

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 6, 2017

TO: The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Health

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB1214 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: February 6, 2017, 2:55 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill to provide funding to address the State's homeless crisis, and provides comments. The Governor's Executive budget includes similar requests for appropriations and DHS asks for the Legislature's continued support of these services with an appropriation through the Governor's Executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds to DOH and DHS, including the Office of Youth Services, to provide homeless outreach services.

This state fiscal year, DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO) awarded \$4.4 million for statewide outreach services and \$600,000 for civil legal services. These services include, and are not limited to, providing or referring to medical care, mental healthcare, substance use treatment programs, and assistance to secure government issued identification.

DHS respectfully asks that the Legislature supports the Governor's executive budget to address homelessness as predictable funding improves service delivery and outcomes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 6, 2017

TO: The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

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

SUBJECT: SB 1214 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Monday, February 6, 2017, 2:55 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this bill to the extent it is similar to the priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Budget, and provided that the measure's passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. The Coordinator asks the Legislature to support the Governor's Executive Budget request that includes appropriations to the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Department of Health (DOH) for \$1.5 million for homeless outreach; \$500,000 for civil legal services for homeless persons; \$1 million for homeless individuals with serious and persistent mental health challenges; and \$800,000 for outreach and counseling services for chronically homeless persons with severe substance use disorders.

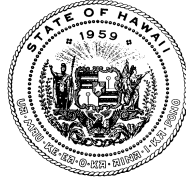
PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds to DOH and DHS, including the Office of Youth Services (OYS), to provide homeless outreach services.

Homeless outreach is a critical component of the State's framework to address homelessness, and is essential to meet unsheltered homeless households in the community and to build rapport that connects them to housing and services, such as Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, or shelter. Outreach workers provide a comprehensive array of services, including

completing applications for housing and services, housing search, and obtaining 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.

In addition to homeless outreach services funded by DHS, the Department of Health (DOH) is requesting funding in the Executive Budget for targeted mental health and substance use treatment services for the unsheltered homeless population. These services are part of the State 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. The Executive Budget specifically increases resources for outreach, mental health and substance use treatment, as well as addressing housing costs through programs such as Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, and the State Rent Supplement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 1214
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 6, 2017

Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Not determined

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) applauds the intent of this bill to
3 appropriate additional funding in support of key aspects of the State's work to end homelessness
4 which are led by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness (Coordinator). The DOH
5 continues to follow the lead of the Coordinator to ensure that efforts are synchronized in support
6 of the State's comprehensive framework to address homelessness across the system of care. The
7 framework includes focus of efforts on three primary leverage points – affordable housing,
8 health and human services, and public safety. This measure contains appropriations aimed at
9 resourcing activities to conduct outreach to chronically homeless individuals and families with
10 substance abuse and mental health issues which align with plans developed between the DOH
11 and the Coordinator. The DOH recognizes that additional resources may be necessary to expand
12 services especially to target groups like homeless addicted to drugs or alcohol and individuals
13 with severe mental illness. Coordination with the Governor's Office on Homelessness are
14 underway to support a coordinated/strategic effort in this area. The DOH asks the Legislature's
15 support of the Governor's Executive Budget request of \$20.9 million, which includes
16 appropriations to the DOH for outreach services to homeless persons with severe and persistent
17 mental illness, and outreach, counseling, and diversion services for unsheltered homeless persons

- 1 experiencing substance abuse. The DOH requests that any appropriations resulting from this bill
- 2 do not supplant or replace priorities requested in the Executive Budget.
- 3 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1214: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair, Human Services; Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health; and Members, Committees on Human Services and Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President & Chief Executive Officer
Hearing: **Monday, 2/6/17; 2:55 pm; CR 016**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony **in strong support** of SB 1214, making appropriations for multiple outreach initiatives to provide comprehensive outreach to move homeless people into permanent housing and divert them from the criminal justice system. I am Terry Walsh, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. 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. Ending homelessness is a top priority for 2017.

Hawaii is #1 in the nation for the number of homeless per capita. 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. Intensive and more strategic outreach is needed to address homeless encampments as well as those visible in neighborhoods or hidden in bushes, etc. Neighbor Island as well as Oahu providers are struggling to reach out to the increasing number of unsheltered homeless. Outreach is the first step to moving people into permanent housing. More funding is critical to reach these newly homeless and rapidly move them into shelters and other programs. We also need targeted outreach to meet the special needs of the mentally ill, substance abusers, and street kids, as well as civil legal services to help homeless people resolve roadblocks to obtaining housing.

