DIRECTOR

PANKAJ BHANOT  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

March 17, 2016

TO: The Honorable Senator Breene Harimoto, Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing

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

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1773 HD1 – RELATING TO HOUSING**

Hearing: Thursday, March 17, 2016; 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this proposed bill, especially as it relates to funding for the continued operation of the State's Housing First Program which currently provides housing subsidies and serves 106 chronically homeless individuals and families. We note, however, that the Governor's Executive Budget includes a request of \$3 million for the Housing First program and are concerned about the potential that this proposal may have an adverse impact on the priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

DHS supports the intent of Section 4 regarding a shallow rent subsidy program provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget, and offers comments.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds to DHS for the for the Shallow Rent Subsidy Program for homeless working individuals or families who are ready to rent permanent housing to obtain and maintain permanent housing, and appropriates funds to continue to administer Housing First (HF) Programs for chronically homeless individuals.

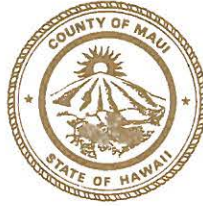
The State's Housing First program continues to serve 106 persons (70 individuals and 10 families). These individuals and families were all referred to the HF program via Hale O Malama, or the Coordinated Entry System (CES). This means that the VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization and Decision Assistance Tool), our community's agreed upon screening instrument, was administered, and based upon the client's needs, the client was deemed eligible for the highest level of service we have available, which is Housing First. The commitment of DHS to Hale O Malama is clearly demonstrated as DHS understands the need for improved coordination of services and allocating appropriate resources to meet client needs.

As many as 20 of the Housing First clients being provided housing subsidies are receiving intensive Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) level of care through the Hawaii Pathways Program (HPP). HPP is the implementation of the Pathways Model of Housing First that is funded by a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) through the Department of Health. The State's HF program was designed to achieve fidelity with the HPP to the extent possible to build capacity to provide the supportive services necessary to maintain this high-need population in stable housing.

Regarding Section 4 that appropriates funds to DHS for a shallow rent subsidy program, the Department notes that in discussion with the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA), HPHA currently operates a state-wide rental subsidy program funded at approximately \$1 million. The HPHA program is currently operated with 1.25 FTE, however at one time the program was staffed at 5.0 FTE. The DHS is not certain whether the proposed rent subsidy program is intended to supplement the HPHA program or to supplant it. We would need to exercise caution about transferring the existing program staffed by civil servants and offering it via a contract in accordance with Chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes. There are a number of measures this session that propose a similar rent subsidy program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

ALAN M. ARAKAWA  
MAYOR



KEITH A. REGAN  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Ke'ena O Ka Meia  
COUNTY OF MAUI – Kalana O Maui

### TESTIMONY OF ALAN ARAKAWA, MAYOR COUNTY OF MAUI

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

and

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Thursday, March 17, 2016  
1:30 p.m. - Conference Room 016

#### HB 1773, HD1, RELATING TO HOUSING

Honorable Sen. Breene Harimoto, Chair  
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Housing

Honorable Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

-----  
Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT of HB 1773, HD1.**

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the department of human services to support the: (1) Housing first programs; and, (2) Shallow rent subsidy program.

I support this bill for the following reasons:

1. The State of Hawaii has a homeless crisis. With an estimated 7,620 people living on the streets, parks, beaches and in shelters, Hawaii has the unenviable distinction of having the highest per capita rate of homelessness of any state in the country, as well as the highest rate of chronic unsheltered homeless per capita of any state.

#### 2. HOUSING FIRST PROGRAMS

- a. While housing first programs have been funded on a year-to-year basis by the legislature, most of the funding has been used for the island of Oahu. The neighbor islands, including Maui County, is in dire need more intensive housing first services.

- b. Housing first programs help the chronically homeless, including individuals with an addiction or mental illness, or both, by providing housing and support services which enable the homeless to transition to permanent housing.
- c. Housing first programs are cost-effective as providing housing and services under this program is less costly than incurring costs for emergency, healthcare, and other services.

