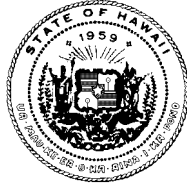


# SB2090

Measure Title:	RELATING TO HOUSING.
Report Title:	Appropriation; Housing First (\$)
Description:	Appropriates funds to the department of human services to continue to administer housing first program, and to expand the housing first program outside of Oahu, for chronically homeless individuals.
Companion:	
Package:	Housing and Homeless Legislative Package
Current Referral:	HOU/JDL, WAM
Introducer(s):	CHUN OAKLAND, GALUTERIA, GREEN, HARIMOTO, NISHIHARA, SHIMABUKURO, Taniguchi

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

February 11, 2016

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

The Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2090 – RELATING TO HOUSING**

Hearing: Thursday, February 11, 2016; 2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

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

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services to continue to administer the Housing First program, and to expand the Housing First program outside of Oahu, for chronically homeless individuals.

The State's Housing First program continues to serve 106 persons (70 individuals and 10 families). These individuals and families were all referred to the HF program via Hale O Malama, or the Coordinated Entry System (CES). This means that the VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization and Decision Assistance Tool) our community's agreed upon screening instrument

was administered and the client's needs deemed eligible for the highest level of service we have available, which is Housing First. The commitment of DHS to Hale O Malama is clearly demonstrated as DHS understands the need for improved coordination of services and allocating appropriate resources to meet client needs.

As many as 20 of the Housing First clients being provided housing subsidies are receiving intensive Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) level of care through the Hawaii Pathways Program (HPP). HPP is the implementation of the Pathways Model of Housing First that is funded by a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to 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 successfully maintain this high-need population in stable housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2090: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: Senator Breene Harimoto, Chair, Housing; Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair, Judiciary and Labor; and Members, Committees on Housing and Judiciary and Labor

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

**Hearing: Thursday, 2/11/16; 2:45 pm; CR 225**

Chair Harimoto, Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committees on Housing and Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of SB 2090, making appropriation to continue the housing first program. I am Betty Lou Larson, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care. Catholic Charities Hawai'i has prioritized this program among our top priorities for 2016.

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

The causes of homelessness are diverse. Different solutions must be implemented using interventions targeted to the particular characteristics of the population being served. Housing First is based on best practices proven to successfully move chronically homeless people off the streets into permanent housing. It is the strategy that has worked when nothing else has worked for this difficult to reach and difficult to serve chronic population.

We support **\$3 million** to continue the Housing First program which houses chronically homeless individuals and families, and to expand it to the Neighbor Islands. We respectfully urge 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 study of healthcare savings for homeless housed in a Housing First program (Pathways study) found a 43% decrease in healthcare costs over 6 months. Furthermore, after deducting the cost of rental subsidies (\$1,100/mo) and supportive services (\$1,120/mo), the net savings was estimated at \$2,370 per client/month. Total savings per year for each stably housed client would be about \$28,440 per client.*

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



Leimomi Devenport  
202A S. Kalaheo Ave.  
Leimomid@hotmail.com

02/06/2016

To: Senator Breene Harimoto, Chairperson  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chairperson  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice-Chairperson  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chairperson  
And members of both the Senate Committee on Housing and the Senate Committee on  
Judiciary and Labor

From: Leimomi Devenport

RE: SB2090, Relating to HOUSING – SUPPORT

Respective Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons, and members of both the Senate Committee on Housing and the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2090.

My name is Leimomi Devenport and I am a Master's student from the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Manoa. I have been affiliated with The Institute for Human Services for the past 2 years, and have seen many of the challenges that homeless individuals and families face.

Here in Hawaii, we have a seemingly ever-growing homeless population, and one sub-set of this population consists of our most vulnerable, visible, and difficult to serve chronically homeless. The Housing First model, which has proven to be successful throughout the mainland U.S., was implemented on Oahu last year and is already showing great results regarding housing, and maintaining housing for such a challenging population. Homelessness is not something limited to Oahu, so increasing and extending funds to expand the implementation of this model to the outer islands is the next logical step in addressing our growing homeless problem.

I strongly support of SB2090 and request that you also support the passing of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Leimomi Devenport, BSW

Laura Ezzy  
MSW Candidate (2016) Mental Behavioral Health Concentration  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work  
Phone 808-280-9076, 808-572-7889  
email: [laurase@hawaii.edu](mailto:laurase@hawaii.edu)

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Senator Breene Harimoto, Chair; Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair; Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

**Re. SB2090** Appropriates funds to the department of human services to continue to administer housing first program, and to expand the housing first program outside of Oahu, for chronically homeless individuals.

HEARING DATE: Thursday, February 11 2016;

HEARING TIME: 2:45 PM

HEARING PLACE: Conference Room 225, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Hello,

I am Laura Ezzy, a MSW candidate for graduation this May, 2016 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, representing myself and my own opinions.

**I am testifying in in favor of SB2090.**

As the State of Hawaii Homeless Point-in-Time Count 2015 report figures indicate, the number of unsheltered homeless on Maui is on the increase. The report states that “Although the number of unsheltered individuals rose, this was more than offset by the increase in the number of sheltered singles over the last year.” However, it is evident from the figures that Maui County is, in fact, not able to keep up with the increase in the numbers of chronically homeless. Since on Maui we do not have a Housing First program, the chronically homeless are slipping through the current system.

It is a common part of life now on Maui that we have “residents” who are chronically homeless. The originator of the Housing First Model, Dr. Sam Tsemberis, has pointed out that the chronically homeless need permanent housing to recover from their illnesses. If we as a society cannot ensure that people live a life that they fully deserve—respected and housed—what does that say about us?

Please continue the good work on Oahu, providing support for a Housing First Program and please expand the Housing First initiative to include Maui County.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my opinions in support of the measure **SB2090**.  
Most Sincerely,



Laura Ezzy

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HOU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jenniferhairgrove@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferhairgrove@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2090 on Feb 11, 2016 14:45PM  
**Date:** Friday, February 05, 2016 4:25:44 PM

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**SB2090**

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

Testimony for HOU/JDL on Feb 11, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Hairgrove	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In Strong Support

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