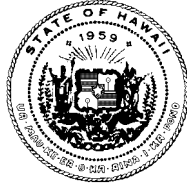


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

BRIDGET HOLTHUS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 6, 2017

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

The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB1223 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: February 6, 2017, 3:05 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure, as it proposes to provide funding to address key aspects of the State's work to end homelessness. DHS is concerned about potential adverse impacts on priorities indicated in the Executive Budget, and respectfully opposes part IV of this bill.

DHS provides comments in regard to Parts I, II, III, V, VI, and VII, and asks for the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive Budget request for homeless services.

PURPOSE: The measure has seven parts with the following purposes:

- Part I: Appropriates funds to DHS for mobile Clinics;
- Part II: Appropriates funds for 3 specialty shelters;
- Part III: Appropriates funds to study the creation of a database of information related to homelessness;
- Part IV: Requires Governor's Office to create Pu`uhonua safe zones;
- Part V: Appropriates funds for Outreach services;

- Part VI: Appropriates funds for Outreach for those with mental illness or experiencing substance use;
- Part VII: Appropriates funds to Department of Transportation for homelessness.

The State's resources are limited and it is essential that the services provided will be the most effective and reach the greatest number of people. This will be achieved through your support of the Governor's executive budget and support of the State's framework to address homelessness, which includes a focus on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety.

In regard to Part 1, DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO) currently contracts homeless outreach services with providers statewide, which may include health services. While the primary purpose of outreach providers is to help connect unsheltered homeless individuals with basic needs, a link to medical care is an important piece of this large puzzle.

Outreach is essential to meet unsheltered homeless people 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 and other social services.

In regard to Part 2, DHS acknowledges that mental health and substance use issues are significant factors facing the chronically homeless. However, the Housing First model is successful on Oahu, and HPO will be expanding Housing First to neighbor islands. Housing First places the chronically homeless into housing immediately and provides intensive wrap around services, such as case management, substance use services, and mental health services, to support the individual's ability to maintain housing.

Shelters funded through the Governor's Executive budget encompasses a broader spectrum of people instead of a narrow group of individuals. When the net is cast wider and providers are able to provide services to the people they encounter, the State is able to serve a greater amount of individuals, while specialty shelters will commit resources and limit the amount

of individuals that can be served. The current structure of shelter services allows the shelter provider to deliver additional services and make referrals based on the clients' needs.

In regard to Part 3, the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is an electronic data collection system that holds information about persons who access the homeless services system in a Continuum of Care (CoC). HMIS is able to integrate and de-duplicate data from all homeless assistance and homelessness prevention programs within a CoC. Aggregate HMIS data can be used to understand the size, characteristics, and needs of the homeless population at the local, state, and national levels.

HMIS is required by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and HUD has supported the development of local HMIS by: 1) providing technical support and funding to CoCs to develop local HMIS; and 2) undertaking a research effort to collect and analyze HMIS data from a representative sample of communities in order to understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationally.

Data analysis from HMIS allows organizations that operate homeless assistance and homelessness prevention programs to improve case management by collecting information about client needs, goals, and service outcomes to improve access to timely resource and referral information and to better manage operations.

The State and homeless service providers have used the HMIS system since 2001. The State's service providers are contractually required to input all data into HMIS within 48 hours. The State also contracts with an organization to be the system administrator. The system administrator maintains the system, conducts training on the use of the system, and provides other administrative functions. With the work of the system administrator, HMIS has improved data quality and timeliness of data input.

In regard to Part 4, the formal establishment of homeless encampments is inconsistent with the State's overall strategy to address homelessness. The better long term strategy is to link the homeless individuals and families to housing.