### **3. SHALLOW RENT SUBSIDY PROGRAM**

- a. Many families in Hawaii are homeless simply due to the lack of affordable housing. These individuals are employed and have an income but simply cannot leave the shelters due to the fact that the cost of housing is more than their income.
- b. The shallow rent subsidy program provides such individuals with a small rental subsidy that allows working individuals and families to transition from shelters to permanent housing.
- c. This program has a trickle-down effect as it frees up existing shelter space for individuals and families currently living on the street.

For these reasons I **strongly support HB 1773, HD1.**



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

**Board of Directors**

*Susan Chandler, Chair*  
*Joanne Lundstrom, Vice Chair*  
*Katherine Keir, Vice Chair*  
*Jeeyun Lee, Treasurer*  
*Marya Grambs, Secretary*  
*Howard Garval, Immediate Past-Chair*  
*Jerry Rauckhorst*  
*Ryan Kusumoto*  
*Victor Geminiani*  
*John McComas*  
*Darcie Scharfenstein*  
*Alan Shinn*  
*Michelle Gray*

TO: Senator Breene Harimoto, Chair of Senate Housing  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice-Chair of Senate Housing  
Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair of Senate Human Services  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair of Senate Human Services  
Members, Senate Committees on Housing and Human Services

FROM: Scott Fuji, Executive Director PHOCUSED

HEARING: **Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 1:30pm in Conf. Rm. 016**

**Testimony in Support of HB 1773 HD1 RELATING TO HOUSING**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of HB 1773 which appropriates funds for the shallow rent subsidy program for homeless working individuals or families who are ready to rent permanent housing in order to obtain and maintain permanent housing. HB 1773 HD1 also appropriates funds to the department of human services to continue to administer housing first programs for chronically homeless individuals. PHOCUSED strongly favors the original appropriation language of HB1773 which allocates \$3million dollars to the State's Housing First program and \$2 million dollars to the Shallow Rent Subsidy program.

Since March 2014, PHOCUSED has worked together with 30+ homeless service providers throughout Oahu for better coordination of housing placements for the homeless. Based on this experience, we have a deeper understanding of the many challenges facing homeless households who are trying to transition off of the streets and into a stable residence.

Hawaii's homeless situation has reached crisis proportions as we are currently ranked as having the #1 rate of homelessness per capita and as such requires a multi-faceted approach to housing Hawaii's individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The funding allocations of \$3 million dollars to the State's Housing First program and \$2 million dollars to the Shallow Rent Subsidy program within HB1773 do exactly that; provide for both individuals and families according to the needs. Data gathered by Oahu providers shows that there are over 1,000 households currently that could benefit from programs such as the State's Housing First Program and nearly 500 families struggling to find affordable housing. Increasing the State's Housing First program and providing funds for Shallow Rent subsidies would immediately and directly move these households into permanent housing with the appropriate wrap around services they need.

The State's current Housing First program on Oahu has shown tremendous success in housing some of Oahu's hardest to house, highest utilizers of public services, and long-term homeless individuals and families. Through a combination of on-going rental subsidies and wrap-around support services and case management, the State's program have permanently housed over 80 households, including families, with a 97% retention rate. Not only does this program effectively work to place and keep chronically homeless households in permanent housing but it has been shown to





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

**Board of Directors**

*Susan Chandler, Chair*  
*Joanne Lundstrom, Vice Chair*  
*Katherine Keir, Vice Chair*  
*Jeeyun Lee, Treasurer*  
*Marya Grambs, Secretary*  
*Howard Garval, Immediate Past-Chair*  
*Jerry Rauckhorst*  
*Ryan Kusumoto*  
*Victor Geminiani*  
*John McComas*  
*Darcie Scharfenstein*  
*Alan Shinn*  
*Michelle Gray*

effectively and efficiently reduce public costs through accumulated healthcare savings. A preliminary report on the State's Housing First program shows an estimated savings of \$2,370 per month in reduced healthcare expenditures. Reducing a household's ER utilization by just one visit a month results in savings that equal to the average monthly rent to permanently house them.

We also recognize that there are many families in Hawaii struggling with homelessness for the simple lack of affordable housing. Despite having regular income from employment hundreds of Hawaii's families are unable to leave shelters because the price of housing simply exceeds their current income. The shallow rent subsidy program would provide a small rental subsidy allowing working families to exit shelters and enter permanent housing immediately. This frees up existing shelter space for families currently on the street preventing the need for expanding shelter services and focusing on the true means of ending homelessness; moving families into permanent housing.

