



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

February 2, 2016

TO: The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1774 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 2, 2016; 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) is supportive of this proposed bill as it provides resources for enhancement of outreach which is a key function in our coordinated homeless service system. We note, however, that the Governor's Executive Budget includes a request for \$3 million for additional homeless outreach services, and requests that the Legislature support the Governor's priority as identified in the Executive Budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate additional funds (\$1.7 million) to the DHS for outreach to homeless individuals and families, as well as \$300,000 to the Office of Youth Services (OYS) for outreach to unaccompanied youth.

Homeless outreach is currently funded by DHS at a statewide total of \$2,193,661. Eight provider agencies on every major island seek out homeless individuals and families living in unsheltered conditions or in places not meant for human habitation. Outreach workers interact with the homeless, administer the VI-SPDAT (a screening instrument that provides information about the individual or family's needs), and works hard to establish trust to move individuals and families toward permanent housing. It is the outreach workers who first hear the personal and individual histories of the homeless. These outreach workers become a lifeline for the unsheltered

because the outreach work involves consistent and assertive engagement toward the end goal of housing and services.

We defer to the OYS on the particular impact this proposal has on their services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
707 Richards Street, Suite 525
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 1, 2016

TO: The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Merton Chinen, Acting Executive Director

SUBJECT: HB 1774 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

OFFICE'S POSITION: The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports the measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget. Outreach to youth experiencing homelessness is an important foundational activity in building a trusting relationship that would lead to better outcomes. The outreach and relationship building are especially critical for hard to reach and resistant youth, many who suffered from trauma and/or other types of adverse childhood experiences.

OYS currently provides outreach and advocacy services for youth and families through purchase of service contracts statewide. Additional resources would bolster the continuum of care for this vulnerable population.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the measure is to appropriate additional funds to the Department of Human Services (DHS), including the OYS, to provide outreach services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

January 30, 2016

TO: The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

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

SUBJECT: HB 1774 - RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of the measure, as it proposes to provide funding to address key aspects of the State's work to end homelessness. However, the Coordinator's support of this measure is limited to the extent that passage of this bill does not replace or adversely impact priorities identified in the Executive Budget. The Coordinator defers to the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Office of Youth Services (OYS) in regards to specific issues related to implementation of homeless outreach. While the Coordinator establishes and coordinates State policy to address homelessness, the DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO) and OYS are responsible for the administration and implementation of homeless outreach services.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate additional funds to the DHS, including the OYS, to provide homeless outreach.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Hawaii has the highest rate of homelessness per capita among the 50 states. In addition, the number of unsheltered homeless individuals and families has increased dramatically. Statewide, the number of unsheltered homeless individuals increased 23% from 2014-2015, and the number of unsheltered family households increased 46% during the same period.

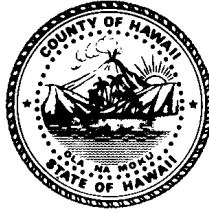
While the number of unsheltered homeless individuals and families has risen dramatically, the level of funding for homeless outreach has remained unchanged. As a result, homeless outreach services are limited, particularly on the neighbor islands. For example, on Kauai, homeless outreach is provided by one part-time worker who is expected to provide services to over-300 homeless individuals on that island.

Homeless outreach is essential to meet unsheltered homeless households where they are at and to build rapport with these individuals so that they can be connected to housing and supportive services, such as Housing First, Rapid Re-Housing, or shelter. The work of homeless outreach includes meeting homeless individuals on streets or sidewalks, or in remote rural areas that includes beaches and valleys. Homeless outreach providers assist homeless individuals to complete program applications, assist with the determination of program eligibility, assist with housing search, and work with the individual to obtain identification and other necessary documents. Without the assistance of homeless outreach, many homeless individuals are unable to access care and unable to navigate Hawaii's system of homeless services.

Further, when homeless individuals are removed from government properties or other restricted or unsafe areas, the role of homeless outreach is critical to ensure that homeless households have access to shelter, and are not simply moved from one unsafe living area to another. For example, in Kakaako Makai, the role of homeless outreach played a key role in assisting 215 of an estimated 293 homeless individuals to access shelter or permanent housing from August to December 2015. This number included 27 individuals who transitioned directly to permanent housing from the Kakaako sidewalks.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Karen Eoff
Council Member
Council District 8 - North Kona



Phone: (808) 323-4280
Fax: (808) 329-4786
Email: karen.eoff@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

January 29, 2016

House Committee on Human Services
Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
415 South Beretania Street
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Email: HUS testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Email: repmorikawa@capitol.hawaii.gov
Email: repkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Testimony In Support of HB1774; Relating to Homelessness
Hearing Date: February 2, 2016 at 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 329

Dear Committee on Human Services:

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8, North Kona, I hereby express support for the above referenced bill, with brief testimony as follows:

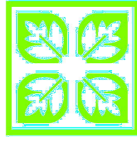
It is imperative that we appropriate additional funds for outreach to homeless individuals and families, as well as homeless unaccompanied youth. This outreach provides the necessary link to the most appropriate resources, with housing as the goal.

