
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the continued
2 issuance of supplementary proclamations to the October 16, 2015,
3 Emergency Proclamation Addressing Homelessness by the governor
4 shows that the statewide homelessness emergency persists. The
5 coordinated statewide homeless initiative has provided
6 important, cost-effective homelessness diversion services and
7 has increased coordination within the homeless service network
8 through the statewide information and referral system on behalf
9 of homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness.

10 In eighteen months, the initiative provided financial
11 assistance to 1,610 households, assisting 4,944 adults and
12 children who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless by
13 providing short term assistance to prevent eviction and
14 decreasing the eviction rate in family court by twenty-five per
15 cent. The legislature further finds that the landlord
16 coordination program, established as a part of the initiative,
17 reached over seven thousand landlords and led to 1,596 rental



1 placements, which is a critical element of the effort to address
2 the homelessness issue.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
4 moneys to continue and improve the coordinated statewide
5 homeless initiative to prevent homelessness and rehouse homeless
6 people in the State.

7 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to
10 continue and improve the coordinated statewide homeless
11 initiative; provided that the following provisions shall apply:

- 12 (1) The department of human services shall:
 - 13 (A) Procure the services of a contractor in
14 accordance with chapters 103D or 103F, Hawaii
15 Revised Statutes;
 - 16 (B) Have oversight of or manage the funds expended by
17 the contractor; and
 - 18 (C) In coordination with the selected contractor,
19 develop policies and procedures for a fair and
20 equitable procurement process consistent with



1 the goals of public accountability and public
2 procurement practices;

3 (2) The contractor shall:

4 (A) Operate a coalition of agencies providing
5 homeless diversion services for the State by
6 providing short-term financial assistance to
7 households that have entered the eviction
8 process;

9 (B) Maintain staffing of the homeless coordination
10 center within the statewide 2-1-1 information and
11 referral system and operation of the state-of-
12 the-art call center system procured for the
13 initiative;

14 (C) Coordinate with the coordinated entry system
15 mandated by the United States Department of
16 Housing and Urban Development to provide
17 navigation services and placement of homeless
18 households into permanent housing;

19 (D) Provide oversight of provider operations and
20 budget to maximize operational efficiency;



1 (E) Develop reporting procedures and timelines for
2 providing performance information to respective
3 state agencies;

4 (F) Provide quarterly reports to the legislature and
5 the department of human services; and

6 (G) Be accountable for funds expended; and

7 (3) Administrative, operating, and personnel expenses
8 shall not exceed fifteen per cent of the state award.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
10 human services for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to
14 continue and improve landlord outreach and liaison activities
15 within the coordinated statewide homeless initiative; provided
16 that the following provisions shall apply:

17 (1) The department of human services shall:

18 (A) Procure the services of a contractor in
19 accordance with chapters 103D or 103F, Hawaii
20 Revised Statutes;



- 1 (B) Have oversight of or manage the funds expended by
- 2 the contractor; and
- 3 (C) In coordination with the homeless programs
- 4 office, develop policies and procedures for the
- 5 implementation of a landlord liaison program,
- 6 which includes recruitment of landlords and
- 7 procedures for landlords to provide pre-eviction
- 8 notification and obtain problem-tenant
- 9 intervention and damage mitigation services;
- 10 (2) The contractor shall:
- 11 (A) Administer the landlord liaison program within
- 12 the homeless coordination center established by
- 13 the department of human services;
- 14 (B) Provide staffing for the landlord liaison program
- 15 and space for the program within or accessible to
- 16 the homeless coordination center;
- 17 (C) Provide connectivity to the 2-1-1 information and
- 18 referral service and use 2-1-1 as the primary
- 19 link between landlords and the program;
- 20 (D) Establish procedures to enable the landlord
- 21 liaison program to coordinate with the



H.B. NO. 1706

1 coordinated entry system required by the United
 2 States Department of Housing and Urban
 3 Development to provide navigation services and
 4 placement of homeless households into permanent
 5 housing;

6 (E) Provide oversight of provider operations and
 7 budget to maximize operational efficiency;

8 (F) Develop reporting procedures and timelines for
 9 providing performance information to respective
 10 state agencies;

11 (G) Provide quarterly reports to the legislature and
 12 the department of human services; and

13 (H) Be accountable for funds expended; and

14 (3) Administrative, operating, and personnel expenses
 15 shall not exceed fifteen per cent of the state award.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 17 human services for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018

19

INTRODUCED BY:

Rory M. Stahl
Ken Ben

John M. [Signature]

Gatheri Thelen

Cindy Evans

[Signature]

Edna K. [Signature]



H.B. NO. 1706

Sam Witt

Gregory T. Brown

Linde Schirmer

[Signature]

James S. King

Richard [Signature]

[Signature]

JAN 12 2018



H.B. NO. 1706

Report Title:

Homelessness; DHS; Coordinated Statewide Homeless Initiative;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services for the coordinated statewide homeless initiative, subject to certain conditions.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.





EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 7, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services

The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair
House Committee on Housing

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

SUBJECT: **HB 1706 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this bill, as it addresses key aspects of the State's work to end homelessness, and offers the following comments. The Coordinator defers to the State Procurement Office and DHS in regard to contracting and implementation of homeless services.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds to DHS for the Coordinated Statewide Homeless Initiative (CSHI), subject to certain conditions.

Homelessness remains one of the most pressing challenges facing Hawaii, and 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. In particular, the State has worked together with the Legislature and other stakeholders to increase resources for permanent housing programs, such as Housing First and Rapid Rehousing. Between 2015 and 2017, the number of permanent housing beds for homeless individuals statewide increased by 1,986 – an increase of 146%, more than doubling the supply of permanent beds.

The Coordinator notes that Hawaii is making progress in reducing the number of homeless individuals statewide. In 2017, the statewide Point in Time (PIT) count found the number of homeless people in Hawaii had *decreased* for the first time in eight years – a decrease of 701 people between 2016 and 2017.

Accordingly, the Coordinator respectfully requests the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive Budget request, which includes over \$15 million for homeless services. Collectively, the homeless programs administered by DHS and other State agencies represent an array of financial resources designed to provide one-time crisis assistance, as well as medium term (3-24 months) and longer-term support. This mix of short-, medium-, and long-term assistance is designed to transition at-risk and homeless individuals and families into stable housing, and is also designed to prevent homelessness by assisting formerly homeless individuals in maintaining housing over time.

The Coordinator further notes the State approach to homelessness includes a focus on oversight and accountability for public funds used for this purpose. DHS established performance measures in response to Act 234 (2016). This approach emphasizes reporting and transparency, and ties payment for homeless services to provider performance. In 2017, DHS executed a series of contracts for housing placement, emergency grant, homeless outreach, and shelter that establish specific performance benchmarks and condition payment in part upon meeting these benchmarks. The State's intent is to apply similar benchmarks and conditions to new contracts for homeless services.

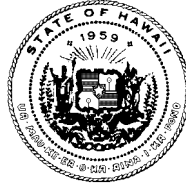
Finally, this measure, as currently drafted, requires that the proprietary 2-1-1 telephone navigation system be used to implement the CSHI. This provision may limit the selection of a master contractor to a single organization. If this measure moves forward, the Coordinator suggests an amendment replacing the wording on page 3, lines 9-13 with the following language:

"(B) Maintain staffing of the homeless coordination center within a statewide telephone information and referral call center system;"

The Coordinator suggests a similar amendment replacing the wording on page 5, lines 17-19 with the following:

"(C) Provide connectivity to a statewide telephone information and referral call center system and use this system as the primary link between landlords and the program;"

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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

February 2, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services

The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair
House Committee on Housing

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1706 – APPROPRIATIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNES**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill to provide funding to address the State's response to homelessness. DHS offers comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill appropriates an unspecified amount of funds to DHS for the coordinated statewide homeless initiative (CSHI), subject to certain conditions.

The response to homelessness remains one of the most important issues of our time, and the State's coordinated effort to end homelessness is moving forward with positive results. In particular, the 2017 statewide Point in Time (PIT) count found that the number of homeless people in Hawaii *decreased* for the first time in eight years. Between 2016 and 2017, the number of homeless people statewide decreased by 701 people – nearly a 9% decrease. We have also established a Housing First program that is being implemented with 97% of participants, who are hardest to serve, remaining in housing with supportive services and rent subsidies.

DHS is continually working to improve efficiencies and our service delivery model, and per Act 124 (2014), DHS initiated major changes to the state funded homeless services contracts to include performance based measures. As proposed, this bill provides no requirement that performance measures established by DHS at the direction of the legislature will be followed by the master contractor; this makes analysis very difficult when certain providers must perform to performance measures, and others do not.

DHS has also improved the data reporting and data sharing system by requiring homeless services providers to request consent to release forms from all clients, and report utilization data on a timely basis. With training, these two requirements have improved the entire homeless system's access to data and analysis. It is unclear how interaction with the data collection system will be managed or what other memorandum of understanding will have to be developed.

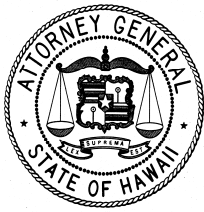
The proposal, while appearing to create more efficiencies, creates additional administrative burden for DHS, the master contractor, as well as providers who will be held to additional administrative processes to report to the department and/or the master contractor.