In 2012, through Act 105, Session Laws of Hawaii, the Legislature directed the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) to study the issue of "designating safe facilities located at areas, showers, toilets, laundry facilities, and locker rooms in various locations throughout the State for homeless persons for overnight stays." In its report to the Legislature,

the HICH concluded that “[c]reating camping areas for homeless individuals in our parks and in our public buildings . . . is unworkable, is not advisable, and should not be pursued.” (See Report to the Twenty-Seventh Hawaii State Legislature 2013, in accordance with the provisions of Act 105, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, Appendix 2, at page 10; link to the report: <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/2012-Act-105-SLH-2012-HICH-Progress-Report.pdf>).

Housing First is an approach that emphasizes stable, permanent housing as a strategy for ending homelessness. As noted by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Housing First is based on the theory that client choice is valuable in housing selection and supportive service participation, and that exercising that choice is likely to make a client more successful in remaining housed and improving their life. The residential campgrounds proposed in this measure takes away that choice, which is the critical component of Housing First, and doesn't address permanent housing.

Many experts on the issue of homelessness agree that these types of encampments encourage more encampments. It is important for government to build affordable low income housing to increase the inventory of permanent housing instead of temporary camps. Barbara Poppe, former Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), has stated that tent cities are not part, or should not be part of the government's response to homelessness

In regard to Part 5, in this fiscal year, HPO awarded \$4.4 million for 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 legal assistance to address barriers to housing. In addition, the Governor's Executive budget request includes a request for funds for property storage.

In regard to Part 6, these services are already provided through current outreach contracts.

In regards to Part 7, we defer to the Department of Transportation to determine if the amount is appropriate for the work requested.

DHS asks that the Legislature support the Governor's Executive budget for homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 6, 2017

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

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

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

SUBJECT: SB 1223 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Monday, February 6, 2017, 3:05 p.m.
Conference Room 016, 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. However, the Coordinator is concerned about potential adverse impacts on priorities indicated in the Executive Budget, and respectfully opposes part IV of this bill.

The Coordinator offers written comments in regard to Parts I, II, III, V, VI, and VII, and asks for the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive Budget request for homeless services. The Executive Budget requests related to homelessness include appropriations to the Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Health (DOH), Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA), and the Department of Transportation (DOT).

PURPOSE: The bill has seven parts with the following purposes:

- **Part I:** Appropriates funds to DHS for establishing, staffing, and operating two mobile clinics to serve the homeless population;
- **Part II:** Appropriates funds to DHS for establishing three specialty shelters to temporarily house and serve homeless individuals;

- **Part III:** Appropriates funds to DHS to study the impact and feasibility of creating an integrated database of certain information related to homeless individuals for providers of homeless services;
- **Part IV:** Requires the Governor to establish Pu'uhonua Safe Zones where homeless persons may reside, and appropriates funds to the Office of the Governor for this purpose;
- **Part V:** Appropriates funds to DHS for homeless outreach services and storage of homeless people's property;
- **Part VI:** Appropriates funds to DOH for outreach services to homeless persons with serious and persistent mental illness, and for services for homeless persons experiencing substance abuse; and
- **Part VII:** Appropriates funds to DOT for homelessness-related issues pertaining to security, health, and safety.

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, as well as over \$150 million for the Rental Housing Revolving Fund, Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund, and HPHA.

The Executive Budget specifically increases resources for homeless outreach, mental health and substance use treatment. It also addresses housing costs and homelessness mitigation through programs such as Housing First, Rapid Re-Housing and the State Rent Supplement. In addition, DHS recently procured new contracts for homeless shelter, outreach, emergency grant services, and housing placement program services that set specific performance targets for service providers that are aligned with federal performance benchmarks.

In regard to **Part III**, efforts are currently underway to address issues related to integration of data related to homelessness. In particular, DOH received federal grant funding

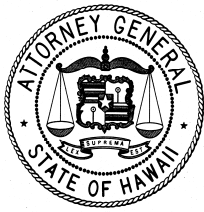
from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for the Hawaii Pathways Project, and through that program contracts the Corporation for Supportive Housing for work that includes looking at data integration between the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and other systems.