Once again, PHOCUSED strongly urges your support of this bill. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact PHOCUSED at 521-7462 or by e-mail at [admin@phocused-hawaii.org](mailto:admin@phocused-hawaii.org).



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1733 HD1: RELATING TO HOUSING  
WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

**TO:** Senator Breene Harimoto, Chair, Committee on Housing  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Committee on Human Services  
Members of the Committees on Housing and Human Services

**FROM:** Jan Harada, CEO, Helping Hands Hawaii

**Hearing:** **Thursday, March 17, 2016, 1:30pm; CR 016.**

Chair Harimoto, Chair Chun Oakland, and Housing and Human Services Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of HB1733 HD1, which proposes to provide continued funding to the Department of Human Services for two critical programs addressing the needs of those who are homeless – (1) the Housing First program for chronically homeless individuals and (2) the Shallow Rent Subsidy program.

Helping Hands Hawaii has been involved in working with homeless individuals and families for many years through our health and human service programs and community supports. Our services for homeless have included access to needed public benefits (primarily SNAP), case management, day treatment/intensive outpatient, representative payee services for adults with serious and persistent mental illness (many of whom also struggle with substance use disorders), emergency financial assistance and financial literacy/education.

Housing First is a proven strategy to address the needs of those who have been struggling with homelessness over many years. While perceived as expensive in its implementation, the Housing First model currently being utilized by the State and its contract partners and network of community providers, is helping to reduce other costs associated with homelessness including but not limited to, emergency room visits, hospital admissions, and interactions with law enforcement and in fact is saving the State money. *A preliminary Hawaii study of healthcare savings found that after deducting the cost of rental subsidies (\$1,100/mo) and supportive services (\$1,120/mo), the net savings was estimated at \$2,370 per client/month. Total savings per year for each stably housed client would be about \$28,440 per client.* In addition, \$3 million will allow the Department of Human Services to expand the Housing First Program to the Counties of Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai who are also struggling with homelessness in their communities. Lastly, we respectfully encourage you to add this to the base budget of the Department of Human Services to create greater stability for those who continue to need support from the Housing First program. When you have been on the streets for many years, as most of whom are in the Housing First program have been, recovery and stabilization will take more than 1 or 2 years.

Shallow rent subsidy programs are a proven, cost-effective tool in combating homelessness. A relatively small appropriation can help a relatively large number of households out of

homelessness. Shallow Rent Subsidies are designed to be short term. Coupled with appropriate case management services, Shallow Rent Subsidies can take a struggling family out of homelessness and set them on the path toward self-sufficiency. Many studies indicate that participants often only required 6 months of subsidies before they were living in permanent, affordable housing. When administering the Shallow rent subsidy program, additional consideration should be paid to: (1) eligibility criteria for participating in the program – including guidelines on access and prioritization (with there being more households eligible for the subsidy than funds available, attention needs to be paid to not only who qualifies, but the method/mechanisms for access as well as how to prioritize when there are not enough subsidies to help everyone who needs it), (2) clear guidelines on co-existence of shallow rent subsidies with other housing assistance (including but not limited to Section 8, HUD-VASH, public housing, Shelter+Care), (3) development and implementation of a transition plan as a part of the individualized plan for post-subsidy living of the households who receive the short-term subsidy assistance so that they are prepared for life after the subsidy (sustainability/retention of housing is as important as moving into the housing, and (4) ensuring that the Department of Human Services has or will be allocated/funded for, sufficient staffing and infrastructure to manage these additional funds.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1773, HD1: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: Senator Breene Harimoto, Chair, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair; and Members, Committees on Housing and Human Services  
FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
Hearing: **Thursday, 3/17/16; 1:30 PM; CR 016**

Chair Harimoto, Chair Chun Oakland, and Members, Committees on Housing and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of HB 1773 HD1, making appropriations for a shallow rent subsidy program and to continue housing first programs. I am Betty Lou Larson, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care. Catholic Charities Hawai'i has prioritized these two programs among our top priorities for 2016.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 60 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, developmentally disabled, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Catholic Charities Hawai'i has a long history of working in the areas of affordable housing and homelessness.

