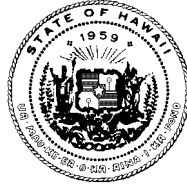


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



RACHAEL WONG, DrPH  
DIRECTOR

PANKAJ BHANOT  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

March 29, 2016

TO: The Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2244 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO HOUSING**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 29, 2016, 9:35 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure to provide funding to address the State's homeless crisis. In particular, the Department is supportive of Part II, expanded funding for the Housing First program, the evidence-based best practice program targeted at the unsheltered homeless population with the highest acuity and chronicity, and Part IV, funding for Rapid Re-housing, which supports the overall systemic goals of reducing the length of stay in shelters and housing the homeless more efficiently by identifying individuals and families who are capable of maintaining stable, permanent housing; work assertively with them to mitigate concerns (e.g. budgeting, debt management, employment, etc.); and efficiently move them into housing that is sustainable.

Both of these programs were part of the Governor's Executive Budget that included a request of \$3 million for the Housing First program, and \$2 million for the Rapid Re-housing program. Neither were funded in the HB1700 HD1.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funding for various housing programs. These include: Part I: appropriation to the rental housing revolving fund; Part II: appropriation for the continuation of the State's Housing First program and its expansion to the neighbor islands; Part III: appropriation to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to improve the existing public housing

stock; and, Part IV: appropriation for a rental assistance program, also known as the Rapid Re-housing program, with the Department of Human Services, for working homeless individuals and their families who are ready to rent permanent housing, with certain eligibility requirements.

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, the Coordinated Entry System (CES). Entry through Hale O Malama 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 Department is committed to coordinated entry through Hale O Malama and supports improved coordination of services and allocation of appropriate resources to meet client's identified needs. Hale O Malama and a more robust Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) have resulted in improved prioritization of service to the most needy, and will mitigate any potential duplication of services, especially as additional service systems (such as adult mental health, hospitals, and public safety institutions) are integrated into the platform.

Also included in the Executive Budget, but not funded in HB1700 HD1, was the request for \$250,000 for improvements of the HMIS. Investing in the data collection system used by providers of the Continua of Care will improve the ability to evaluate performance and better measure impacts of our communities' efforts to address homelessness. While the Department prefers the item be included in the Executive Budget, we asked that appropriation be included in the legislature's overall strategy to address and fund homeless efforts.

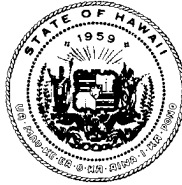
As many as 20 of the Housing First clients being provided housing subsidies are also receiving intensive Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) level of care through the Hawaii Pathways Program (HPP). HPP is the implementation of the Pathways Model of Housing First that is funded by a federal grant from 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.

As mentioned above, the Executive Budget included a request for \$2 million for a Rapid Re-Housing Program. If funding is appropriated, DHS intends to implement a Rapid Re-Housing (RRG) program specifically geared to operate in close coordination with homeless shelters to

identify individuals and families who are capable of maintaining stable, permanent housing; work assertively with them to mitigate concerns (e.g. budgeting, debt management, employment, etc.); and efficiently move them into a sustainable housing arrangement. Case management and housing placement services will be key factors in the RRH program. By providing rental and case management assistance to families ready and able to sustain rental housing, the RRH should create “flow” in homeless shelters so that those families capable of sustaining themselves in permanent housing can exit shelters with time-limited supports, and individuals and families living in unsheltered conditions can move efficiently into shelter services from unsheltered situations.

The Department notes that Part IV, Section 8 of the proposed bill limits maximum rent subsidy to \$500/month. If the Department is to implement RRH (which includes the rent subsidy and supportive services to achieve stability in permanent housing), short and medium term rental assistance is necessary. Flexibility in determining the amount of rent subsidy for each individual and especially for families would allow for the most positive outcome. In most cases, the provider will evaluate the amount of subsidy needed over a period of time and will promote self-sufficiency by slowly decreasing subsidies over the period. Limiting rent subsidies to \$500/month will immediately disqualify families that may need a larger subsidy for a month or two in order to remain stably housed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



## STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM  
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of  
**Craig K. Hirai**  
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 29, 2016 at 9:35 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 211

In consideration of  
**H.B. 2244, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, RELATING TO HOUSING.**

HHFDC supports H.B. 2244, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely affect priorities set forth in the Executive Supplemental Budget request. This bill is consistent with the Governor's housing strategy, which seeks to:

- Build homes that people can afford, including rentals, to address the needs of those entering the work force;
- Renovate the state's public housing facilities; and
- On Oahu, identifying state lands near transit stations for housing, employment centers, daycare, senior centers, and community facilities.