We must identify and help the often hidden homeless youth. 30% of all juvenile arrests in Hawaii are 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. National statistics show a shocking severity: 33% of teens will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home with the average age of entry into prostitution at 14 years old. Homeless youth are 11 times more likely to experience mental health problems. We must address this growing tragedy of kids living on the streets in Hawai'i.

We also need to divert the homeless from the criminal justice system to services. A pilot Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion project (LEAD) can build on other successful programs which found that 60% of people in LEAD were less likely than people in a control group to be arrested. 82% were homeless and 40% became housed. See the attached handout on LEAD.

We strongly urge your support SB 1214 to work towards our goal of ending homelessness. Please contact me at terry.walsh@catholiccharitieshawaii.org; or Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org, at 373-0356, if you have any questions.



Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)



What is LEAD?

LEAD is a pre-booking or pre-arrest diversion program. In LEAD, low-level offenders for whom probable cause for arrest exists are diverted from arrest or booking by immediately referring them to harm-reduction, non-abstinence based, individualized case management.

Why is LEAD important?

LEAD was intended to demonstrate that non-coercive and non-punitive approaches to currently illegal activities such as drug use *and* other activities that individuals engage in to obtain funds to purchase drugs (e.g. car prowls, mail theft, prostitution, shoplifting) can be more effectively and humanely addressed outside of the criminal justice system.

What does LEAD offer?

LEAD offers individualized case management services. The types of services accessed are entirely determined by individual participants and their case manager. As noted the *only* requirement for being in LEAD is to complete an intake assessment within a specified period of time. After that the individual is free to walk away without repercussion.

Does LEAD work?

LEAD started in Seattle, WA in 2011 and was heavily evaluated.

- People in LEAD were 60% less likely than people in the control group to be arrested after being in LEAD
- 82% were homeless prior to participation and 40% were housed
- 55% received drug treatment through LEAD
- Over 35 jurisdictions are exploring or already implementing LEAD

Who is involved in LEAD?

LEAD involves a wide variety of stakeholders including the Mayor's Office, City Council members, the Attorney General's Office, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Police and Sheriff Departments, Public Safety, legislators and healthcare and social service providers and the community.

For more information, visit <http://leadkingcounty.org/>

LEAD Hawaii Hui

ACLU - Hawaii Chapter
CARE Hawaii
Community Alliance on Prisons
CHOW Project
Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii
Harm Reduction Hawaii
Harm Reduction Services Branch,
Hawaii State Dept. of Health
Hawaii Appleseed
Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition
Helping Hands Hawaii
Hina Mauka
Institute for Human Services
Ku Aloha ola Mau
Mental Health America of Hawaii
Partners in Care
PHOCUSED
The Salvation Army ATS-FTS
Susannah Wesley Community Center
We are Oceania

Want to see LEAD in Hawaii?
Join our hui!
Contact Heather at
hlusk@chowproject.org
or call 853-3292.



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 SB 1214

TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Human Services, Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Committee on Consumer Protection and Health, and Members

FROM: Marya Grambs, Partners in Care

Hearing: **Monday, 2/6/17; 2:55 pm; CR 016**

STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1214.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of SB 1214, which appropriates funds to DOH and DHS, including the office of youth services, to provide homeless outreach services. I am Marya Grambs, on behalf of Partners in Care, a coalition of Oahu's homeless service providers, governmental representatives, and other community stakeholders working to end homelessness.

What is homeless outreach?

- Homeless outreach is the first contact that is made with homeless persons to get them into shelter, treatment, or housing. **Without these outreach services, none of the other options to get homeless people off the streets can occur.**
- With the most chronically homeless people, it can take **50 or more individual outreach contacts** spread out over several months to build up enough trust so that the person will agree to go into shelter or treatment. With mentally ill homeless persons, it can take, literally, **years** of frequent contacts. Clearly, it takes skills, persistence, and dedication on the part of outreach workers to develop relationships with individual homeless people, particularly chronically homeless and the most severely impaired, to get them help.
- Homeless outreach is done by a team of people, some of whose members may have medical and/or mental health expertise; all have experience making these vital connections to homeless people. These teams generally work within a geographic boundary and make the rounds of the places where homeless individuals are found – certain parks, street corners, or other sheltered areas. After time, the team gets to know all the individuals in that area. They may do wound care, distribute hygiene kits or snacks, and/or offer to obtain identification documents. When the homeless person sees the team of the same people repeatedly, week in and week out, over a period of many months, they gradually begin to trust them.
- Once trust has been established, the homeless outreach team assesses the individual or family's needs and vulnerabilities, and determines what type of response is most appropriate – emergency shelter, transitional shelter, Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, and/or a treatment program.

