

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

January 30, 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: **SB171 – RELATING TO HOUSING**

Hearing: January 30, 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 expand the Housing First program to the neighbor islands, and offers comments. Housing First is an evidence-based best practice targeted at the unsheltered homeless population with the highest acuity and chronicity. The DHS asks for the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive budget request for \$3 million for Housing First.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate \$3 million for continued implementation of the State's Housing First program and expansion of the program outside of Oahu to assist residents who are chronically homeless.

Homeless Programs Office (HPO) plans to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) by the end of February (state fiscal year 2017) to continue the implementation of the State's Housing First Program on Oahu and expand the program to the neighbor islands. The proposal will be for \$3 million, with \$1.5 million allocated for the island of Oahu and \$1.5 million for the neighbor islands.

DHS would prefer the Legislature appropriate the funds through the Executive budget to support program continuity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

January 23, 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 171 – RELATING TO HOUSING

Hearing: Monday, January 30, 2017, 2:55 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure, as it proposes 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, which includes \$3 million to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for Housing First statewide.

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

The Housing First program is a critical part of the State's framework to address homelessness. The Housing First program provides both housing and supportive services to chronically homeless individuals. Housing First is an evidence-based intervention, with demonstrated success in other communities across the country. Locally, the state's Housing First program currently provides permanent housing for 117 chronically homeless persons that include many individuals with serious and persistent mental illness and chronic health conditions. The most recent DHS report on the status of the state

Housing First program can be found on the DHS website at:

<https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Section-346-378-Housing-First.pdf>.

Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §346-378 establishes the state's Housing First program, and describes the principles of a Housing First approach. HRS §346-378(e) defines “chronically homeless individual” as a homeless individual who has an addiction or mental illness, or both. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines a “chronically homeless” individual as a homeless person with a disability who has been homeless continuously for at least 12 months, or has been homeless on at least four separate occasions over the past three years. If this measure moves forward, the Coordinator respectfully requests that the state definition of “chronically homeless” be amended to conform to the HUD definition for consistency.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 171: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Human Services, Senator Will Espero, Chair, Committee on Housing, and Members, Human Services and Housing.

FROM: Marya Grambs, Partners in Care and PHOCUSED

Hearing: **Monday, 1/30/17; 2:55 pm; CR 016**

STRONG SUPPORT OF SB171, to continue Housing First program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of SB 171, to continue the Housing First Program. I am Marya Grambs, a member of Partners in Care and a Board member of PHOCUSED (Protecting Hawaii's Ohana, Children, Underserved, Elderly, and Disabled).

Housing First has been funded on a year-to-year basis by the State Legislature. The current level of funding is \$3 million, split between Oahu and the neighbor islands. Because funding is not in the base budget, the sustainability of housing for individuals in the current program is at risk (up to 500 people, statewide, by the end of 2017).

We ask your support for \$3 million to continue the Housing First program statewide. We also respectfully urge that this funding be added to the base budget of DHS. Without this, the sustainability of housing for currently housed chronically homeless people would be at risk.

Housing First is different from other housing interventions because it focuses on providing people experiencing homelessness with housing as soon as possible, and then providing supportive services once the individual is housed. The program targets chronically homeless individuals who are medically vulnerable, and may have difficulty accessing other housing programs due to their high level of need. These are the people who are most difficult to get off the streets. Housing First includes funding for (1) Permanent Housing subsidy; and (2) Intensive case management/supportive services ("wrap around services").

Our current Housing First (HF) program is successful: by the end of 2017, State and City Housing First programs will serve an estimated 500 people, statewide. HF programs enable these homeless to remain successful in permanent housing. HF programs have a high retention rate (combined rate of **98.1%**) when compared with other programs where the retention rate is less than 50%.

Housing First results in high public cost savings in healthcare alone. Early findings from the UH Center on the Family found a 43% reduction in healthcare costs after just 6 months in the State Housing First program. Costs were reduced by approximately \$4,590/person/month. For the estimate 500 people to be served by State/City Housing First programs, this could result in **nearly \$2.3 million per month in public cost savings.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of SB 171, to continue the Housing First Program.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 171: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Human Services, Senator Will Espero, Chair, Committee on Housing, and Members, Human Services and Housing.

FROM: Maude Cumming, Executive Director
Family Life Center, Inc. (Maui County)

Hearing: Monday, 1/30/17; 2:55 pm; CR 016

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of SB 171, to continue the Housing First Program and including funding for the neighbor island communities. This funding provides immediate solutions to ending chronic homelessness.

My name is Maude Cumming, Executive Director of Family Life Center, Inc., a non-profit organization based on Maui island and lead provider agency addressing homelessness through a continuum of programs including Homeless Outreach, Emergency Shelter, and Affordable Housing for low income families and individuals. We are also a member of Maui's local continuum of care, Maui Homeless Alliance as well as the neighbor island's Balance of State Continuum of Care, Bridging the Gap. Ending homelessness is our top priority.