In particular, we support the intent of Part I of the bill, which makes an unspecified General Fund appropriation for deposit into the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF). The Governor's Supplemental Budget request includes a General Obligation bond appropriation of \$75 million for infusion into the RHRF. An infusion of that amount into the RHRF would help finance the development of an additional 600 affordable rental units.

The RHRF provides loans to projects that set aside rental units affordable to extremely and very low-income families. The RHRF loans fill the financing gap to develop an affordable rental housing project. Since its inception, RHRF awards have been made to 71 affordable rental projects comprising 5,673 units statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in support of this bill.



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

March 29, 2016

**TO:** The Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

**SUBJECT: HB 2244 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO HOUSING**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 29, 2016, 9:35 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this measure. The Coordinator asks for the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive Budget request, which includes a General Obligation bond appropriation of \$75 million for the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF); \$3 million for Housing First; \$2 million for Rapid Re-Housing, and \$31 million to improve existing public housing stock within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHDA). The Coordinator notes that both Housing First and Rapid Re-Housing were not funded in HB1700 HD1.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funding for a range of services to address homelessness. These include: Part I: appropriation to the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF); Part II: appropriation for the continuation of the State's Housing First program and its expansion to the neighbor islands; Part III: appropriation to the HPHA to improve the existing public housing stock; and Part IV: appropriation for a rental assistance program, also known as the Rapid Re-Housing 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.”

In regard to Parts I and III, it has been estimated that Hawaii needs an additional 28,000 housing units to meet demand, including 19,000 units for households that are low-income or very low-income. An increased appropriation to the RHRF will provide more resources to support new housing construction, while an appropriation for repair and maintenance to the HPHA will ensure that we can maintain existing housing for low-income and very low-income households.

In regard to Part II, the Coordinator notes that 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 provided housing subsidies for these individuals, and stabilized their health conditions, which significantly 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 Part IV, which appropriates funds for a Rapid Re-Housing program, the Coordinator notes that this measure limits the maximum payment for rent supplement for Rapid Re-Housing to \$500 per month. The Coordinator defers to DHS in regards to specific issues related to implementation of the program, but expresses concern that such a limitation may disqualify households that require a larger subsidy due to Hawaii’s high housing costs. The intention of the proposed Rapid Re-Housing program in the Executive Budget is to target sheltered homeless individuals and families in order to increase efficiency and maximize utilization of the State’s shelter inventory by facilitating greater throughput.

Finally, the Coordinator notes that, in addition to funding for affordable housing and evidence-based homeless services, a key component of the State’s approach to addressing homelessness is investing in data collection to evaluate program performance. The administration included in a request for \$250,000 in the Executive Budget for improvements of

the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), but this item was not funded in HB1700 HD1. While the Coordinator would prefer this item to be included in the Executive Budget, the Coordinator respectfully request that an appropriation for the HMIS be included in the legislature's overall strategy to address and fund homeless efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



LAND USE RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(808) 521-4717  
[www.lurf.org](http://www.lurf.org)

March 24, 2016

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**Comments and Support of HB 2244, HD1, SD1 Relating to Housing. (Makes various appropriations for various housing programs.)**

**WAM Hearing: Tuesday, March 29, 2016, 9:35 a.m., Conf. Rm. 211**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to provide its **comments and strong support for HB 2244, HD1, SD1**, which proposes to appropriate funds to various State housing programs which provide support for affordable housing for low-income and very low-income families.

**HB 2244, HD1, SD1.** The purpose of this measure is to appropriate unspecified amounts of funds for the following State housing programs and services:

- (1) The Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF) to be used for rental housing units;
- (2) The State's Housing First Program (Housing First) to be used for the continued implementation of the Program and expansion of the Program outside Oahu;
- (3) The repair and maintenance of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority's (HPHA) existing public housing stock; and
- (4) A rental assistance program, also known as the Rapid-Re-Housing Program, within the Department of Human Services (DHS) to be used for homeless working individuals and their families who are ready to rent permanent housing, with certain eligibility requirements.



**LURF's Comments and Position.** The State has estimated that Hawaii needs an additional 28,000 housing units to meet demand for housing, including 19,000 units for households that are low-income or very low-income. LURF is in **strong support** of HB 2244, HD1, SD1, which will provide funding support for the following State programs:

