



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 10, 2017

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

The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair
House Committee on Housing

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

SUBJECT: HB 772 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2017, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure as it proposes to provide funding to address key aspects of the State's work to end homelessness. The Coordinator asks for the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive Budget request of \$20.9 million, which includes appropriations to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) for the Rent Supplement program and Family and Elderly Housing program; appropriations to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, homeless outreach, and storage of homeless persons property; appropriations to the Department of Health (DOH) for outreach services to homeless persons with serious and persistent mental illness, and outreach, counseling, and diversion services for unsheltered homeless persons experiencing substance abuse; and appropriations to the highways division of the Department of Transportation (DOT) to respond to issues related to security, health, and safety.

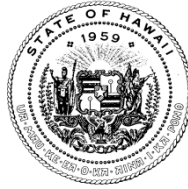
PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to make appropriations to DHS, DOH, and DOT in addition to the \$20.9 million in the Governor's Executive Budget request to address issues related to homelessness.

The State has adopted a comprehensive framework to address homelessness, which includes a focus on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. All three of these leverage points must be addressed to continue forward momentum in addressing the complex issue of homelessness. Accordingly, the Governor’s Executive Budget request includes \$20.9 million for homeless services. The Executive Budget specifically increases resources for homeless outreach, mental health and substance use treatment, as well as addressing housing costs through programs such as Housing First, Rapid Re-Housing and the State Rent Supplement. In addition, DHS has recently procured new contracts for homeless shelter, outreach, emergency grant, and housing placement program services that set specific performance targets for service providers that are aligned with federal performance benchmarks.

The Coordinator’s support of this measure is limited to the extent that passage of this bill does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



Testimony by:
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 10, 2017
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 329

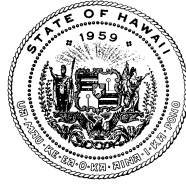
H.B. 772
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

House Committee(s) on Human Services & Housing

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the intent of this bill to allocate additional funding to the departments of human services, health, and transportation to support homelessness outreach, mitigation, and prevention efforts in the State as long as it does not replace priorities requested in the Executive Budget.

The DOT also recommends that the appropriation apply to all DOT (Airports, Harbors and Highways) properties statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 772
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

REPRESENTATIVE DEE MORIKAWA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

REPRESENTATIVE TOM BROWER, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Hearing Date: February 10, 2017

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Not determined

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) applauds the intent of this bill to
3 appropriate additional funding across multiple departments in support of key aspects of the
4 State's work to end homelessness which are led by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness
5 (Coordinator). The DOH continues to follow the lead of the Coordinator to ensure that efforts
6 are synchronized in support of the State's comprehensive framework to address homelessness
7 across the system of care. The framework includes focus of efforts on three primary leverage
8 points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. With respect to
9 Part III of S.B. 271, the DOH asks the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive Budget
10 request of \$20.9 million, which includes appropriations to the DOH for outreach services to
11 homeless persons with serious and persistent mental illness, and outreach, counseling, and
12 diversion services for unsheltered homeless persons experiencing substance abuse. The DOH
13 requests that any appropriations resulting from this bill do not supplant or replace priorities
14 requested in the Executive Budget.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 772: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair, Human Services; Rep. Tom Brower, Chair, Housing; and Members, Committees on Human Services and Housing
FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President & Chief Executive Officer
Hearing: **Friday, 2/10/17; 9:30 am; CR 329**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony **in support** of HB 772, making appropriations for multiple housing initiatives to assist with homelessness and housing issues. I am Terry Walsh, with Catholic Charities Hawaii. We are also a member of Partners in Care.

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii 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 Hawaii. Ending homelessness is a top priority for 2017.

Catholic Charities Hawaii supports the following sections of this bill which address our priorities in ending homelessness. We also propose the following funding levels for your consideration:

- Section 2 - **\$7 million** for housing subsidies for homeless families (and individuals) through the Rent Supplement Program.
- Section 3- **\$3 million** for the Housing First program, statewide
- Section 4- **\$2.5 million** for rapid rehousing. We suggest that the following amendment be added to the end of Section 4 to also target prevention of homelessness: “and to assist families and individuals at risk of homelessness to obtain/retain rental housing.”
- Section 6- **\$1.5 million** for homeless outreach. Please clarify that these funds would include outreach to street kids (unaccompanied youths) via DHS’s Office of Youth Services.
- Section 9- **\$1 million** for outreach to mentally ill homeless persons
- Section 10- **\$800,000** to DOH for outreach, counseling, diversion services to unsheltered persons experiencing substance abuse.