The causes of homelessness are diverse and a comprehensive plan such as provided in this bill is essential. Different solutions must be implemented using interventions targeted to the particular characteristics of the population being served. Two programs critically necessary to address homelessness in Hawaii are the housing first and rapid rehousing/shallow rent subsidy programs.

We support **\$3 million** to continue the Housing First program which houses chronically homeless individuals and families, and to expand it to the Neighbor Islands. We respectfully urge that this funding be added to the **base budget of DHS**. Because funding is not in the base budget, the sustainability of housing for individuals in the current program (80 households as of 1/11/16) is at risk. **Housing First saves the state money:** *The Pathways preliminary study of healthcare savings found that after deducting the cost of rental subsidies (\$1,100/mo) and supportive services (\$1,120/mo), the net savings was estimated at \$2,370 per client/month. Total savings per year for each stably housed Housing First client would be about \$28,440 per client.*

We support **\$2 million** for a rapid rehousing program. Providing shallow rent subsidies can quickly enable working families to obtain a permanent rental unit. Families are often stuck in transitional or emergency housing since their work income is not enough for a market unit. By providing a small rental subsidy, these working people will become permanently housed, opening up space in shelters for more families. This not only addresses family homelessness, it better utilizes shelter space and may reduce the need to build and staff more family shelters.

Thank you for addressing these multiple paths out of homelessness. Please contact me at (808) 373-0356 or [bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org) if you have any questions.



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HOU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [leilani.maxera@gmail.com](mailto:leilani.maxera@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1773 on Mar 17, 2016 13:30PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2016 10:55:48 AM

---

**HB1773**

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for HOU/HMS on Mar 17, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leilani Maxera	The CHOW Project	Support	No

Comments: The Shallow Rent Subsidy program proposed by HB 1773 is intended to help working households who do not need a deep subsidy to secure or maintain housing, but without some financial assistance (capped at \$500 per month) will become or remain homeless. Among homeless families, 50% of them are homeless because they were short money to pay rent and had no other underlying issues. Since the subsidy is shallow, a relatively small appropriation can help a relatively large number of households out of homelessness. Shallow Rent Subsidies are designed to be short term. Many studies indicate that participants often only required 6 months of subsidies before they were living in permanent, affordable housing. Shallow subsidies are a relatively low-cost, short-term intervention that can be a permanent solution to homelessness for many Hawai'i families—Hawai'i needs such a program. Thank you very much for hearing and considering this important bill to help end homelessness.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



# PARTNERS IN CARE

## Oahu Continuum of Care

*Partners in Care is a coalition of Oahu's homeless service providers, government representatives and community stakeholders working together in partnership to end homelessness.*

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1773, HD1: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: Senator Breene Harimoto, Chair of Housing  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice-Chair of Housing  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair of Human Services  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair of Human Services

FROM: Greg Payton, Advocacy Committee Chair, Partners in Care

**HEARING: Thursday, 03/17/16; 1:30 pm; Conference Room 016**

Chairs Harimoto and Chun Oakland, Vice Chairs Galuteria and Riviere, and Members of the Committees on Housing and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of HB 1773 HD1**, which appropriates funds to the department of human services for the rapid rehousing (shallow rent subsidy program) of homeless working individuals or families who are ready to rent permanent housing. It also appropriates funds to continue the housing first programs for chronically homeless individuals.

Hawaii's homeless situation has reached crisis proportions. We are currently ranked as having the #1 rate of homelessness per capita in the nation. This crisis requires a multi-faceted approach to housing Hawaii's individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The funding allocations in HB1773 of \$3 million to the State's Housing First program and \$2 million to a Shallow Rent Subsidy program do exactly that; provide for both individuals and families according to their needs.