I strongly urge enactment of this bill.

Sincerely,

KAREN EOFF, Vice Chair,
Council District 8, North Kona

KE.wpb



TESTIMONY in SUPPORT of HB 1774: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair, and Members, Committee on Human Services

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

Hearing: Tuesday, 2/2/16; 9:00 am; CR 329

Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members, Committee on Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1774, which appropriates funds for homeless outreach, including for unaccompanied youth. I am Betty Lou Larson representing Catholic Charities Hawaii. We are also a member of Partners in Care.

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. A priority for advocacy this year is affordable housing and homelessness.

This bill addresses our growing unsheltered homeless population. Besides ranking # 1 among the US states for homelessness per capita, Hawaii also has the highest rate of unsheltered chronic homeless. More people are falling through the cracks in Hawaii. Outreach can provide the compassionate contacts and housing navigation to help people be linked to appropriate resources with housing as the goal. Outreach teams are stretched thin. Intensive and more strategic outreach is needed to address homeless encampments as well as those visible in neighborhoods or hidden in bushes, etc.

We must also help unaccompanied youth, especially those who are newly homeless. Currently, there are NO state funds for outreach to unaccompanied youth. Providers are trying to make do, taking staff from other projects. 30% of all juvenile arrests in Hawaii were for running away—averaging 4,493 per year! These youths are at high risk for exploitation. Many trade sex for the resources they need for survival—food, money or a safe place to sleep. We need funding to DHS/Office of Youth Services to address this growing tragedy. National statistics show a shocking severity:

- 33% of teens will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.
- The average age of entry into prostitution is 14.
- Homeless youth are 11 times more likely to experience mental health problems.
- Teens aged 12 to 17 are more likely to become homeless than adults.

Thank you very much for hearing and considering this important bill to help end homelessness. Please contact me at (808) 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.



HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Big Brothers Big Sisters of

Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Central Oahu Youth Services

Association

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Student Television

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

Maui Youth and Family Services

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together

(PACT)

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community

Center

The Catalyst Group

Uhane Pohaku Na Moku

O Hawai'i

Waikiki Health

January 27, 2016

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1774 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports HB 1774 Relating to Homelessness.

While we support the full bill, our testimony will focus on unaccompanied runaway and homeless youth.

Unaccompanied runaway and homeless youth are living on the streets without the support and guidance of their parents or other family members. They are the most invisible and most vulnerable segment of the homeless population.

Since 1981, Hawaii Youth Services Network has coordinated a statewide runaway and homeless youth collaboration. For the past 15 years, our partners have encountered 700 – 800 of these unaccompanied youth annually. Thirty percent (30%) of Hawaii's juvenile arrests are for running away from home, an average of more than 4,400 arrests each year.

What happens to youth who are living on the street? Many trade sex for the resources they need for survival – food, money, a safe place to sleep.

Homeless youth experience significant health challenges:

- Twice as likely to get sick, be hospitalized, and go hungry.
- 7 times as likely to die from AIDS; 16 times as likely to be diagnosed with HIV.
- 11 times as likely to experience mental health problems.
- 3 times as likely to experience major depression, conduct disorder, and PTSD.
- About 75% of homeless teens use drugs or alcohol as a means to self-medicate to deal with the traumatic experiences and abuse they face.

Safety is a constant concern:

- Trauma and rape rates among unaccompanied youth are 2-3 higher than those of the general youth population.
- A U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services study found that 46% of homeless youth left home because of physical abuse. 17% left because of sexual abuse.
- 5,000 street youth die every year because of assault, illness, or suicide.
- More likely to be the victim of a crime rather than the perpetrator.

Most unaccompanied youth practice unsafe sexual practices:

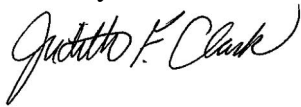
- 33% of teens will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.
- Average age of entry into prostitution is 14.
- 95% of homeless youth have engaged in sexual intercourse.
- Over 33% report exchanging in sex for food, shelter, or drugs.
- About 50% of street youth have had a pregnancy experience.

Street outreach is the first step in helping these youth leave the streets for safer and more appropriate living situations. Reuniting youth with their families, if it is safe for them, is the first choice, with placement in foster care or other out-of-home care if the family is not able to care for the youth. Workers build trusting relationships and convince youth to accept help to leave the streets, while helping them meet their immediate survival needs.