In regard to **Part IV**, the formal establishment of homeless encampments is inconsistent with the State's overall strategy to address homelessness. The better long term strategy is to link the homeless individuals and families to housing. In 2012, through Act 105, Session Laws of Hawaii, the Legislature directed the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) to study the issue of "designating safe facilities located at areas, showers, toilets, laundry facilities, and locker rooms in various locations throughout the State for homeless persons for overnight stays." In its report to the Legislature, the HICH concluded that "[c]reating camping areas for homeless individuals in our parks and in our public buildings . . . is unworkable, is not advisable, and should not be pursued." (See Report to the Twenty-Seventh Hawaii State Legislature 2013, in accordance with the provisions of Act 105, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, Appendix 2, at page 10; link to the report: <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/2012-Act-105-SLH-2012-HICH-Progress-Report.pdf>).

Both the HICH and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) have recommended against formal establishment of homeless encampments. According to the USICH, "strategies that focus on making encampments an official part of the system for responding to homelessness can serve to distract communities from focusing on what is most important – connecting people experiencing homelessness to safe, stable, permanent housing." (USICH, *Ending Homelessness for People Living in Encampments*, August 2015).

The Coordinator defers to DHS, DOH, HPHA, and HHFDC, respectively, with regard to contracting and the implementation of provisions such as homeless and health care services, implementation of public housing programs, and maintenance of state-owned lands. While the Coordinator establishes and coordinates State policy to address homelessness, other Executive Branch agencies are responsible for the direct administration and implementation of homeless and housing programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2017**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 1223, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND ON HOUSING

DATE: Monday, February 6, 2017 **TIME:** 3:05 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

TESTIFIER(S): Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or
Melissa L. Lewis, Deputy Attorney General

Chairs Green and Espero and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purposes of this bill are to appropriate funds and to: (1) establish two mobile clinics and three specialty temporary shelters to serve and house homeless individuals; (2) require the Department of Human Services to study the creation of an integrated database of homeless individuals; (3) require the Governor to establish, maintain, and operate puuhonua safe zones where homeless individuals may reside; (4) require the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health to provide outreach services to specified populations and property storage; and (5) assist the Department of Transportation with homeless-related issues pertaining to security, health, and safety.

The establishment, maintenance, and operation of puuhonua safe zones by the Governor in section 7 of the bill on page 6, lines 1-18, may be challenged as a violation of the Hawaii Constitution. Article V, section 6, of the Hawaii Constitution provides:

All executive and administrative offices, departments and instrumentalities of the state government and their respective powers and duties shall be allocated by law among and within not more than twenty principal departments in such manner as to group the same according to common purposes and related functions. Temporary commissions or agencies for special purposes may be established by law and need not be allocated within a principal department.

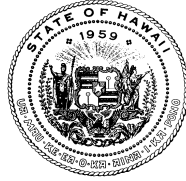
Section 7 of this measure, at page 6, lines 1-2, provides: "The governor shall establish puuhonua safe zones where homeless persons may reside in the State." At page 6, lines 13-15 the bill provides: "The governor shall maintain and operate puuhonua safe zones until the legislature determines that homelessness is no longer a crisis in the State."

The bill as currently written may be interpreted to place the powers and duties of an executive office, administrative office, department, or instrumentality of State government within the Governor's Office rather than in a principal department of the State. Such a placement may be challenged as violating article V, section 6, of the Hawaii Constitution. The Office of the Governor is a constitutional office established by section 1 of article V of the Hawaii Constitution. It is not one of the principal departments of the executive branch of state government listed in section 26-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

To reduce the potential for a constitutional challenge, we recommend modifying the bill to place the responsibilities for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of puuhonua zones within a principal department of the State executive branch. In addition, we recommend the same principal department, rather than the Governor, be designated as the expending agency for the appropriation. Furthermore, placing this program in a principal department eliminates the need for subsection (g) of section 7.