- **Rental Housing Revolving Fund.** LURF supports the funding for the RHRF, which, pursuant to Section 201H-202, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides loans or grants for the development, pre-development, construction, acquisition, preservation, and substantial rehabilitation of affordable rental housing units.
- **Housing First.** LURF also supports the proposed funding for the Housing First, which is a collaborative effort between the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that provides housing and support services for chronically homeless individuals, including those who have an addiction or mental illness, or both. LURF understands that Housing First is a nationally recognized best practice and has been proven to be an effective approach to helping people experiencing chronic homelessness get off of the streets in several mainland cities. In Hawaii, the Housing First operates only on Oahu, however, this bill proposes to appropriate funds to DHS to, among other things, expand Housing First programs to the Neighbor Islands to assist residents who are chronically homeless and who are often the most vulnerable, most visible, and most difficult to serve.
- **Hawaii Public Housing Authority.** HPHA is the statewide public housing agency and has a portfolio of eighty-five properties comprises 6,195 units that serve over 6,100 families, or more than 20,000 individuals. However, HPHA's aging housing has an extensive capital need that is reportedly underfunded by HUD. LURF supports the proposed appropriation, because it will provide funding to modernize, repair, maintain and improve the quality of HPHA's existing public housing units across the State.
- **Rapid-Re-Housing Program.** This appropriation would establish a Rapid-Re-Housing Program to be administered by DHS, to provide assistance for homeless working individuals and their families who are ready to rent permanent housing. HPHA, DHS, and the Governor's Office, have commented that this program may duplicate services already provided by HPHA. Thus, LURF supports the intent and funding of such a program, but respectfully urges the Legislature, HPHA and DHS determine whether there would be a duplication of rental assistance services with existing HPHA programs.

For the reasons set forth above, LURF is in **strong support** of HB 2244, HD1, SD1, respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill and encourages the Legislature to insert sufficient appropriation amounts for the above programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this measure.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2244, HD1, SD1: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair; Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair; and  
Members, Committee on Ways and Means  
FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
**Hearing: Tuesday, 3/29/16; 9:35 AM; CR 211**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony **in strong support** of HD 2244, HD1, making appropriations for multiple housing initiatives.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i has a long history of working in the areas of affordable housing and homelessness. We see the need for affordable rentals every day. Many elders who seek help from our Housing Assistance Program are facing homelessness. The same is true for singles and families who come to our Housing and Referral Programs. We need to act NOW to create more new affordable rentals, as well as provide multiple paths out of homelessness, such as in this bill.

#### **Catholic Charities Hawai'i priorities for 2016 include:**

**Part I: allocate funding to the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF):** we support **\$75 million** for this Fund. These funds would provide the gap financing critical to building more affordable rental units. Hawaii has the most expensive housing in the nation—twice the nation average. Rents have increased 65% over the past 10 years. More than 22,000 new affordable rental units are needed. This will require a substantial commitment of funding from the State. The RHRF is an effective tool to create affordable rentals. The RHRF has successfully created 5,673 units of affordable rental housing since inception.

**Part II: Housing First.** We support **\$3 million** to continue this program which can successfully house the chronically homeless, and to expand it to the Neighbor Islands. We respectfully urge you to add this funding 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:** *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 housed client would be about \$28,440 per client.*

**Part IV:** we support **\$2 million** for a rapid re-housing program. This will enable families who are working to move to permanent housing. Often they are stuck in transitional or emergency housing since their work income is not enough for a market unit. DHS plans to target families in high performing shelters since these shelters already have the bookkeeping and case management capacity to rapidly implement this new program without having to create a new bureaucracy. With a small rental subsidy, these working people will become permanently housed, opening up space in shelters for more families. This would better utilize shelter space.

Thank you for addressing these multiple paths out of homelessness. We urge your support.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone (808)373-0356 • [bettylou.larson@CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org)





# HAWAII APPLESEED

## CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

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Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Supporting HB 2244 Relating to Housing  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Scheduled for Hearing Tuesday, March 26, 2016, 9:35 AM, Conference Room 221

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*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.*

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Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2244, which makes appropriations for four housing programs that will combat 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. The Rental Housing Revolving Fund, Housing First, Shallow Rent Subsidy, and Public Housing repair programs proposed by HB 2244 are much needed.

Affordable housing is key to combating homelessness, and the Rental Housing Revolving Fund will provide the necessary infrastructure to accommodate further initiatives against homelessness. The Rental Housing Trust Fund is a major tool for the creation of affordable housing and has a long record of success, funding over 5,000 units since its creation. We support a \$75 million appropriation for this fund.

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. Additionally, it saves money that would otherwise be expended on healthcare services—a preliminary Hawai'i study of healthcare savings estimated that the net savings from the program were over \$28,000 per person served by Housing First per year. We support a \$3 million appropriation for this program, and respectfully urge you to add this funding to the base budget of DHS.

The Rapid Rehousing program proposed by HB 2244 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. Rapid Rehousing is designed to get people back on their feet in a relatively short

timeframe—two years or less. Many studies indicate that participants often only required 6 months of subsidies before they were living in permanent, affordable housing. Rapid rehousing is 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, for which we support a \$2 million appropriation.

Finally, HB 2244 would appropriate funds to improve the existing public housing stock in the state. These funds are necessary to ensure that the homes of current public housing residents meet the minimal standards of safety and habitability. Rehabilitating existing public housing units that are currently vacant due to their condition is also one of these most cost-effective and efficient ways of making available additional affordable housing units.