If we want Hawaii's youth to grow up safe, healthy and ready to succeed, we must reach out to our homeless adolescents and end youth homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



HAWAII

AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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Karin Gill, Secretary	Stanley Chang	Stephen O'Harrow	Marsha Schweitzer (Alt)	

Jan. 28, 2016

TO: Honorable Chair Morikawa and Members of the Human Services Committee

RE: HB1774 Relating to Homelessness
Support

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support SB2155 as it appropriates additional funds for outreach to homeless individuals and families, as well as homeless unaccompanied youth. As the bill itself states:

Hawaii has the highest per capita rate of homelessness of any state in the nation. Hawaii also has the highest rate of chronic unsheltered homeless per capita of any state. Currently, an estimated 7,620 people are living on the streets and in shelters in Hawaii. Addressing homelessness requires a multi-faceted approach using interventions targeted to the particular characteristics of the population being served.

We laud the effort proposed by the bill to reach out to serve the homeless population, particularly homeless youth. We cannot expect many who need mental health and basic food and shelter to step to get these services.

Thank you, Madame Chair for introducing this bill, and to you Committee members for giving it serious consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel
President



January 29, 2016

House's Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, February 2, 2016 – 9:00 a.m.

RE: **SUPPORT for House Bill 1774** – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Aloha Chairperson Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi and fellow committee members,

I am writing in SUPPORT to House Bill 1774 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. HB 1774 will appropriate funding for additional outreach to houseless individuals, families and unaccompanied minor youth. We will focus our testimony on Section 3, which deals with unaccompanied houseless youth.

We appreciate the focus on houseless unaccompanied minor youth, especially given that 40% of them identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning (LGBTQ). The Caucus's has a couple of concerns over HB 1774 in its current form they are as follows:

- 1) The Department of Human Services (DHS) prime directive when dealing with minors is reunification with their biological family members. While that may sound ideal on the surface the problems arise when the family members are the reason the unaccompanied youth has left the house due to abuse (physical or mental), sexual assault or being thrown out because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.
- 2) There is not one youth shelter or 24/7 drop-in center for unaccompanied houseless youth due to the fact the way our laws are written, it is illegal to operate one in the Aloha State. So once DHS has outreached to these unaccompanied houseless youth where are they to go? The foster care system is over taxed and has way too few if any depending on the island of LGBTQ accepting households.

It should be noted that on O'ahu there is only one program that supports unaccompanied houseless youth and that is Youth Outreach (YO!), a joint program through Waikiki Health Center and Hale Kipa. Their drop-in center is open only on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 3-6 pm due to budget constraints. Due to their work we know that on average there are on average 125 youth that sleep on the streets of Honolulu with no family or government support and that is a crime.

So we hope that you are able to address these concerns for our unaccompanied houseless keiki because by addressing the growing houseless youth population will help curb future adult houseless.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair

kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 12:30 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: leilani.maxera@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1774 on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM

HB1774

Submitted on: 1/29/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leilani Maxera	The CHOW Project	Support	No

Comments: I am writing in support of HB1774. As Program Manager for The CHOW Project (Community Health Outreach Work to Prevent HIV/AIDS), I supervise a team of outreach workers on four of the islands. This funding would greatly help our efforts. There are a growing number of houseless people on O’ahu, and we do not have enough people power to do the intensive outreach required to reach all of those whom we would like to serve. Hawai’i has the highest rate per capital among the US States of unsheltered chronically homeless persons. This funding is incredibly important to us, as it would allow us to more fully engage in this critically needed work.

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.

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MARTIN RABBETT

January 29, 2016

RE: HB 1774

My name is Martin Rabbett and I am a resident of Honolulu, and am a founding member of an organization named Friends of Youth Outreach Hawaii consisting of community volunteers. No one receives any remuneration for any services in our group. We are totally focused on aiding our unaccompanied homeless youth here on Oahu. Our focus is to find funding to create a safe place for these homeless kids to sleep at night. If we start with our keiki we may stem the tide of homelessness.

Growing up in Honolulu was an idyllic experience for me. There were no homeless people, and especially no homeless youth. Today, our state has the highest number of homeless people per capita in the nation. Twenty-one percent the Hawaii homeless are youths. I learned about Youth Outreach over a year ago. I visited the drop-in center in Waikiki and found the dilapidated facility sadly wanting. It is only open four days a week for three hours each day.

I began teaching a writing class to these youths in order to help them tell their stories and honor their experiences, which can assist in the healing process of difficult events. In one class I asked them to write a story describing what they would be if they were not human. An eight-year old girl wrote that she wished she could be food – so that she could feed her mommy. In another class I asked the kids to write a story about a time when they made a difference in someone else's life in a good or bad way, and how it changed the way they thought. A fourteen-year old girl wrote about her Thanksgiving Day last year. Her father was being surrounded by police officers with guns drawn near their tent in Kakaako. Her father was evading capture while the officers told him to stop or they would shoot. She pleaded with her dad to stop, and he did. And then one police officer pointed his loaded gun at her, an unarmed teenager. She felt elated that her dad was not shot, but terrified to have had a gun pointed at her by a member of Oahu's "finest." She knew she had saved her dad's life. Quite a Thanksgiving.