This funding would provide outreach, rental subsidies and specialized services for high risk homeless populations of street kids, mentally ill and persons experiencing substance abuse, as critical resources for families and individuals who just need rental subsidies to prevent homelessness or to obtain rental housing. We know Housing First works—98.1% of clients have successfully retained housing. Rental subsidies work: Court eviction cases were down 25% in December 2016, just 9 months since the inceptions of rental subsidies via the Coordinated Statewide Homeless Initiative. Hawaii has the #1 rate of homelessness in the US. We need these multi-faceted approaches to housing Hawaii’s residents experiencing homelessness.

We strongly urge your support of this bill to work towards our goal of ending homelessness in Hawaii. Please contact me at terry.walsh@catholiccharitieshawaii.org; or Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org, or at 373-0356, 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

Bay Clinic

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

Ho`o

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

February 3, 2017

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

Representative Tom Brower, Chair
And members of the Committee on Housing

Testimony in Support of HB 772 Relating to Homelessness

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 772 Relating to Homelessness.

Hawaii's homeless population includes runaway and homeless youth who are living on the streets without support or guidance from their families. More than 40% were thrown out of their homes by their families. They are the most vulnerable segment of our homeless population because they are children who have not completed their education, lack employment experience, and have not yet learned the skills for adult living.

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. They are:

- 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.

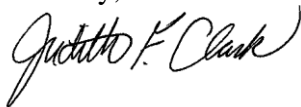
Street outreach is the first step in helping these youth leave the streets for safer and more appropriate living situations. Reuniting youth with their families, if it is safe for them, is the first choice, with placement in foster care or other out-of-home care if the family is not able to care for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

Hawaii Youth Services Network strongly recommends that at least \$300,000 be allocated for outreach to runaway and homeless youth.

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,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



Fernhurst YWCA
1566 Wilder Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
808.941.2231

Kokokahi YWCA
45-035 Kāne'ohe Bay Drive
Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744
808.247.2124

Laniākea YWCA
1040 Richards Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
808.538.7061

ywcaoahu.org

To: Hawaii State House Committees on Human Services and Housing

Hearing Date/Time: Friday, February 10, 2017, 9:30 AM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 329

Re: Testimony of YWCA O'ahu in support of H.B 772

Good morning Chair Morikawa, Chair Brower, Vice Chair Todd, Vice Chair Nakamura and members of the committees. On behalf of YWCA O'ahu we thank you for the opportunity to share our testimony in **strong support of HB 772**, which appropriates funding for homelessness and housing.

Every resident in Hawaii should have access to clean and safe housing. The state has programs in place to help prevent homelessness and help people move from the streets and shelters into housing. Programs like the Rapid Rehousing Program and State Rental Subsidy Program are effective in securing and maintaining housing for working individuals, senior or disabled individuals, and families who are homeless. There are many working individuals who need modest financial help to make ends meet and stay housed. In Hawaii, over half of all renter households are cost burdened, meaning they pay more than 30% of their income for rent. This is the second highest rate in the nation. These common-sense programs help individuals and families find and keep housing through modest investments and prevent the person and state from the high-cost of homelessness.

At the YWCA O'ahu, we offer economic advancement programs to unemployed women, underemployed women, women leaving domestic violence, and women transitioning into the community from prison. Many of the women we work with become employed quickly, sometimes taking on two or three jobs, and still live paycheck to paycheck. They work to become self-sufficient but may have a small gap between their income and rent. A shallow, ongoing subsidy helps them maintain housing as they work towards their goals.

The programs funded through this appropriation are effective in both helping people find housing and helping people keep their housing. Investing in housing is an investment in people, our communities, and the future of our state. I respectfully urge you to **support HB 772**. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Kathleen Algire
Advocacy Coordinator

YWCA IS ON A MISSION



HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

HB772 HOMELESS APPROPRIATION: Makes appropriations to DHS, DOH, and DOT to assist with homelessness and housing issues.

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES: Representative Morikawa, Chair; Representative Todd, Vice Chair;

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING: Representative Brower, Chair; Representative Nakamura, Vice Chair

- Friday, Feb. 10, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.
- Conference Room 329

HSAC Supports HB772:

Good Morning Chairs Morikawa, Brower; Vice Chairs Todd, Nakamura; And Distinguished Committee Members. My name is Alan Johnson, Chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, an organization of more than 30 treatment and prevention agencies across the State.