The proposal exempts the vendor from provisions of chapters 42F, 103D, and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes. It is unclear, what oversight or compliance provisions would remain for DHS or any oversight agency to assure the master contractor to "be accountable to funds expended." If the legislature is intent on providing funding to a single contractor in this fashion, chapter 42F, is the most likely avenue and still provides a means of oversight and due diligence for the contracting agency and vendor.

DHS appreciates the willingness of the legislature to explore ways to be innovative to improve the state's response to homelessness. DHS asks that the committee continue to support the Governor's Executive supplemental budget request to address homelessness and the framework plan established to address homelessness in Hawaii.

DHS defers to the opinions of the Department of the Attorney General and the State Procurement Office.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2018**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1706, RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AND ON HOUSING

DATE: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 **TIME:** 9:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 329

TESTIFIER(S): Russell A. Suzuki, Acting Attorney General or
Melissa L. Lewis, Deputy Attorney General

Chairs Mizuno and Brower and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments on this measure.

The purposes of this bill are to appropriate \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2018-2019 to continue and to improve the coordinated statewide homeless initiative to prevent homelessness and re-house homeless people in the State, and to appropriate \$500,000 for fiscal year 2018-2019 to continue and to improve the landlord outreach and liaison activities of the initiative. The measure would accomplish this by requiring a contractor to: (1) provide short-term financial assistance to divert households in the eviction process; (2) maintain staffing of the homeless coordination center within the Aloha United Way's (AUW's) proprietary 2-1-1 information referral system and call center system; (3) administer, provide staffing, and space for the landlord liaison program; (4) connect to the AUW's 2-1-1 referral system and use the AUW's system as the primary link between landlords and the program; (5) establish procedures for the landlords liaison program to coordinate with the coordinated entry system for placement of homeless households into permanent housing; (6) provide oversight of provider agencies operations and budgets; (7) be accountable for funds expended; and (8) perform other program duties.

This bill contains provisions that may impede implementation and may result in legal challenges. Our concerns include the following.

On page 2, lines 16-17, and on page 5, lines 1-2, the measure provides that the department shall “[h]ave oversight of or manage the funds expended by the contractor; . . .” The meaning of this sentence is unclear and subject to various interpretations. The use of the word “or” in this sentence creates confusion. This provision can be read to mean either that the department shall have oversight of the funds expended by the contractor, or that the department shall manage the funds expended by the contractor. If the intent is to allow the contractor to manage the funding expended and that the department will oversee such expenditures, we suggest the following amendment be made:

The department shall “[h]ave oversight or manage] oversee the funds expended by the contractor;”

On page 2, lines 18-20, and page 3, lines 1-2, the measure provides that the department of human services shall:

(C) In coordination with the selected contractor, develop policies and procedures for a fair and equitable procurement process consistent with the goals of public accountability and public procurement practices;

As written, it is unclear whether this provision applies to the contract between the department and the contractor, or whether it applies to contracts between the contractor and subcontracted provider agencies. If the provision is intended to apply to the contract between the department and the contractor, it is unnecessary because the bill on page 2, lines 13-15, would require the department to procure the services of the contractor in accordance with chapter 103D or 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). If, on the other hand, the provision is intended to apply to contracts between the contractor and subcontracted provider agencies, we suggest that the provision be amended as follows for clarity:

The department of human services shall:

(C) In coordination with the selected contractor, develop policies and procedures for a fair and equitable procurement process for subcontracts made between the contractor and subcontracted provider agencies which are consistent with the goals of public accountability and public procurement practices;

On page 3, lines 9-13, the measure states that the contractor shall:

- (B) Maintain staffing of the homeless coordination center within the statewide 2-1-1 information and referral system and operation of the state-of-the-art call center system procured for the initiative;

And on page 5, lines 17-19, the bill provides that the contractor shall:

- (C) Provide connectivity to the 2-1-1- information and referral service and use 2-1-1- as the primary link between landlords and the program;

These two provisions may be subject to challenge as potential violations of the procurement law codified in chapters 103D and 103F, HRS. The intent of the Hawaii Procurement Code is to provide a fair, open, and competitive State contracting process. It is our understanding that the 2-1-1 telephone navigation system is a proprietary system that is owned by the AUW. These provisions would require the contractor to staff and connect to the AUW owned 2-1-1 telephone navigation system. Moreover, requiring the contractor to integrate and utilize the specific AUW 2-1-1 telephone navigation system may limit or prevent other service providers from contracting or subcontracting for the service. Further, the contractor and subcontractors would be required to utilize and staff another agency's privately owned telephone referral system. If the intent is to have service providers use a telephone navigation system, not only the AUW's system, we suggest that the existing wording on page 3, lines 9-13, be deleted and the following wording be added:

- (B) Maintain staffing of a statewide telephone navigation referral and information system;

And on page 5, lines 17-19, the existing wording be deleted and the following wording be added:

- (C) Provide connectivity to an information and referral service;

If, on the other hand, the intent of this measure is to provide funding to a specific non-profit, the AUW, a chapter 42F grant is the more appropriate vehicle.