Moreover, on page 6, lines 5-6, the bill provides: "Each puuhonua safe zone shall be furnished with appropriate hygiene facilities and security and social services as deemed necessary." The requirement for the State to provide security for the puuhonua safe zones may increase the State's liability. The Legislature may mitigate this risk by adding to the end of part IV of the measure, on page 7, a waiver of liability, such as, "The State shall not be liable for any loss, damage, injury, or death arising from or occurring in a puuhonua safe zone."

If this bill is to proceed we respectfully request that the recommended amendments be made.



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 1223
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

SENATOR WILL ESPERO, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

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 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 VI of S.B. 1223, the DOH asks the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive
10 Budget request of \$20.9 million, which includes appropriations to the DOH for outreach services
11 to homeless persons with severe 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.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu.org



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

CARY OKIMOTO
JERRY INOUE
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE CT-TA

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
and Members
Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
and Members
Committee on Housing
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Green and Espero and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 1223, Relating to Homelessness

I am Major Calvin Tong of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD would like to submit the following comments regarding the intent of Senate Bill No. 1223, Relating to Homelessness.

Should the study by the Department of Human Services support the need for an integrated database, the Honolulu Police Department has concerns for the additional responsibility this may place on our personnel and current records management system.

In addition, allowing the peaceful consumption of alcoholic beverages in a puuhonua safe zone is counter to Section 281-78 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, which prohibits public alcohol consumption.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cary Okimoto", is written over a horizontal line.

Cary Okimoto
Acting Chief of Police

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Calvin Tong", is written above the name.

Calvin Tong, Major
Narcotics/Vice Division

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 Will Espero, Chair
And members of the Committee on Housing

Testimony in Support of SB 1223 Relating to Homelessness

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 1223 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.

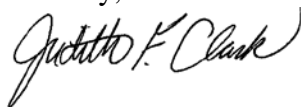
Homeless youth experience significant health challenges with which mobile clinics could assist. Compared to their peers, they are:

- 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.
- About 50% of street youth have had a pregnancy experience.

Outreach to this population is essential to help them reunite with family or move from the streets into other safe and appropriate living situations. We strongly urge that at least \$300,000 be designated for outreach to runaway and homeless youth.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2017 9:27 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: MikeGoodman72@Outlook.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1223 on Feb 6, 2017 15:05PM*

SB1223

Submitted on: 2/4/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Goodman	Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force	Support	Yes

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



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

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 1223, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

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

Senate Committee on Housing
Hon. Will Espero, Chair
Hon. Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

Monday, February 6, 2017, 3:05 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Honorable Chair Green, Chair Espero, 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 1223, 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 outreach and specialty shelters for our state’s unhoused population, many of whom are gainfully employed and contributing our economy. Homeless individuals suffering from complex and overlapping trauma deserve our compassion, best provided through acute treatment and mental health care. Homeless sex trafficking victims are often coerced into abuse through forced drug addiction and are twice as likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder as soldiers in a war zone. 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 shelter and 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



February 5, 2017

TIM VANDEVEER
Chair
MARIE STRAZAR
Vice Chair

MARGARET WILLE
SEAN SMITH
Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

SB1223 “RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS”

February 6, 2017 3:05 pm State Capitol, Conference Room 016

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

Senator Will Espiro, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Housing

Submitted on Behalf of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i supports SB1223 “Relating to Homelessness” which will authorize funding for mobile unit outreach to the homeless. **The intent of this legislation is consistent with the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i’s legislative priority to provide housing and outreach to the homeless.**

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
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 10:24 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: erinrutherford815@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1223 on Feb 6, 2017 15:05PM*

SB1223

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for HMS/HOU on Feb 6, 2017 15:05PM 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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 9:59 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: wailua@aya.yale.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1223 on Feb 6, 2017 15:05PM

SB1223

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wailua Brandman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need more of this kind of support to solve the problems of homelessness

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: Sunday, February 5, 2017 2:37 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1223 on Feb 6, 2017 15:05PM*

SB1223

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

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

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

Comments:

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