These youths are good kids. And they need better examples by which to learn from. Youth Outreach honors who they are, and aids them in becoming better members of our society with GED classes, medical attention, showers, hot meals, clean clothes, and adults who truly share aloha with them.

Friends of Youth Outreach have started an endowment fund at Hawaii Community Foundation for the purpose of amassing enough capital to create a facility where these kids can sleep safely at night, learn during the day, and grow in a positive atmosphere with positive role models. We have only just begun our efforts and need the support of our government to establish a safe place for our homeless keiki to sleep. Please support Youth Outreach and give them funding for their exceptional support of homeless youth.

kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 4:39 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: dcmiste@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1774 on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM

HB1774

Submitted on: 1/29/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dorothy Eichelberger	Friend of Youth Outreach	Support	No

Comments: I am in complete support of this bill which is desperately needed to assist our homeless unaccompanied youth who need a place to be that is viable and long term. This bill would help the Friends of the Youth Outreach achieve their goal of finding a permanent place for these kids to be and get them off the streets. We are trying to raise money towards this purpose and if this bill passes the money would go a long way to helping achieve our goal.

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.

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kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 10:56 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: mjgolo@email.phoenix.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1774 on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM

HB1774

Submitted on: 1/28/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments: Strongly support - but make sure the funds go to the youth and not just more studies by DHS. The people at Youth Outreach have all the data they need. They need the funds for a 24 hour outreach center - drop-in center 7 shelter.

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.

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FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES OF WEST HAWAII

Supporting families and communities in providing love and care for our children... since 1979

January 31, 2016

Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services

RE: HB 1774 – Relating To Homelessness
Hearing Date: February 2, 2016 – Conference Rm. 329

Dear Representative Morikawa;

Family Support Hawaii is in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1774 – Relating to Homelessness; particularly as it relates to “unaccompanied homeless youth”. We have been doing outreach to homeless youth in West Hawaii for many years through our collaboration with the Hawaii Youth Services Network. The Street Outreach Program funding from the Federal program was cut last year during a very crucial period in West Hawaii. With a small grant from Hawaii County, we have had a person on the street for a minimal amount of hours. In the last two months we have touched well-over twenty-five runaway and/or homeless youth on Ali’i Drive and the Old Airport area. We have seen an abundance of youth living among homeless adults, using drugs and often with health problems and no access to care.

Our organization is represented on many committees addressing homelessness but we are the only voice at the table serving this population because there is no funding. We need a drop-in shelter for daily support, we need funding to have outreach on the street for more than seven hours (what we currently provide) and we need emergency beds and transitional living homes.

We have been working with one 14-year old girl who has been running away from foster care and CPS for well-over a year. Her Mother came to Kona with her brother and sister to meet a man she met on Facebook. That fell apart and one night while mom was drunk, a concerned citizen called the police and CPS became involved. This young girl ran away from foster care within two weeks and found her mom on the street, strung out on Meth and Heroin, she began to traffic her 14-year old for money. This mother eventually left Kona with another man, she now has HIV and a serious drug addiction and she left her kids in Kona. This 14-year old is now 15, we see her regularly on the street and in the camps, we have fed her, bought her clothes and helped with her health needs. She is listed with CPS as a runaway but they can’t even keep up with her. We let them know when we see her and work with the Police in town to keep her as safe as we can until her case comes before the judge at Family Court. We just want to keep her alive and make sure she knows we care about her. She will often bring youth to our office that needs help. Please don’t forget the homeless and unaccompanied youth of our islands, they are out there and struggling.



FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES OF WEST HAWAII

Supporting families and communities in providing love and care for our children... since 1979

Thank you for supporting our efforts to address this issue and the opportunity to testify on this matter. We will be watching as this moves forward and would be happy to answer any questions you have relating to this issue. I have spoken to Senator Green and Representative Lowen and they are aware of the concerns in our community.

Sincerely,

Toni Symons

Toni Symons
Community Engagement Coordinator
Youth Programs Manager
Family Support Hawai'i

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1774: Homeless; Outreach; Youth (\$)

TO: Representative (Chair) Morikawa, Representative (Vice-Chair) Kobayashi, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Sheila Beckham, CEO, and Jason Espero, Director of Care-A-Van

Hearing: **Tuesday, February 2, 2016 (9am), House Conference Room 329**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 1774**, which appropriates additional funds for outreach to homeless individuals and families, as well as homeless unaccompanied youth.

Waikiki Health (WH) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization with a mission to provide quality medical and social services that are affordable and accessible for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. WH was established in 1967, and was recognized as a federally qualified health center in 1992.