According to Hawaii's Homeless Point in Time Count report, the total number of chronically homeless individuals and families increased by 27% in 2016 with 1,949 persons in chronically homeless households, compared to 2015 with 1,534 in chronically homeless households. On the neighbor islands, there were 665 chronically homeless individuals identified & 194 persons in 42 chronically homeless families.

We ask your support for \$3 million to continue the Housing First program statewide. We also respectfully urge that this funding be added to the **base budget of DHS**. Without this, the sustainability of housing for currently housed chronically homeless people would be at risk.

Thank you very much for hearing and considering this critical bill to help end chronic homelessness. Please contact me at (808) 877-0880 or maude@flcmaui.org if you have any questions. Mahalo for your time and look forward to your support.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 171: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Human Services, Senator Will Espero, Chair, Committee on Housing, and Members, Human Services and Housing.

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

Hearing: **Monday, 1/30/17; 2:55 pm; CR 016**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of SB 171, to continue the Housing First Program. I am Betty Lou Larson, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care. This funding provides immediate solutions to homelessness.

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 one of our top priorities for 2017.

The causes of homelessness are diverse but the **KEY** to ending chronic homelessness is Housing First. The chronically homeless population is growing (a 27% increase between 2015-2016), but we know Housing First (HF) is effective at addressing the needs of this population. We see them daily; nothing seemed to get them off the streets. Chronic homeless are the most visible and the hardest to reach—disabled and often mentally ill, most have been living on the streets for over 3 years and some for over 10 years. They are medically vulnerable, and may have difficulty accessing other housing programs due to their high level of need. With the HF rental subsidies and vital wrap around services, we are finally successful. By the end of 2017, State and City Housing First programs will serve an estimated 500 people, statewide. HF programs enable these homeless to remain successful in permanent housing. HF have a high retention rate (combined rate of **98.1%**) when compared with other programs.

We ask your support for \$3 million to continue the Housing First program statewide. We also respectfully urge that this funding be added to the base budget of DHS. Without this, the sustainability of housing for currently housed chronically homeless people would be at risk.

Housing First is expensive, but it keeps the most visible homeless in housing. This results in high public cost savings in healthcare alone. Early findings from the UH Center on the Family found a 43% reduction in healthcare costs after just 6 months in the State Housing First program. Costs were reduced by approximately \$4,590/person/month. For the estimate 500 people to be served by State/City Housing First programs, this could result in **nearly \$2.3 million per month is public cost savings.**

Thank you for considering this key program to solve homelessness. Please contact me at (808) 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.





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Connect via email: info@hopeserviceshawaii.org

HOPE Help Line: 808-935-3050

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 171: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Human Services, Senator Will Espero, Chair, Committee on Housing, and Members, Human Services and Housing.

FROM: Brandee Menino, Chief Executive Officer
Hope Services Hawaii, Inc.

Hearing: Monday, 1/30/17; 2:55 pm; CR 016

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 171, to continue the Housing First Program and including funding for the neighbor island communities. This funding provides immediate solutions to ending chronic homelessness.

My name is Brandee Menino, CEO of Hope Services Hawaii, a non-profit organization based on Hawaii Island and lead provider agency addressing homelessness through a continuum of programs including Homeless Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing and Affordable Housing for low income families and individuals with over a 223 bed capacity at any given night at nine facilities across Hawaii Island. We are also a member of Hawaii Island's local continuum of care, Community Alliance Partners as well as the neighbor island's Balance of State Continuum of Care, Bridging the Gap. Ending homelessness is our top priority.

According to Hawaii's Homeless Point in Time Count report, the total number of chronically homeless individuals and families increased by 27% in 2016 with 1,949 persons in chronically homeless households, compared to 2015 with 1,534 in chronically homeless households. On the neighbor islands, there were 665 chronically homeless individuals identified & 194 persons in 42 chronically homeless families.

According to the Homeless Service Utilization Statistical Supplement Report for FY 2015, 54 chronic homeless adults and 52 chronic homeless families in Hawaii County moved into permanent housing and NONE of them returned to the homeless service system after one year. So, we know firsthand that Housing First works! We ask your support for \$3 million to continue the Housing First program statewide. We also respectfully urge that this funding be added to the base budget of DHS. Without this, the sustainability of housing for currently housed chronically homeless people would be at risk.

Thank you very much for hearing and considering this critical bill to help end chronic homelessness. Please contact me at (808) 933-6013 or bmenino@hopeserviceshawaii.org if you have any questions.

Māhalo for your time and look forward to your support.