Who are the homeless people in greatest need of receiving outreach services?

- *Homeless families with children.* The Point in Time count last year found that there were **3,200 homeless school age children (age 5-17) on Oahu alone; to that number must be added children from infancy to 5 years.** We do not know how many of school-age children are attending school.
- *Homeless people with mental illness.* The 2016 Point in Time count showed that **30 percent of homeless individuals are mentally ill.** Many of these have untreated schizophrenia and are captive of their hallucinations and delusions and, most problematic of all, do not know they are ill. These are usually the individuals living in the most inhumane and degraded circumstances.
- *Homeless people with substance use disorders.* These constitute approximately **20% of homeless adults.**
 - Of the 16,000 arrests made on Oahu last year, **61 percent involved people who were severely mentally ill or abusing drugs,** according to the Honolulu Police Department. Moreover, **43 percent** of detainees in HPD's central cell block last year were homeless, and of those, **72 percent** had a serious mental illness or substance abuse problem.
 - ***Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)** is a new program in development in which a police officer, who is about to arrest someone for a low-level drug offense, instead will be able to offer the person the opportunity to meet with a social worker instead of being arrested. Of those served by LEAD in Seattle, 82% were homeless – and 40% of them were housed; they were 60% less likely to be re-arrested, and 55% received drug treatment. This has resulted in enormous cost savings - and life savings.
 - Also see separate handout on LEAD.
- *Unaccompanied, runaway, and homeless youth:* More than 700 youth live on our streets; many are sexually exploited, assaulted, arrested, lonely, and depressed, and unable to attend school. All have and/or are experiencing trauma. Nationally, almost half of homeless youth left home because of physical abuse, and 17% left because of sexual abuse; one third of teens will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home; they are 16 times as likely to be diagnosed with HIV/AIDS; and as many as 20% of homeless young women become pregnant.

Again, urge your strong support of this bill. A robust homeless outreach program is the linchpin of all of our efforts to end homelessness. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at mgrambs@hotmail.com

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 2, 2017

Senator Josh Green, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Senator Roslyn Baker, Chair
And members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Testimony in Support of SB 1214 Relating to Homelessness

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 1214 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:

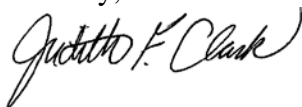
- 33% of teens will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.
- Average age of entry into prostitution is 14.
- 95% of homeless youth have engaged in sexual intercourse.
- Over 33% report exchanging in sex for food, shelter, or drugs.
- About 50% of street youth have had a pregnancy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

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



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

February 3, 2017

TO: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

FROM: Merton Chinen, Executive Director

SUBJECT: SB 1214, Relating to Homelessness

Hearing: Monday, February 6, 2017, 2:55 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

OFFICE'S POSITION: The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports the intent of the measure but requests that any appropriation not affect the priorities in the Executive Biennium 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, including unaccompanied homeless youth, many who have suffered from trauma and/or other types of adverse childhood experiences. Unaccompanied homeless youth present complex risk factors that are difficult to address and requires an approach that is rooted in acceptance, trauma-informed and long-term advocacy.

OYS currently provides outreach and advocacy services for youth experiencing, or at-risk for, homelessness 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 funds to the DOH and DHS, including Office of Youth Services, to provide homeless outreach services. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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

February 06, 2017

TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Human Services

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce,
Consumer Protection and Health

FROM: Natalie Okeson, Interim Executive Director

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of SB1214, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: February 06, 2017 at 2:55pm
Conference Room 016

PHOCUSED is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to increasing the safety for, visibility of, and investment in the children and adults in Hawaii who are marginalized, impoverished, and under-served. Our organization has been a leading voice in advocating for our homeless populations since our formation, as the membership of PHOCUSED and our Board of Directors represent many of the major providers of human services across our state. In addition, as a member of Partners in Care, PHOCUSED is proud to strongly support SB1214.