The State's current Housing First program on Oahu has shown tremendous success in housing some of Oahu's hardest to house, highest utilizers of public services, and long-term homeless individuals and families. Through a combination of on-going rental subsidies and wrap-around support services and case management, the State's program have permanently housed over 80 households, including families, with a 97% retention rate. Not only is this program effective to keep chronically homeless households in permanent housing but it efficiently reduces public costs through accumulated healthcare savings. A preliminary report on the State's Housing First program shows an estimated savings of \$2,370 per month in reduced healthcare expenditures. Reducing a household's ER utilization by just one visit a month results in savings that equal to the average monthly rent to permanently house them. Data gathered by Oahu providers shows that there are over 1,000 households that would benefit from the State's Housing First program, demonstrating a clear and immediate need for these additional funds.

We also recognize that there are many families in Hawaii struggling with homelessness for the simple lack of affordable housing. Despite having regular income from employment, hundreds of Hawaii's families are unable to leave shelters because the price of housing simply exceeds their current income. The shallow rent subsidy program would provide a small rental subsidy allowing working families to exit shelters and enter permanent housing immediately. This frees up existing shelter space for families currently on the street preventing the need for expanding shelter services and focusing on the true means of ending homelessness; moving families into permanent housing. Oahu data shows there are nearly 500 families that could potentially benefit from a Shallow Rent Subsidy program.

**PARTNERS IN CARE, c/o Aloha United Way**  
**200 North Vineyard • Suite 700 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 • [www.PartnersinCareOahu.org](http://www.PartnersinCareOahu.org)**

Date: 02-12-2015

Once again, we strongly urge your support of HB 1773 to work towards our goal of ending homelessness in Hawaii. Please contact me at (808) 529-4554 or [gpayton@mhkhawaii.org](mailto:gpayton@mhkhawaii.org), if you have any questions.



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
[www.lwv-hawaii.com](http://www.lwv-hawaii.com) | 808.531.7448 | [voters@lwv-hawaii.com](mailto:voters@lwv-hawaii.com)

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Thursday, March 17, 2016, 1:30 P.M., Conference Room 016

HB 1773 HD1 RELATING TO HOUSING  
HB 2244, HD1 RELATING TO HOUSING

TESTIMONY

Ann Sack Shaver, Ph.D., President, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB1773 HD1 which appropriates funds for the Shallow Rent Subsidy Program and appropriates other funds to the Department of Human Services to continue to administer Housing First Programs.**

Research conducted in various locations for many years involving diverse population sub-groups have confirmed the cost-effectiveness of both Housing First programs and shallow rent subsidies. Thus, the League of Women Voters concurs with the Committee reports of the Finance, Housing and Human Services committees that Bill 1773 should be enacted. Passage would benefit both the recipients of the services and the State at large.

**Closely related to the intent and purpose of HB 1773 we also support HB 2244 which also makes funding for housing the homeless a reality.**

We urge you to pass both bills. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.





# HAWAII APPLESEED

## CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Supporting HB 1773 Relating to Housing  
Senate Committees on Housing and Human Services  
Scheduled for Hearing Thursday, March 17, 2016, 1:30 PM, Conference  
Room 016

---

*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice Hawai'i Appleseed is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.*

---

Dear Chair Harimoto, Vice Chair Galuteria, Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Riviere and Members of the Committees on Housing and Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1773, which makes appropriations for two housing programs that will combat chronic homelessness.

Hawaii has the highest homelessness rate in the nation, and the problem continues to worsen. We need to adopt proven, cost-effective solutions to address homelessness. We support the continuance of the Housing First program on Oahu and its expansion to neighbor islands. The program gets people off the streets immediately, moving them into a more stable environment where they can be rehabilitated and achieve self-sufficiency. Housing first has been proven nationally as the most effective model for combating chronic homelessness.

The Shallow Rent Subsidy program proposed by HB 1773 is intended to help working households who do not need a deep subsidy to secure or maintain housing, but without some financial assistance (capped at \$500 per month) will become or remain homeless. Among homeless families, 50% of them are homeless because they were short money to pay rent and had no other underlying issues. Since the subsidy is shallow, a relatively small appropriation can help a relatively large number of households out of homelessness. Shallow Rent Subsidies are designed to be short term. Many studies indicate that participants often only required 6 months of subsidies before they were living in permanent, affordable housing. Shallow subsidies are a relatively low-cost, short-term intervention that can be a permanent solution to homelessness for many Hawai'i families—Hawai'i needs such a program.

Thank you very much for hearing and considering this important bill to help end homelessness.