WH's Youth Outreach (YO) program helps to meet the basic health and humanitarian needs of the homeless youth, age 24 and under. YO is the only resource on Oahu providing homeless youth with comprehensive services combined with non-judgmental, culturally-competent and caring support. YO provided 4,347 drop-in service encounters to 505 unduplicated youth; 2,222 street outreach encounters to 413 unduplicated youth; and 281 medical visits to 125 unduplicated youth. Currently, YO does not receive any State funding because there is no State funding available for youth outreach services.

WH's Care-A-Van (CAV) program provides a continuum of care to homeless families and individuals at its drop-in clinic, and through mobile medical outreach. CAV served 2,082 unduplicated individuals last fiscal year, and provided medical care to 542 unduplicated individuals, and behavioral health services to 456 unduplicated individuals experiencing mental illness and/or substance abuse.

Additional funding for outreach would allow service providers to hire more staff for purposes of coordinated outreach to homeless encampments. Coordinated outreach allows for a more robust approach to helping the homeless move into shelter, housing, and getting connected to critical resources in the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheila Beckham, RD, MPH

Jason Espero, MPA



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

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TO: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Scott Fuji, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: **Tuesday February 2nd, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Conf. Rm. 329**

Testimony in Support of HB1774. RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of HB1774 which appropriates additional funds for outreach to homeless individuals and families including homeless unaccompanied youth. PHOCUSED is a nonprofit membership and advocacy organization that works together with community stakeholder to impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our community, including homeless individuals and families.

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.

On Oahu outreach teams have been rapidly dispatched to "hot spot" encampment areas such as Kakaako, Kewalo Basin, Wahiawa, and others to ensure the accurate dissemination of information, offer services, and encourage the individuals and households there to work with them to permanently leave the streets.

This work has required additional coordination of outreach and would not have been readily available without a regular meeting of outreach providers to ensure that our limited resources were being placed in the most efficient means possible. However increased outreach in one area of the island often comes at a cost to another area. As outreach is the first step at engaging with and moving a household off the streets and into permanent housing it is a critical piece of our growing Coordinated Entry and Housing Placement system.

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.



Community Health Outreach Work

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 226

Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone (808) 853-3292 • Fax (808) 853-3274

TESTIMONY in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1774: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair and Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi Vice Chair;
Committee on Human services

FROM: Heather Lusk, Executive Director, CHOW Project

Hearing: Tuesday, February 2, 2016 9:00 AM Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

The CHOW Project is in strong support of HB 1774 which would appropriate 3 million for outreach to the homeless. As you know, Hawaii has the HIGHEST rate of homelessness among states in the U.S. and resources to connect the homeless to services through outreach are an essential component of our continuum of care.

The Community Health Outreach Work (CHOW) Project is dedicated to serving individuals, families, and communities adversely affected by drug use, through a participant-centered harm reduction approach. CHOW works to reduce drug related harms such as but not limited to HIV, hepatitis B/C and overdose. CHOW has successfully worked with Gregory House Programs over the years and is currently overseeing its Ryan White-funded activities. Our community is stronger because of programs like GHP and support for their case management activities will only make them more effective.

Throughout the past 20 years, the CHOW Project has used outreach to connect some of the most vulnerable in our community to services. While we hope that people will come to us for services, our data demonstrates that our approach to “meet people where they are” and take the services to the community has been immensely effective in linkage and access to care for those struggling with homelessness, addiction and mental and physical challenges. Please support this bill so that those who need help the most can be reached.

Sincerely,

Heather Lusk
Executive Director
CHOW Project



Date: January 29, 2016

From: George Massengale

To: House Committee on Human Services

Re: HB1774, Hearing February 2, 2016 at 9:00 a.m., Room 329

Testimony in Support

Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the Committee on Human Services. I am here today on behalf of all seven of Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Hawaii, to testify in support for HB1774.

Habitat for Humanity's vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has helped more than 6.8 million people worldwide, gain strength, stability and independence through housing. Decent, stable housing provides more than just a roof over someone's head, it provides stability for families and children.

It is no secret that Hawaii has the highest rate of homelessness per capita in the United States, and despite efforts by government agencies and social service providers the rate of homelessness continues to grow in Hawaii. What is even more alarming is incidence homelessness among our children and youth.

HB1774, if enacted will provide additional outreach funding for homeless families with children and runaway youth living on the streets.

Thank you Chair Morikawa, for the opportunity to testify here today.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Massengale".

George S. Massengale
Community Outreach Manager



TESTIMONY in SUPPORT of HB 1774: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair, and Members, Committee on Human Services

FROM: Brandee Menino, Chief Executive Officer
Hope Services Hawaii, Inc.

Hearing: Tuesday, 2/2/16; 9:00 am; CR 329

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members, Committee on Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of HB 1774 which appropriates funds for homeless outreach, including for unaccompanied youth.