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

March 29, 2016

**The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair**  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol, Room 211  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: H.B. 2244, H.D.1, S.D.1, Relating to Housing**

**HEARING: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 9:35 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

I am Myoung Oh, Government Affairs Director, submitting written testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® (“HAR”), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 8,900 members. HAR **supports the intent** of H.B. 2244, H.D.1, S.D.1 which makes various appropriations for various housing program.

According to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, nearly 66,000 housing units are needed to meet long-term demand over the next ten years. Not only do we need more affordable homes to meet today's needs of our working individuals and families, we need a place where our keiki can afford to live in the future.

HAR has historically supported mechanisms to help increase the supply of low and moderate income affordable housing such as the Rental Housing Revolving Fund Program which can help integrate the use of mixed-income and mixed-use projects, special purpose revenue bonds, low-interest loans, block grants, low-income housing tax credit programs and deferred loan programs to provide rental housing opportunities.

As such, HAR believes appropriating funds to the Rental Housing Revolving Fund will help expand the much needed affordable rental housing opportunities for Hawaii's residents and will help address the States unique challenges related to affordable rentals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit written testimony.



# 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 2244, HD1, SD1: RELATING TO HOUSING

**TO:** Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair; Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair; and Members, Committee on Ways and Means  
**FROM:** Greg Payton, Chair, Advocacy Committee, Partners in Care  
**Hearing:** **Tuesday, 3/29/16; 9:35 AM; CR 211**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony **in strong support** of HD 2244, HD1, making appropriations for multiple housing initiatives. I am Greg Payton, the Chair of the Advocacy Committee of Partners in Care (PIC).

Partners in Care is a coalition of homeless service providers and many others in the community on Oahu dedicated to ending homelessness. In the past year on Oahu, we have developed a coordinated entry system to more effectively and strategically help homeless to navigate resources and be linked to housing. This bill addresses the next steps and the **KEY** to ending homelessness, creation of more affordable rental housing, as well as evidence based solutions to house the chronically homeless and rapidly re-house homeless families and working people.

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. Partners in Care supports **\$75 million to the Rental Housing Revolving Fund** which is critical to produce a significant number of affordable rental units. This fund is the major tool to create private-public partnerships which have created 5,673 affordable rental units across the state.

We also support **\$3 million for Housing First**. 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. We support **\$2 million for a rapid re-housing program**, which 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. This focuses 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.

Once again, we strongly urge your support of HB 2244 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.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [hlusk@chowproject.org](mailto:hlusk@chowproject.org)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2244 on Mar 29, 2016 09:35AM\*  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 9:00:14 AM

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**HB2244**

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2016 09:35AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Heather Lusk	The CHOW Project	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.

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Testimony in Support of HB 2244, HD1

TO: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair, and Members of the Ways and Means  
Committee

FROM: Kathy Jaycox

Date: March 28, 2016

Dear Senator Tokuda and Members of the Committee --

Thank you for providing an opportunity for members of the public to submit testimony in support of HB 2244, HD1.

I know you are already aware of the seriousness of housing challenges here in our state, where we have the highest per capita rate of homelessness in the nation.

This bill addresses homelessness through rent subsidies for working individuals and families, through support for the Housing First Program, and through support for the Rental Housing Revolving fund.

Through my involvement with FACE (Faith Action for Community Equity), I have gained greater awareness of the extent of the challenges and of the potential to address these challenges with the funds identified in this bill. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and to fund it fully.

Thank you again for the opportunity to express my support.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mgrambs@hotmail.com](mailto:mgrambs@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2244 on Mar 29, 2016 09:35AM  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 9:14:50 AM

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**HB2244**

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2016 09:35AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marya Grambs	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2244, which makes appropriations for four housing programs that will combat homelessness. The Rental Housing Revolving Fund, Housing First, Shallow Rent Subsidy, and Public Housing repair programs proposed by HB 2244 are greatly needed to address Hawaii's homeless crisis.

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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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [wallyinglis@yahoo.com](mailto:wallyinglis@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1773 on Mar 29, 2016 09:35AM  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 10:41:34 AM

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**HB1773**

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2016 09:35AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wally Inglis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and Committee members: I am president of a nonprofit that has developed more than 500 units of affordable housing at Hale Mohalu--former home for Hansen's disease patients in Pearl City. This would have been impossible without the Rental Housing Revolving Fund and other government programs. Please pass out this bill--along with HB 2244--which will fund RHRF and other programs for low-income housing. Please restore higher levels of recommended funding that have been cut in prior versions of these bills. Thank you for your efforts to make housing more affordable during this time of housing crisis.  
Wally Inglis Palolo Valley

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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