Hawaii  
**Children's Action Network**  
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

March 15, 2016

**Board of Directors**

**Officers**

David Randall  
*President*

David Okumura  
*Vice President*

Ben Ancheta  
*Vice President*

Deborah Zysman  
*Vice President and  
Executive Director*

Tracy Nakashima  
*Treasurer*

Dean Wong  
*Secretary*

Mark M. Murakami  
*Past President*

**Directors**

Cathy Ogawa  
Chris Jackson  
Darin Leong  
Jennifer Thompson  
Keith Vieira  
Kimi Takazawa  
Susan Smith  
Dr. Travis Hong  
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam  
Wendy Correa

**Address**

850 Richards Street  
Suite 201  
Honolulu, HI  
96813

P: (808) 531-5502

To: Senator Breene Harimoto, Chair  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director  
Hawaii Children's Action Network

**Re: HB 1773, HD1 Relating to Housing - Support**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016 – March 15, 2016, 1:30 PM**

---

**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), formerly Good Beginnings Alliance, we are writing in support of HB 1773, HD1 Relating to Housing.**

HCAN is committed to improving lives and being a strong voice advocating for Hawai'i's children. Last fall, HCAN convened input in person and online from more than 50 organizations and individuals that came forward to support or express interest for a number of issues affecting children and families in our state that resulted in the compilation of 2016 Hawai'i Children's Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaii-can.org/2016policyagenda>.

HCAN supports this initiative to provide:

- \$3 million to expand the State's Housing First Program; and
- \$ 2 million for temporary rental (Shallow Rent) subsidies for working families.

We need stable funding sources that address the chronic housing shortage and bridge the economic gap for families to afford safe and secure housing, especially those with young children. Without state investments, we could see our state continue to lead the nation in growing rates for homelessness and unsafe and unstable housing.

**Homeless Children:** Hawai'i has the highest homeless rate in the nation. It's estimated that one-third of the homeless in Hawai'i are children.

**Unstable Housing:** Many of our families may not be living on the street or the beach, yet they don't have permanent housing -- they stay with friends and family -- moving frequently.

**High cost of housing for families:** 60 percent of households with young children in Hawai'i pay more than 30% of their income for housing.

We need better solutions and outcomes for our most vulnerable populations. Let's help our state build a comprehensive affordable housing solution that helps families at every stage to secure stable housing options that help families and keiki in our state build a pathway toward greater economic stability and a healthier thriving community.

**For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee vote to pass this bill.**

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HOU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tabraham08@gmail.com](mailto:tabraham08@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1773 on Mar 17, 2016 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2016 12:43:36 PM

---

**HB1773**

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HOU/HMS on Mar 17, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HOU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [bourcier@hawaii.edu](mailto:bourcier@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1773 on Mar 17, 2016 13:30PM  
**Date:** Sunday, March 13, 2016 11:13:26 PM

---

**HB1773**

Submitted on: 3/13/2016

Testimony for HOU/HMS on Mar 17, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Camille Bourcier	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill. I believe that by supporting the Shallow Rent Subsidy Program, we will be able to move more homeless individuals and families off of the street and into permanent housing.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Name: Carlthan Ling, Medical Student at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine

3/15/2016

RE: HB1773 HD1 Relating to Housing

Position: **Support**

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair Human Services  
Representative Mark Hashem, Chair Housing  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair Human Services  
Representative Jo Jordan, Vice-Chair Housing  
Members, House Committees on Human Services and Housing

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong **support of HB 1773** to appropriate funds for the shallow rent subsidy program and the housing first programs for chronically homeless individuals in the State.

As a medical student at the John A. Burns School of medicine, we have the opportunity to choose a community health elective that focuses on an area that we would like to serve. I chose the Hawaii Homeless Outreach and Medical Education (HOME) Project, which provides free basic medical services to the homeless population at various homeless shelters. This organization is run by volunteer doctors, medical students, and other individuals who seek to provide accessible healthcare to the homeless population.