My name is Brandee Menino, CEO of Hope Services Hawaii a non-profit organization based on Hawaii Island and lead provider agency addressing homelessness through a continuum of programs including Homeless Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing and Affordable Housing for low income families and individuals with over a 200 bed capacity at any given night at nine facilities. I am also a member of the Mayor's Taskforce to ending homelessness, and the current Chairperson for Community Alliance Partners - Hawaii County's Continuum of Care coalition and a member of Bridging The Gap (neighbor island Balance of State).

At 79%, Hawai'i County has the highest percentage of homeless clients that have utilized homeless outreach services in fiscal year 2014, higher than the combined State average and higher than the City and County of Honolulu at 46%. At 50%, Hawai'i County has the highest percentage in the State, of clients in family households utilizing homeless outreach programs, compared to the City and County of Honolulu at 28% and the combined State percentage of 28%.

Outreach is a critical piece to helping families and individuals access shelter and housing resources needed to move off the street and into new homes. To reach the growing number of unsheltered persons in the rural areas of Hawaii County, additional intensive outreach is needed, especially in coordination with County parks, neighborhood associations, Hawaii Police and Fire Department. More strategic, and coordinated outreach is needed to help people experiencing homelessness navigate community resources and be linked to appropriate housing.

Thank you very much for hearing and considering this important bill to help end homelessness. Please contact me at (808) 933-6013 or bmenino@hopeserviceshawaii.org if you have any questions. Mahalo for your time and look forward to your support.



uary95-954 Makakilo Dr. #71 Kapolei, HI 96707 Email: Rainbowfamily808@gmail.com Phone: 808-779-9078 Fax: 808672-6347

January 1, 2016

TO: HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

RE: HB1724 Transitional Housing

Appropriates moneys to establish and operate a comprehensive support service center for disadvantaged individuals and families seeking transitional support services.

Aloha Rep. Morikawa and members of the Human Services Committee,

Rainbow Family 808 wholeheartedly supports HB 1724 to appropriate funds for transitional housing for individuals and families.

We politely request that Homeless Youth be included in the individuals because they need transitional housing. Hawaii is one of the states that lacks housing support for Homeless Youth. We need to put our Kokua into practice for the benefit our keiki.

HB1724 is a Humanitarian Measure that needs to become law immediately to help bring justice and humanity back to our state.

i

Mahalo nui loa,¹

Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW

President

IF MORE PEOPLE BELIEVED IN JUSTICE, THE WORLD WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE!

Edward Thompson, III

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 4:59 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: chouser@waikikihealth.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1774 on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM
Attachments: testimony .docx

Categories: Red Category

HB1774

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carla Houser	Waikiki Health-Youth Outreach	Support	No

Comments:

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As a program manager for the Oahu's only drop in center for homeless, runaway and street identified youth, I can testify that our current outreach efforts provide a compassionate contact between traumatized kids and trusting adults. Our outreach teams are stretched thin but our staff continues to provide outreach and drop in services to over 400 youth each year. Currently, there are NO state or federal funds for outreach to unaccompanied youth.

These youths are at high risk for exploitation. Many trade sex for the resources they need for survival—food, money or a safe place to sleep. Our Youth Outreach Teen clinic sees many homeless youth who are at high risk for unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Pregnant and homeless teens lack financial resources, have almost no family support, and face overwhelming barriers to adequate health care. Unaccompanied youth living on the streets have different needs and issues than homeless adults and families. Working with street youth requires workers who understand adolescent development and the specific needs they have and the barriers they face. Many homeless youth have experienced considerable trauma in the forms of physical or sexual abuse. Many have been kicked out of the home for their sexual orientation. For most street youth, they believe it's safer to be on the streets than in their own homes. In turn homeless teens use drugs or alcohol as a means to self-medicate to deal with the traumatic experiences and abuse they face.

They also experience significant health challenges. They often go hungry. They get staph infections, scabies, lice, and food poisoning at higher rates than housed youth. Safety is also a constant concern. They suffer from depression, thoughts of suicide, addiction, PTSD and mental illness.

The street outreach is an essential part of what we do to mend the hurt many of these kids have already experienced at such a young age. The trust and rapport needed to make them feel whole again takes time. When we are able to make a connection with them on the streets, they are more likely to come into the drop in center to have a safe place and to utilize our medical services, drug treatment referrals, case management, and employment and education services. If it weren't for the current outreach efforts provided by our team, many of the street youth would not come in for services.

If we are going to empower these youth to find alternatives to homelessness, we must be able to reach them. We cannot continue to allow homeless children and unaccompanied youth become the next generation of homeless adults. Outreach is a critical piece to providing these youth hope for a better future.