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
296 Kilauea Avenue
Hilo, HI 96720
phone: (808) 935-3050
fax: (808) 935-3794

HOPE RESOURCE CENTER
116 Kapi'olani Street
Hilo, HI 96720
phone: (808) 933-6029
fax: (808) 933-2760

KIHEI PUA EMERGENCY SHELTER
115 Kapi'olani Street
Hilo, HI 96720
phone: (808) 933-6053
fax: (808) 934-0904

VETERAN HOUSING PROGRAMS
21 West Ohea Street
Hilo, HI 96720
phone: (808) 934-8658
fax: (808) 934-8658

FRIENDLY PLACE RESOURCE CENTER
74-5593 Pawai Place
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
phone: (808) 933-6062
fax: (808) 329-6219

WEST HAWAII EMERGENCY HOUSING PROGRAM
74-5593 Pawai Place
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PO. Box 23404
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Hawaii'i 96823

January 29 , 2017

TO: Honorable Chairs Green and Espero of the Human Services and
 Housing Committees

RE: SB 171 Relating to Housing
 Support for hearing on Jan. 30

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support SB dsa171 as it would support the continuation of the Housing First Program. This program is as collaborative effort between the Department of Human Services and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide housing and support services for chronically homeless individuals, including those who have an addiction or mental illness, or both. We have the worst homelessness problem in the nation. This is one of many steps that need to be taken to alleviate the problem.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel
President



January 30, 2017

From: George S. Massengale

To: Senate Committee on Human Services & Senate Committee on Housing

Date: Hearing January 30, 2017 at 2:45 P.M.

Subject: SB171, Relating to Housing

Testimony in Strong Support

Chairs, Senator Green and Senator Espero, Vice Chairs, Senator Chang, and Senator Harimoto and members of the Human Services and Housing Committees. I am here today on behalf of Hawaii Habitat for Humanity Association and our seven county Habitat affiliates in Hawaii, to offer this testimony in strong support of SB171. This bill if passed would fund Hawaii's Housing First's efforts in providing shelter beds, and supportive transitional housing for Hawaii's chronically homeless, many of whom have serious health and mental health issues.

Hawaii Habitat for Humanity and its seven county affiliates have long recognized that decent affordable housing is not just an economic issue (the pathway out of poverty) it is a public health issue. Although we are on the top end of homeless/housing continuum we support the efforts our homeless providers in addressing this problem. We also recognized that the Housing First Model as having a positive impact in reducing homelessness, while at the same time providing supportive services that offered to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness as opposed to addressing predetermined treatment goals prior to permanent housing entry.

In closing, we would strongly recommend that the committees to move this bill forward.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George S. Massengale".

George S. Massengale
Director, Community Engagement

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 6:48 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB171 on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM

SB171

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for HMS/HOU on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS the intent of SB 171, which is to appropriate State General Funds to the Department of Human Services to support the State's Housing First programs in assisting the rest of Hawaii's residents outside of Oahu who are chronically homeless and who are often the most vulnerable and most difficult to serve.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 10:48 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: williamrandysmith@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB171 on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM*

SB171

Submitted on: 1/27/2017

Testimony for HMS/HOU on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William R Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: pastordianem@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB171 on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM

SB171

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for HMS/HOU on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments: I support SB171 in appropriating \$3 million for Housing First services, a model that has proven effective in reducing chronic homelessness and provides cost savings in the long run in delivering services. I also support placing funding for Housing First in the base budget for DHS.

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Cc: cchaudron08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB171 on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM*

SB171

Submitted on: 1/27/2017

Testimony for HMS/HOU on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments:

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To: HMS Testimony
Cc: brandon.duran@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB171 on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM

SB171

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for HMS/HOU on Jan 30, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandon W Duran	Individual	Support	No

Comments: TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Human Services, Senator Will Espero, Chair, Committee on Housing, and Members, Human Services and Housing. This funding provides immediate solutions to homelessness. The causes of homelessness are diverse but the key to ending chronic homelessness is Housing First. The chronically homeless population is growing (a 27% increase between 2015-2016), but we know Housing First (HF) is effective at addressing the needs of this population. We see them daily; nothing seemed to get them off the streets. Chronic homeless are the most visible and the hardest to reach—disabled and often mentally ill, most have been living on the streets for over 3 years and some for over 10 years. They are medically vulnerable, and may have difficulty accessing other housing programs due to their high level of need. With the HF rental subsidies and vital wrap around services, we are finally successful. By the end of 2017, State and City Housing First programs will serve an estimated 500 people, statewide. HF programs enable these homeless to remain successful in permanent housing. HF have a high retention rate (combined rate of 98.1%) when compared with other programs. We ask your support for \$3 million to continue the Housing First program statewide. We also respectfully urge that this funding be added to the base budget of DHS. Without this, the sustainability of housing for currently housed chronically homeless people would be at risk. Housing First is expensive, but it keeps the most visible homeless in housing. This results in high public cost savings in healthcare alone. Early findings from the UH Center on the Family found a 43% reduction in healthcare costs after just 6 months in the State Housing First program. Costs were reduced by approximately \$4,590/person/month. For the estimate 500 people to be served by State/City Housing First programs, this could result in nearly \$2.3 million per month in public cost savings. Thank you for considering this key program to solve homelessness. Respectfully submitted, Rev. Brandon Duran

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