

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 2:25 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** hlusk@chowproject.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1215 on Feb 6, 2017 15:05PM\*

**SB1215**

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HMS/HOU on Feb 6, 2017 15:05PM in Conference Room 016

<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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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 6:58 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** catgraham48@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1215 on Feb 8, 2017 15:00PM

**SB1215**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for HMS/HOU on Feb 8, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Catherine Susan Graham	FACE/Housing Now Coalition	Support	No

Comments: FACE and the Housing Now Coalition strongly supports SB1215 as an excellent way to prevent adding to the role of currently homeless families and individuals. We are very much in favor of continuing the Housing First program and funding for the Rapid Rehousing program. We agree that there is a need for rental subsidies and rental supplements for those in public housing as well as others in our community. Please pass this bill.

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## RATTIKA OU, MSW CANDIDATE 2017

**February 8, 2017**

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Senate Committee on Human Services (HMS)

Senator Josh Green, Chair (HMS)

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair (HMS)

Senate Committee on Housing

Senator Will Espero, Chair (HOU)

Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair (HOU)

**RE: SB 1215 - Testimony in Support**

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My name is Rattika Ou, a student from University of Hawaii, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work in the MSW program, expecting to graduate Spring 2017.

**I am writing in support of SB 1215** which appropriates funds to Department of Human Services for the housing first and rapid re-housing programs as well as to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for the state rent supplement program. In which, these programs assist chronically homeless individuals, individuals who require financial assistance to avoid homelessness, and families at imminent risk of homelessness.

As a social work student, I strongly support the passage of this bill for individuals/families who are currently experiencing homelessness or may be at risk of homeless due to instability. While there is no other underlying factors involved, individuals/families may need minimal assistance to help them get back on their feet again, and often times those assistance may be short-term. If these programs are funded, the overall number of the homeless population could significantly be reduced. Further, the harm reduction approach is about being less aggressive and allowing the individual to make progress toward their goal one step at a time. Finding solutions to complex issues are indeed difficult because different individuals/families experience different challenges; therefore, there is not a "one size fits all" kind of approach. With continued support to these crucial components, the efforts to improve and to end this crisis may continue to have a positive outlook.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.