Edward Thompson, III

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 1:44 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1774 on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM*

HB1774

Submitted on: 1/27/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments:

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Edward Thompson, III

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 7:52 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1774 on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM*

HB1774

Submitted on: 1/27/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 3:19 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: stacylenze@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1774 on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM

HB1774

Submitted on: 1/29/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawai'i has the second highest rate of homelessness per capita in the nation. A disproportionate number of these people are youths. Young people who are homeless experience higher rates of domestic and sexual violence, higher instances of arrest, and are significantly more likely to become chronically homeless adults than their peers. It is vital that we do everything in our power to protect those in our community that do not have the power to protect themselves. I strongly support HB 1774. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Edward Thompson, III

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 8:00 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: tsymons@fsswh.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1774 on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM
Attachments: Koa Quetivis Testimony.pdf

Categories: Red Category

HB1774

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Koa Quetivis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Sending on behalf of a youth in our program.

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February 1, 2016

Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair
Committee on Human Services
RE: HB 1774 - Relating to Homelessness

I left home shortly after turning 18, i no longer felt the need to put up with my alcoholic father and decided that I would be better off on my own.

At first it wasn't so great. I wandered the streets, sleeping on the beaches, eating next to nothing, just wondering what to do with my life. I was lost in my world, yet i felt free, and things got better all the time. I learned to care for myself, and weather i was deep in the jungle or bumming the beaches in town the island usually provided. when times got hard though i would often steal and break into businesses and such to sleep inside and take food. I was very careful, and thankfully was never caught.

Soon, i encountered others that were lost, like me. We saw the need to stick together and eventually formed very tight bonds that will last a lifetime. There were about 12 of us. Together we built a sweet bushcamp that was our home base. It felt like family again. And for a moment, things weren't so hard anymore. In fact, we were kind of happy. Having the time of our lives. We did anything we wanted and no one could stop us. Life was a Neverending party i cant even begin to recount all the amazingtimes we had together.

During this time, by attending parties and making connections, i got the chance to try just about every substance you could think of, in excess. In fact i pretty much abused it. Anything that was offered i would take and any money i got went towards acid molly or shrooms. At some point i began selling anything i could get my hands on to make money and free drugs, and suddenly i was a drug dealer so i could continue my habits. with the help of my crew i was able to move anything faster than i thought possible. there were points when no one could tell weather i was high or not.

Eventually, a few members of our tribe made connections with dealers of cocaine. I had tried it a few times but i preferred psychedelics and most it was of terrible quality and i tried to stay away from some of the less favorable drugs, but when i saw the amazing profit potential it quickly became part of our inventory and moved up to be the main focus point, and within a few months i was selling alot of it. Quite a bit of it also went up our noses. Soon we were all very addicted and a few had moved on to meth and heroin and dragged me down with them. It was pretty bad. I began to mistrust those closest to me as they lost control to drugs.

Many were arrested until they finally located and shut down our camp. Thus the lost boys were disbanded. Most were in jail now or left with crippling addictions they could not cope with having lost access to a virtually limitless supply. Anyone left that I knew was either untrustworthy or hiding somewhere

I realized that I had lost my way, and i knew i had to get out fast before it was too late. The only way that this was possible was to remove myself from this mess. I moved into a tree house with a friend out of town and stayed off the drugs and eventually started working to take care of myself. I stayed in kona for a while until I got bored of it and moved out to puna, where i was invited to live in a castle where i began a beautiful relationship with my current girlfriend who i love very much.

,
alot of things changed very quickly during the time i was homeless, and i dont believe it would have turned out as well without the help of others. And i can honestly say that the ones that helped me the most were the ohana at Family Support Hawaii. Because of them i was able to get the documents i needed to get my foodstamps in order and feed myself, they also provided me with supplies that I needed many times. Their staff has been friendly and caring and i always felt like I could count on their help.

I wanted to add my voice this session to any bills about youth and homelessness. There are no programs in Kona except for the one that helped me at Family Support Hawaii. I hope you will pass this bill and bring much needed programs to our community. We really need a youth center where they can come get help. I know that many of the kids in our youth family would have benefit from that type of program and more outreach to our camp.

Thank you for letting me share my story. My brother was also homeless with me at the same time and we are now both healthy and raising children of our own because of the homeless program at Family Support Hawaii.

kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 8:32 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: judi.steinman@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1774 on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM

HB1774

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judi Steinman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: HB 1774 brings much needed resources to our communities for outreach to the homeless and appropriates specific funds for reaching our homeless youth. We all know that the homeless situation has gotten out of hand. Please provide these funds.

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kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 11:09 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: ajc@aloha.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1774 on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM

HB1774

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alika Campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support funding outreach services to people experiencing homelessness, especially youth/young adults who are some of the least likely individuals to access services that are mainly targeted to older adults.

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kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 11:21 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: burgharc@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1774 on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM

HB1774

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Monies used for helping those people who find themselves houseless is an appropriate use of our state monies. Using it to pick up all their stuff and trash it mercilessly is not. It is my hope that the year 2016 will be the year the we finally get it right. As there is the law of the splintered paddle here, I think we need to remember that. We also need to seriously look at the mental health issues. I live by Fort Street and on a daily basis, I see the same people. It is a different case than the people I see at Kamali'i park. Houseless is always a threat to everyone who lives here who rents or works the minimum wage and low paying jobs of the State offices. We need to be diligent and do our best.

