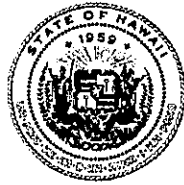


SB 436

Measure Title: RELATING TO HOMELESS SERVICES.
Report Title: Homeless; Specialty Shelters; Appropriation (\$)
Description: Appropriates funds for establishing three specialty shelters to temporarily house and serve homeless individuals.
Companion:
Package: None
Current Referral: HOU/HMS, WAM
Introducer(s): S. CHANG, ESPERO, GREEN, K. RHOADS, Shimabukuro



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 6, 2017

TO: The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

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

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

SUBJECT: **SB 436 – RELATING TO HOMELESS SERVICES**

Hearing: Monday, February 6, 2017, 3:00 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 framework to end homelessness. However, the Coordinator is concerned about the potential adverse impact on priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Budget request and offers comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds for establishing three specialty shelters to temporarily house and serve homeless individuals.

The Coordinator notes that the Executive Budget specifically requests funding for the Department of Health (DOH) to support mental health and substance use services and treatment for unsheltered homeless persons. The funding for DOH is part of the broader 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. 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 public housing.

A focus of the State approach to addressing homelessness is Housing First, which is an evidence-based intervention with demonstrated success in housing and improving health outcomes for chronically homeless individuals with serious and persistent mental illness, substance abuse addiction, and chronic health conditions. Locally, the state's Housing First program currently provides permanent housing for 117 chronically homeless persons. 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>.

It is further noted that a number of existing specialty shelters, such as the Kalihi-Palama Health Center Ohana House and the Institute for Human Services' Tutu Bert's House, have been funded primarily through the private sector. The Coordinator acknowledges that private resources must be leveraged together with government resources to continue forward momentum in addressing homelessness.

The Coordinator defers to the Department of Human Services (DHS) in regard to specific issues related to contracting and implementation of homeless services. While the Coordinator establishes and coordinates State policy to address homelessness, the DHS Homeless Programs Office is responsible for the administration and implementation of homeless programs, including homeless shelters.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

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 Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 436 – RELATING TO HOMELESS SERVICES**

Hearing: February 6, 2017, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill to address the State's homeless crisis, and offers comments. DHS is concerned that the measure may adversely affect current program services and the Governor's Executive budget requests for homeless services.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds for establishing three specialty shelters to temporarily house and serve homeless individuals.

DHS acknowledges that mental health and substance use issues are significant factors facing the chronically homeless. 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, that support the person's ability to remain in housing.

Shelter services funded through the Governor's Executive budget encompass 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.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

February 6, 2017/3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016

Senate Committee on Housing
Senate Committee on Human Services

To: Senator Will Espero, Chair (HOU)
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair (HOU)
Senator Josh Green, Chair (HMS)
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair (HMS)

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President – Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: SB 436 – Testimony in Support

My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations and Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-governmental employer. Hawai'i Pacific Health is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

I am writing in support of SB 436 which appropriates funds for establishing three specialty shelters to temporarily house and serve homeless individuals.

Housing instability proves to be a significant barrier to regular health care access and results in excessive use of expensive emergency department, crisis services, and inpatient treatment. The establishment of three specialty shelters could serve to break down barriers to health equity for one of Hawai'i's most vulnerable populations. Additionally, these shelters could minimize the health care associated costs that homeless individuals incur over their lifetime. Access to stable housing is a critical social determinant of health with a profound influence on a person's health.

Hawai'i Pacific Health testifies in support of SB 436 which is aligned with our mission to create a healthier Hawai'i.



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

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 436, RELATING TO HOMELESS SERVICES

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

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

Monday, February 6, 2017, 3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Honorable Chair Espero, Chair Green, and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMU Alliance, 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 436, relating to homeless services.

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, including specialty shelter space for those in need of acute treatment and mental health care. 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 40 percent of residences in Hawai’i are owner unoccupied, according to the Hawai’i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, 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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 10:29 PM
To: HOU Testimony
Cc: erinrutherford815@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB436 on Feb 6, 2017 15:00PM*

SB436

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for HOU/HMS on Feb 6, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: HOU Testimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB436 on Feb 6, 2017 15:00PM*

SB436

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for HOU/HMS on Feb 6, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments:

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