HSAC supports this bill and emphasizes that:

- **Section 3 Supportive Services include substance use disorder treatment and**
- **Section 6: homeless outreach services include staff who have technical backgrounds in a treatment environment so that they better understand substance use disorders when providing outreach services.**

Recently, there have been several governmental reports that enumerate the huge costs for not treating chronic substance use disorders.

The costs of drug abuse and addiction to our nation are staggering.¹

- Substance abuse is associated with almost 20% of all Medicaid hospital costs and nearly 25% of Medicare dollar spent on inpatient care. Over 14% of patients admitted to hospitals have alcohol/drug abuse and addiction disorders.

Drug abuse and addiction are major burdens to society; economic costs alone are estimated to exceed half a trillion dollars annually in the United States, including health, crime-related costs, and losses in productivity. However, staggering as these numbers are, they provide a limited perspective of the devastating consequences of this disease,” Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Congressional Testimony, 3/1/07

- 70% of individuals in state prisons and jails have used illegal drugs regularly. Drug offenders account for more than one-third of the growth in state prison population and more than 80 percent of the increase in the number of prison inmates since 1985.

¹ Estimating the costs of substance abuse to the Medicaid hospital care program.

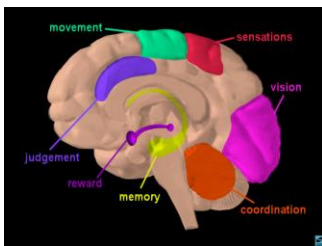
Fox K1, Merrill JC, Chang HH, Califano JA Jr. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7832261> Am J Public Health. 1995 Jan;85(1):48-54.

- The economic burden in the United States for addiction is twice that of any other disease affecting the brain, including Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Disease, as well as all the others.
- Alcohol and Drug-related hospital emergency (ED) visits increased 81 percent from 2004 to 2009 while ED visits involving the non-medical use of pharmaceuticals increased 98.4%.²

Science-Based Prevention and Treatment Works.³

- Substance abuse and/or addiction as well as their exorbitant costs are avoidable. Like any other disease, it is preventable, it is treatable, and it changes biology.
- Discoveries in the science of addiction have led to advances in drug abuse treatment that help people stop abusing drugs and resume their productive lives.
- Research has shown that every \$1 invested in addiction treatment programs, there is
 - o \$4 to \$7 reduction in the cost of drug-related crime,
 - o \$3 - \$5 reduction in emergent medical care use (ER and Crisis Center) and
 - o Among women – a \$4 reduction in welfare and child welfare costs
 - o Among employed men, a \$7 increase in productivity (fewer absences and health claims)
 - o Among returning Iraq veterans – a 35% reduction in family medical claims
 - o And reductions in family violence problems

Not only is substance abuse a leading cause of preventable hospitalization, it is one of the primary cause of homelessness.



With new processes and procedures to identify and coordinate care for high end users of care that have multiple chronic conditions of health issues, we can effectively coordinate care, treat multiple conditions, and improve the effectiveness of treatment outcomes. The proposed funding can validate the cost effectiveness of providing treatment for the chronic homeless population and provide justification for continued funding.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify and are available for questions.

²Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (formerly the Office of Applied Studies). *The DAWN Report: Highlights of the 2009 Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) Findings on Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits*. Rockville, MD, December 28, 2010. Available at: <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k10/DAWN034/EDHighlights.htm>

³William Dewey, Baord of Scientific Advisors, Friends of NIDA November 2008. http://www.cpdd.vcu.edu/Pages/Index/Index_PDFs/TransitionPaperOctober20081.pdf

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 3:31 AM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB772 on Feb 10, 2017 09:30AM*

HB772

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for HUS/HSG on Feb 10, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 6:37 PM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: cchaudron08@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB772 on Feb 10, 2017 09:30AM

HB772

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HUS/HSG on Feb 10, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Camila Chaudron	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, my name is Camila Chaudron and I am a constituent from the Manoa/Makiki area. I support this bill because I believe that the homelessness problem in Hawaii has gotten out of hand and needs to be addressed in a systematic and comprehensive manner as soon as possible. Mahalo.