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LATE

Committee: Committee on Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 329
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of H.B.1774, Relating to Homelessness

Dear Chair Morikawa and Members of the Committee on Human Services:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) writes in support of H.B. 1774, which appropriates additional funds for outreach to homeless individuals and families, as well as homeless unaccompanied youth.

Homeless families and unaccompanied homeless youth are among our most vulnerable populations. Multi-faceted outreach is greatly needed to address the specific needs of newly-homeless youth, many of whom are running away from home, and who often do not know where to turn for support. ACLU of Hawaii supports this bill, which would provide necessary outreach to these families and youths to help them find alternatives to homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mandy Finlay
Advocacy Coordinator
ACLU of Hawaii

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for 50 years.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96801
T: 808.522-5900
F: 808.522-5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting HB 1774 Relating to Homelessness
House Committee on Human Services
Scheduled for Hearing Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 9:00 AM, Room 329

LATE

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 Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members, Committee on Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1774, which appropriates funds for homeless outreach, including outreach funding for unaccompanied homeless youth. This bill is especially important because there are currently no state funds for outreach to unaccompanied youth—one of the most vulnerable segments of our population. Outreach connects homeless individuals, families, and youth to services that are critical for their survival and well-being. Outreach to homeless youth provides an important opportunity to intervene relatively early in a life that would otherwise be destined for hardship, creating a potential turning point that can avoid a lifetime of the financial and human costs of homelessness.

We need to make the investments necessary to reverse the course of the homelessness problem in Hawai'i. Hawai'i has the highest rate of homelessness in the nation, and the highest rate of unsheltered chronic homeless. Despite greater attention to the issue, our homelessness problem continues to grow. It will continue to do so until we devote the resources necessary to stop it.

Unaccompanied homeless youth have a special need for outreach services, and such services provide the opportunity for significant cost savings:

- Teens aged 12 to 17 are more likely to become homeless than adults
- 30% of all juvenile arrests in Hawai'i were for running away—averaging 4,493 per year
- 33% of teens will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home
- The average age of entry into prostitution is 14
- Homeless youth are 11 times more likely to experience mental health problems than non-homeless youth

By funding a robust system of outreach, we can connect homeless individuals, families and youth with the services they need soon after they become homeless, saving significant financial and human costs. HB 1774 is a smart investment that will, in the long run, save both lives and dollars.

Thank you very much for hearing and considering this important bill.

kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 7:27 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: debboltz@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1774 on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM



HB1774

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 2, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deb Boltz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need immediate help in our communities. Field workers are needed now. This is the disaster we should (also) be preparing for. Community members must have enlightened information regarding the homeless with mental health and drug related issues. We would like to be part of the solution, and field workers may well be the teachers we have been waiting for. Please!! No more consultants, studies, data, administrative luncheons, etc. Get our universities involved. Aspiring social workers and counselors could have a paid practicum in the field. Teach us how to gracefully proceed.

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PARTNERS IN CARE
Oahu's Coalition of Homeless Providers

LATE

TESTIMONY in SUPPORT of HB 1774: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair, and Members, Committee on Human Services

FROM: Greg Payton, Chair of Legislative Advocacy, Partners In Care

Hearing: Tuesday, 2/2/16; 9:00 am; CR 329

Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members, Committee on Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1774, which appropriates funds for homeless outreach, including for unaccompanied youth. I am Greg Payton, serving as Chair of the Legislative Committee for Partners in Care, Oahu's Continuum of Care dedicated to ending homelessness.

HB 1774 addresses Oahu's growing unsheltered homeless population. Honolulu ranks first among US states for homelessness per capita. Outreach can provide the engagement contacts and housing placement to help people be linked to appropriate resources. Homeless Outreach teams on Oahu are receiving the same amount of funds that were available in 2010, and yet homelessness has risen 25%. Partners In Care has learned through data analysis that strategic outreach is needed to address targeted areas, such as homeless encampments and specialty populations; e.g., families with youth.

Unaccompanied youth, are among the alarming new homeless. Currently, there are NO state funds for outreach to unaccompanied youth. Providers are trying to made do, taking staff from other projects.

- 30% of all juvenile arrests in Hawaii were for running away.
- Hawaii's youths are at high risk for exploitation. Many trade sex for the resources they need for survival—food, money or a safe place to sleep.
- National statistics show a shocking severity:
 - 33% of teens will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.
 - The average age of entry into prostitution is 14.
 - Homeless youth are 11 times more likely to experience mental health problems.
 - Teens aged 12 to 17 are more likely to become homeless than adults.

Thank you for hearing and considering this important bill to help end homelessness. Please contact me at (808) 529-4554 if you have any questions.