The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, Scott Morishige, provided leadership on this critical issue as a former Executive Director of PHOCUSED, and our organization continues

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

to believe that, although many strides have been made, Hawaii's ranking as the nation's leader in per capita homelessness demands major investment, as well as action on the part of all community members.

This bill is a crucial piece of the aforementioned investment. SB 1214 appropriates funds to the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services, including the office of youth services, to provide homeless outreach services to those with mental illness, substance-abuse disorders, families with children and unaccompanied youth.

Outreach is a crucial component of working to house those persons living unsheltered. Without the first contact made through outreach, none of the services related to housing and treatment can be offered. The dedicated individuals performing outreach work build much needed trust with our homeless individuals over the course of many, many contacts. It is often this trust with our professional outreach workers that finally enables someone to agree to seek treatment or to be assessed to determine which shelter or housing option would be appropriate.

PHOCUSED encourages the passage of this bill on many grounds, especially given the foundational importance of outreach in impacting homelessness as mentioned above, but would like to highlight that sixty seven percent of runaway youth are fleeing physical or sexual abuse at home and that one third of those children will find themselves sexually trafficked within 48hours. The critical nature of outreach to the homeless youth population cannot be overstated.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1214.



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

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 1214, RELATING TO THE HOMELESSNESS

Senate Committee on Human Services
Hon. Josh Green, Chair
Hon. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Hon. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Hon. Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Monday, February 6, 2017, 2:55 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Honorable Chair Green, Chair Baker, 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 Senate Bill 1214, 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.

When you fund services for the homeless, especially outreach toward runaway youth, 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



TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and House Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: Monday, February 6, 2017; 2:55 p.m., Conference Room 016

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1214 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

We support the intent of SB 1214 – Relating to Homelessness. Homelessness is largely about poverty. Social service support to homeless youth and families have immediate and long-term benefits that include higher levels of educational achievement, reduced homelessness, reduced crime, reduced substance abuse, improved health, and overall better social and economic well being.

History has shown that as the economy has changed to negatively impact the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our society, it has a direct tie to increased homelessness. These impacts have long lasting and multi-generational consequences. History has also shown that the lack of expansion in governmental safety net programs and the inability of social service programs to keep up with the rising needs severely impacts the war on poverty and homelessness.

This bill will support the critical services for families that are most in need. Parents And Children Together supports this bill and notes that it is of critical importance that this bill supports the social service delivery to families with young/preschool-aged children. The first 5 years of a child's life provides the foundation for future development. Access to services at an early age will help early identification of developmental, social/emotional, and educational issues. It is also critical to serve this population because families with young children do not often seek these services because of the fear of their children will be taken away from them. Services also to parents and caregivers are critical to address their unique circumstances.

There are approximately 8,000 keiki in Hawaii between the ages of 3-5 living in poverty and approximately 10,000 from the ages of 0-3. Many of these kids are homeless. Support of this bill will provide the funding that benefits the child and their families as they deal with homelessness and poverty. This is a key component to our war on intergenerational poverty. **All children in Hawaii, no matter what their circumstance, deserve a chance.**

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 16 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 1214**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.



February 5, 2017

TIM VANDEVEER
Chair
MARIE STRAZAR
Vice Chair

MARGARET WILLE
SEAN SMITH
Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

SB1214 “RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS”
February 6, 2017 2:55 pm State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Submitted on Behalf of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i supports SB1214 “Homelessness” which is designed to provide dedicated funding for the education of our children. **The intent of this legislation is consistent with the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i’s legislative priority to provide outreach centers for youth, especially homeless youth.**

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tim Vandever (tim@hawaiidemocrats.org)
Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i
/s/ Marie (Dolly) Strazar (hilomds@gmail.com)
Vice Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

/s/ Margaret Wille (margaretwille@mac.com)
/s/ Sean Smith (simashang@yahoo.com)
Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: HMS Testimony
Cc: erinrutherford815@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1214 on Feb 6, 2017 14:55PM*

SB1214

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for HMS/CPH on Feb 6, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Rutherford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

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SB1214

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for HMS/CPH on Feb 6, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane S. Martinson	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am in favor of the appropriations of funds in this bill to DOH and DHS, including the office of youth services, to provide outreach services to the homeless in our communities. This contact is beneficial, compassionate, and effective.

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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