Prior to volunteering at HOME Project, I had not realized the vast amount of homeless families there are in Hawaii. This past year, I have volunteered at both the Paiolu Kaiulu homeless shelter in Waianae and the Institute for Human Services in downtown Honolulu. Many of these families and individuals come regularly for a range of medical services from receiving a flu shot to a referral to the emergency room. What really hurts to see is the fact that these families and individuals do not have access to primary care services and have to come to a free clinic. Many of these patients also come with medical conditions that have progressively gotten worse and would have been prevented had they been able to go to a primary care physician regularly, but because they do not even have a roof over their heads, it is extremely difficult for them to do this. This bill would provide the additional financial coverage that would allow these families and individuals to have housing, which would improve their ability to take care of their own health and well-being.

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider this important bill that would help reduce end homelessness.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HOU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [bmurph@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:bmurph@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1773 on Mar 17, 2016 13:30PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 15, 2016 1:15:44 PM

---

**HB1773**

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for HOU/HMS on Mar 17, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elizabeth Murph	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the Shallow Rent Subsidy program proposed by HB 1773. It is intended to help working households who, without some financial assistance (capped at \$500 per month), will become or remain homeless. Among homeless families, 50% of them are homeless because they were short money to pay rent and had no other underlying issues. Since the subsidy is shallow, a relatively small appropriation can help a relatively large number of households out of homelessness. Shallow Rent Subsidies are designed to be short term. Many studies indicate that participants often only required 6 months of subsidies before they were living in permanent, affordable housing. Shallow subsidies are a relatively low-cost, short-term intervention that can be a permanent solution to homelessness for many Hawaii families—Hawaii needs such a program. I humbly ask you to vote in support this bill. Thank you, Elizabeth Naholowaa Murph

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Senator Breene Harimoto, Chair  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair  
Committee on Housing

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Committee on Human Services

Michele Saruwatari  
(808) 398-7317

Thursday, March 17, 2016, 1:30 PM

Support for HB1773, HD1, Relating to Housing

My name is Michele Saruwatari and I am a student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine at University of Hawaii. I am writing in support of H.B. No. 1773, H.D. 1, Relating to Housing, which would appropriate funds to the department of human services to support the Housing First and Shallow Rent Subsidy programs.

Attending school in Kaka'ako has opened my eyes to the magnitude of the homeless population in Hawai'i. The persistence of the "tent city" despite repeated sweeps of the area demonstrates that a longer-term and more holistic approach is necessary to get people and keep people off the streets. While emergency shelters provide immediate options for food and shelter, they are not a viable permanent housing option for individuals and families. The Housing First Programs and Shallow Rent Subsidy Program bridge the gap between homelessness and stable, independent housing in ways that shelters and sweeps do not.

The Housing First Programs and Shallow Rent Subsidy Program address different subpopulations of homeless that align more closely with the diversity that I have witnessed in meeting some of the homeless people in Kaka'ako. Chronically homeless individuals require different case management and services than families or individuals who may be working but remain unable to maintain steady housing. I appreciate that H.B. 1773 recognizes this distinction and appropriates funding to two different programs with two separate strategies, but one common goal.

Both types of programs, housing first and housing subsidy, have been shown to effectively place homeless individuals in permanent housing in states other than Hawaii. Hawaii's initial Housing First contract in 2014-2015 was very successful and resulted in only 1 eviction. Expanding Housing First Programs and establishing Housing Subsidy programs is a vital first step toward putting our homeless neighbors into permanent housing. I urge the committee to pass HB1773, HD1. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Representative Breene Harimoto, Chair

Representative Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

Megan Sumida; (808) 386-2874; [sumidam@hawaii.edu](mailto:sumidam@hawaii.edu)

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Support of HB 1773, HD 1

My name is Megan Sumida and while my views do not represent those of the medical school, I am a current first-year medical student at John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii. I strongly support HB 1773, which would provide funds for the Shallow Rent Subsidy Program and the Housing First Programs for homeless individuals.

My time at JABSOM has exposed me to the homeless population in our community, through both school-affiliated activities and through proximity to homeless families living in Kaka'ako. These people are my friends and acquaintances and I've learned how difficult it is to attain permanent housing. Even if adults are employed, the strict rules of shelters, long waiting lists for income-based housing, and law enforcement on the streets compounded with the cost of living in Hawaii make it nearly impossible for families to obtain housing on their own.

