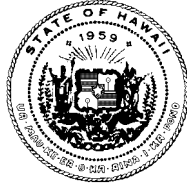


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT  
DIRECTOR

BRIDGET HOLTHUS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

January 23, 2017

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 4 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: January 23, 2017, 2:55 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent and provides comments that the measure as drafted adversely affects priorities set forth in the Governor's executive budget request and the state's plan to address homelessness. As drafted, it is unclear whether the appropriations is intended to supplement existing services or to supplant them.

DHS respectfully requests that the Legislature support the Governor's executive budget requests for appropriations for a number of homeless services programs including \$3 million for Housing First; \$2.5 million for the Rapid Re-Housing Program; and \$7 million for the expansion of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) State Rent Supplement.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to appropriate \$25 million to DHS to reimburse non-profit entities that provide housing assistance services to the homeless population.

DHS through its Homeless Programs Office (HPO) already provides funding to non-profit entities through the procurement process for contracted services, which includes housing assistance, to the homeless population.

The Legislature also provides funds through the Grant In Aid process to non-profit entities for a variety of services.

Lastly, if the intent of this measure is to provide additional funds to health care providers who provide services to Medicaid recipients that may include room and board and be construed as housing, federal permission would be required as a Medicaid provider must accept Medicaid payment as payment in full.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

January 23, 2017

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

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

**SUBJECT: SB 4 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Monday, January 23, 2017, 2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure, but is concerned with the cost implications generated by this proposal and potential adverse impact on priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. The Coordinator asks for the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive Budget requests, which includes appropriations for a number of programs that provide housing assistance to the homeless population, including \$3 million for Housing First; \$2.5 million for the Rapid Re-Housing Program; and \$7 million for the expansion of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) State Rent Supplement.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to appropriate \$25 million in general funds to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to reimburse non-profit entities that provide housing assistance services to the homeless population.

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, as well as addressing housing costs through programs such as Housing First, Rapid Re-Housing and the State Rent Supplement. In addition, DHS has recently procured new contracts for homeless shelter, outreach, emergency grant, and housing placement program services that set specific performance targets for service providers that are aligned with federal performance benchmarks.

The Coordinator defers to 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 procurement and administration of contracted homeless services programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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

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## TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 4, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

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

Monday, January 23, 2017, 2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Honorable Chair Green 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 4, relating to human services.

According to the 2016 Statewide *Point In Time Count* 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.

Nonprofits provide vital services to the homeless, including the provision of food, shelter, and other basic needs. While not a state-contracted service provider for houseless persons, IMUAlliance provides a continuing array of services to victims of human trafficking, with the majority of our services portfolio catering to

survivors of sex trafficking. Within 48 hours of a juvenile being on the run, approximately 30 percent will be approached for commercial sexual exploitation. 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 slavery.

Traffickers exploit the limited number of available shelter beds to lure young people into exploitation. As the homeless childcare provider Covenant House notes, 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 actual physical and sexual harm to the victim or their family, these coercive techniques compel victims remain enslaved. LGBTQ youth, who already comprise 40 percent of the runaway and homeless youth population in our nation, are exponentially more likely to fall victim to human trafficking 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 for simply being open and honest about who they are). In providing care for victims of human trafficking, IMUAlliance has encountered their stories literally hundreds of times.

When you fund nonprofit 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

# 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](mailto: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'ola Na Pua

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

January 21, 2017

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

## Testimony in Support of SB 4c Relating to Human Services

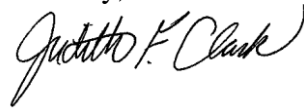
Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 4 Relating to Human Services.

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.

It is critical that a portion of this funding be designated for our runaway and homeless youth.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director





# 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](mailto:info@hysn.org)

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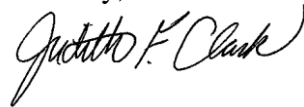
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It is critical that a portion of this funding be designated for our runaway and homeless youth.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