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todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 3:48 PM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB772 on Feb 10, 2017 09:30AM*

HB772

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HUS/HSG on Feb 10, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

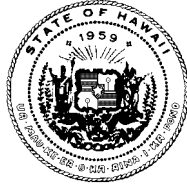
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

BRIDGET HOLTHUS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

LATE

February 10, 2017

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

The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair
House Committee on Housing

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB772 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: February 10, 2017, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill to provide additional funding to address the State's homeless crisis. In particular, DHS supports the measure so much as it is consistent with and not adverse to the Governor's budget priorities: Part II, expanded funding for the rent subsidy program, expanded funding for the Housing First program, which is an evidence-based best practice targeted at the unsheltered homeless population with the highest acuity and chronicity, expanded funding of the rapid rehousing program, and expanded funding of the homeless outreach program.

DHS asks the Legislature to appropriate the funds requested for these services through the Governor's Executive budget request; becoming part of the base budget adds to overall continuity of programs. Adding appropriations in addition to the Governor's executive budget request for homelessness, while understandable, needs to be considered in light of the executive budget ceiling.

As to Part III, we offer comments, and defer to the Departments of Health and Transportation (Part IV) respectively.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate additional funding for various homeless programs, these include appropriations for:

- Part II Section 2: the rent subsidy program;
- Part II Section 3: the State’s Housing First Program including additional staff to oversee the program;
- Part II Section 4: the State’s Rapid Rehousing Program to move individuals and families out of shelters into permanent housing;
- Part II Section 5: operations of family and elderly housing programs;
- Part II Section 6: the State’s Homeless Outreach Program;
- Part II Section 7: the storage for homeless person’s property program;
- Part III Section 9: the Department of Health for an outreach program for homeless persons with serious and persistent mental illness;
- Part III Section 10: outreach, counseling, and diversion services for unsheltered homeless persons experiencing substance use; and
- Part IV Section 11: the Department of Transportation to deal with homelessness-related issues pertaining to security, health and safety.

With regard to the program identified in Part II section 5, the Homeless Programs Office (HPO) is trying to shift the paradigm of the past. Previously shelters were viewed and treated as housing. Shelters need to be seen as programs that help individuals and families obtain permanent housing. The 2015 Homeless Service Utilization Report described that 39% of all individuals served were in families with at least one child and 9% were age 60 or older. Consequently, the other half of individuals served by homeless providers were a combination of other household demographics. HPO acknowledges that there are populations who require targeted types of services, however less fragmentation or specificity of the kind of individual or household programs may serve, allows providers to serve the needs of the individuals or families they encounter regardless of age or household makeup.

With regard to the program identified in Part II Section 7, the Governor requested \$2 million for a statewide storage program in the Executive Budget.

As to Part III, the services identified are currently provided within the Homeless Outreach Program identified in Part II section 6. The Homeless Outreach Program includes

referral services to mental health and substance abuse programs. The Homeless Outreach Program also allows the provider agencies, if capable, to provide those items as a direct service.

DHS respectfully asks the Legislature to make appropriations for these services through the Governor's Executive budget request to provide better program continuity and predictability, and in consideration of the executive budget ceiling.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

LATE



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 772, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

House Committee on Human Services
Hon. Dee Morikawa, Chair
Hon. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

House Committee on Housing
Hon. Tom Brower, Chair
Hon. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

Friday, February 10, 2017, 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Honorable Chair Morikawa, Chair Brower, and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 350 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of House Bill 772, relating to homelessness.

According to the 2016 statewide *Point In Time Count* (PITC) report, 7,921 houseless persons were counted on a single night in January last year, up 4 percent from 2015. More than half of these persons were unsheltered. O’ahu accounted for 62 percent of the total (4,940 people), up 1 percent from the previous year. Kaua’i saw a 30 percent increase in the homeless population living on its shores (442 people), while the Big Island saw an increase of 12 percent (1,394 people). Overall, our state saw a 12 percent increase in the number of unsheltered homeless individuals and families and, concurrently, a 4.5 percent decrease in the number of sheltered individuals and families. Notably, the size of the houseless population on O’ahu is up 25 percent from 2009, when 3,638 homeless people were counted. Additionally, Department of Education officials said, last January, that 3,576 public school students are homeless. Last year’s PITC captured just over half of them. We know, then, that our state’s homeless population is not only larger than the statistics show, but growing.