Programs such as the Shallow Rent Subsidy Program and Housing First are necessary for homeless individuals to obtain housing. Beyond the obvious improvements to their own lives, there are the benefits to society as well. Permanent housing eliminates peripheral issues homeless individuals experience on a daily basis and provides this with stability. They are no longer concerned about how to stay dry in the rain, where to sleep, or how to avoid judgment or harm inflicted by those who walk by. This allows them to focus on other aspects of their lives and be more productive contributors as employees, students, and leaders in our society.

Funding toward assisting chronically homeless families and homeless individuals is necessary from both a moral and fiscal standpoint. It breaks my heart when hard-working homeless parents in the Kaka'ako community tell me stories of their futile efforts to find stable housing for their families. I strongly support HB 1773.

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Thursday, March 17, 2016  
1:30 pm  
Room 016

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1773**

Chair Oakland, Chair Harimoto, Vice Chair Riviere, Vice Chari Gluteria, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Aaron Suzuka and I am currently a medical student.

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1773 which would appropriate funds for the Shallow Rent Subsidy Program for homeless working individuals of families who are ready to rent permanent housing to obtain and maintain permanent housing, & appropriate funds to the department of Human Services to continue to administer Housing First programs for chronically homeless individuals. This measure would help to alleviate some of the barriers that homeless people face when trying to find permanent housing and get off the street.

As stated, I am a medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) and a student-volunteer with the HOME project. The opinions expressed in this testimony **DO NOT** reflect the opinions of JABSOM or HOME; they are a personal testimony of my personal experiences and feelings.

I have had privilege of talking to many of the homeless around my school, both in a casual setting and in providing medical care. A majority of those who are without a house have full time jobs but simply do not have enough money to pay for both food & shelter. Many of them are choosing food while forgoing shelter in hopes that someday, they will once again have enough money to provide housing for themselves and their families.

With the current cost for an apartment in Hawaii continually growing each year and the waitlist for affordable housing extending for 5-8 years in some cases, finding a permanent home for the current homeless population seems like an uphill, never-ending battle. With this bill, the Hawaii State government can give that extra financial boost for those who are simply trying to live in their on home state.

Also, a Housing First program helps centralize the formerly homeless population with follow-up social services to help further stabilize their financial & health care situation. As homeless are “swept” off the sidewalks and forced to move to other areas on the island, it is extremely difficult to provide continual social and medical support for a lot these people as they cannot be found. If the state is able to provide more housing for more people, it will be easier to help maintain social services and medical treatment, overall

helping to improve each person's life and reduce the financial drain on state and private funds which can be used to provide other services for the public good.

I urge you to pass HB 1773, and sincerely thank you for allowing me to provide my testimony.

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN  
SERVICES

**Testimony in Support of HB 1773**

Thursday, March 17, 2016

1:30pm

Room 016

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Harimoto, Vice Chair Galuteria, Chair Oakland,  
Vice Chair Riviere and the Members of the Committees:

My name is Nozomi Yamashita and I am currently a medical student. I am in strong support of HB 1773, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services to support the Housing First Programs and Shallow Rent Subsidy programs.

Since July 2015, I have had the privilege of being a mentor to some of the children and teenagers residing in various shelters on Oahu. My role includes promoting healthy living and positive self-esteem to the teens through an educational experience and field trips around the island. Depending on the shelter, many of these housing facilities have policies that prevent families from residing in them for an extended period of time. Therefore, there are many teens where their families move from shelter to shelter for months at a time. This system introduces instability to those teens' lives, which can have a negative impact on their health - both mentally and physically - especially during such formative years of their lives.

HB 1773 will help facilitate individuals and families to obtain and maintain permanent housing. I believe this bill will not only help the homelessness problem but it will also have a positive impact on these children's mental health. Moving from shelter to shelter can be discouraging and this system hinders them from making permanent and long lasting relationships and connections with other families and friends. I believe these social connections and assimilations are the foundation for their self-esteem.

Permanent housing will provide the opportunity for the families and their children to establish relationships and feel more integrated with their community. These teens make up the future generation; therefore, I believe that an investment to their current lifestyle is crucial. I urge the committee to pass HB 1773. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.