Over 30 percent of juvenile arrests in Hawai’i are for running away from home, the highest proportion in the nation. Nationally, one in seven young people between the ages of 10 and 18 will run away. Approximately 75 percent of runaways are female, while 46 percent of runaway and homeless youth report being physically abused, 38 percent report being emotionally abused, and 17 percent report being forced into unwanted sexual activity by a family or

household member, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Roughly 30 percent runaway children will be approached for commercial sexual exploitation within 48 hours of being on the run, with over 80 percent being approached for the sex trade during the course of their time on streets. A federal study found that an estimated 38,600 runaway youth have been sexually assaulted, in the company of someone known to be sexually abusive, or engaged in sexual activity in exchange for money, food, or shelter. Runaways are perceived as easy targets for sex traffickers because they lack stable shelter, a supportive environment, and financial resources, placing them at greater risk of forced prostitution and sexual servitude.

Traffickers exploit our limited number of available shelter beds to lure young people into exploitation. As the homeless childcare provider Covenant House observes, traffickers tell homeless youth that shelters are full and ask, “Where are you going to go? Why don’t you come with me? I’ll take care of you.” Coupled with threats of and enacted physical and sexual violence against the victims or their families, these coercive techniques compel runaway youth to remain enslaved. LGBTQ youth, who comprise an estimated 40 percent of the runaway and homeless youth population in the United States, are exponentially more likely to fall prey to human traffickers because of discrimination, family and community trauma, and a longing for comfort and acceptance (an estimated 26 percent of LGBTQ adolescents are rejected by their families and put out of their homes simply for being open and honest about who they are). In providing care for victims of human trafficking, IMUAlliance has heard their stories hundreds of times.

We must fund homeless services, especially efforts to provide human services, health care, outreach, and rapid rehousing to our state’s unsheltered and at-risk population, many of whom are gainfully employed and contributing our economy. Moreover, we must find a balance between rampant real estate speculation and meeting the needs of our state’s most economically vulnerable residents. Just as our homeless population has soared over the past few years, so, too, has our state’s cost of housing. The median price of condominiums on O’ahu increased 8.3 percent in 2016 to \$390,000, while the median price for single-family homes increased by 6.5 percent to \$735,000, according to the Honolulu Board of Realtors. Average rent for a 900-square foot apartment in Honolulu now exceeds \$2,200, with the cost of a four-bedroom home in urban Honolulu now exceeding \$1.1 million. At least 44 percent of residences in Hawai’i are owner unoccupied, according to the University of Hawai’i Economic Research Organization, meaning that nearly 50 percent—and by some estimates over half—of Hawai’i’s homes are investment properties.

Many of those properties, in turn, are owned by mainland and foreign buyers, whose real estate market speculation is a prime driver of Hawai’i’s highest-in-the-nation cost of housing. According to a study released in May of 2016 by the Hawai’i Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, there are “clear distinctions” between the average price of homes bought by local residents, mainlanders, and foreigners. Analyzing purchases made between 2008 and 2015, DBEDT found: “The average sale price was highest among foreign buyers. The

average sale price of the total of 5,775 homes sold to foreign buyers from 2008 to 2015 was \$786,186, 28.3 percent higher than the average sale price to the mainlanders (\$612,770) and 64.7 percent higher than the average sale price to local buyers (\$477,460).”

Researchers who authored the National Low Income Housing Coalition’s *Out of Reach 2016* report found that a full-time worker would need to earn \$34.22/hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair market value in our state, with Honolulu experiencing a 67 percent increase in fair market rent between 2005 and 2015. Average rent for a two-bedroom unit surpassed \$2,100 in 2015, with average rent for a 900-square-foot exceeding \$2,200 in 2016. In the past three years alone, Honolulu rent has increased 23.5 percent. While 47 percent of Hawai’i residents are renters (a number that does not include individuals and families renting outside of the regulated rental market), they earn an average wage of \$14.49/hour, scarcely enough to meet their basic needs. One out of every four households in Hawai’i report that they are “doubling up” or are three paychecks or less away from being homeless, per the Hawai’i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice. Additionally, 54 percent of households are cost-burdened, meaning that they pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing costs. Put simply, homelessness is directly tied to our state’s exorbitant cost of living and penchant for catering to people who use the islands as their own private Monopoly board. We beseech you to seek innovative ways of making Hawai’i more affordable, while funding the services necessary to show aloha for our economically disadvantaged neighbors.

When you fund housing, outreach, and human services for the homeless, you are helping to end slavery in Hawai’i. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance

todd2 - Chloe

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 7:37 AM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB772 on Feb 10, 2017 09:30AM*

HB772

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for HUS/HSG on Feb 10, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments:

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