If this bill proceeds we respectfully request that the recommended modifications be made.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1706: RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative John Mizuno, Chair, Committee on Health & Human Services
Representative Tom Brower, Chair, Committee on Housing
And Members, Committees on Health & Human Services and Housing

FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer

Hearing: Wednesday, 2/7/10; at 9:30 am; Conference Room 329

Chair Mizuno, Chair Brower, and Members, Committees on Health & Human Services and Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of HB 1706, which appropriates funds to the Coordinated Statewide Homeless Initiative (CSHI). I am Terry Walsh, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care. We also participated in the CSHI when it was previously funded.

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 a top priority for 2018. We strongly support Prevention of homelessness. One key to ending homelessness is to prevent families from losing their housing.

The Star Advertiser (1/10/18) reported on a study by Aloha United Way, which found that nearly half of isle households do not earn enough to cover basic needs, much less save anything for an emergency. More than half of Hawaii's renters are cost-burdened (pay more than 30% of their income on rent). More than 40,000 people spend more than 50% of their income for rent. Any crisis can put these families at great risk for long-term problems like loss of housing. The situation is dire and demands a great investment to prevent homelessness

CSHI is proven effective in helping families through a short-term crisis and prevent eviction and homelessness. Indeed, the total number of evictions dropped by 25% on Oahu due to CSHI assistance. The program also had long-lasting effects. Only 3% of the households assisted on Oahu eventually fell into homelessness. 97% of the households remained stably housed.

Hawaii's homeless situation has reached crisis proportions. We are ranked #1 among the states for the rate of homelessness per capita. It is critical to stop the flow into homelessness.

We urge you to support this bill to work towards our goal of ending homelessness in Hawaii. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at 373-0356, or at bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org, if you have any questions.





HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice

Supporting HB 1706

Relating to Homelessness

House Committees on Housing and Health & Human Services

Scheduled for Hearing Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 9:45 am, Conference Room 329

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice Hawai'i Appleseed is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.

Dear Chairs Brower and Mizuno, and members of the committees on Housing and Health & Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB 1706, which appropriates funding to continue the Diversion portion of the Coordinated Statewide Homeless Initiative (CSHI), a program originally funded under the State's Homeless Emergency Proclamation.

Homelessness is one of the biggest problems facing Hawai'i. Our state has the highest housing costs in the nation and the lowest wages when adjusted for cost of living. Not surprisingly, we also have the highest homelessness rate in the nation, with 7,220 unsheltered homeless at last count. Thanks to a growing focus on homelessness in recent years, we have started to turn the tide on homelessness, reducing the homelessness rate for the first time in years last year. The CSHI program has been tremendously effective at preventing homelessness. It is one of a handful of proven homelessness programs, and its continuation is critical to making further progress on eliminating homelessness in Hawai'i.

In just eighteen months of operation, at a total cost of \$3.7 million, CSHI helped 4,944 individuals retain housing or obtain a housing placement. The program is credited as playing a significant role in a 25% reduction in evictions on Oahu. According to judges, property managers, and eviction attorneys, the program had a dramatic and immediate effect on the prevention of evictions (see <http://www.staradvertiser.com/2016/12/22/hawaii-news/rent-funding-through-auw-makes-a-dent-in-evictions/>).

Not only has CSHI prevented homelessness for thousands of individuals, but it has done so in a cost-effective way. Forty-eight percent of Hawai'i's households are living paycheck to paycheck. Many families are just a paycheck or illness away from homelessness. CSHI helps the families who are teetering on the brink, providing them with a small, but tremendously effective subsidy to help at a critical point in their lives. Cessation or underfunding of the CSHI program will undoubtedly result in families becoming homeless when a relatively small assistance payment could have prevented it. Once

a family becomes homeless, not only does it carry significant and potentially life-long consequences for the family, but also the societal costs and burden on our public resources increase dramatically.

CSHI has proven itself to be one of the most effective tools that has been developed in the fight against homelessness. For this reason, Hawai'i Appleseed strongly supports HB 1706. Thank you for your consideration of this very important bill.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1706: RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative John Mizuno, Chair, Committee on Health & Human Services
Representative Tom Brower, Chair, Committee on Housing
And Members, Committees on Health & Human Services and Housing

FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer

Hearing: Wednesday, 2/7/10; at 9:30 am; Conference Room 329

Chair Mizuno, Chair Brower, and Members, Committees on Health & Human Services and Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of HB 1706, which appropriates funds to the Coordinated Statewide Homeless Initiative (CSHI). I am Terry Walsh, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care. We also participated in the CSHI when it was previously funded.

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 a top priority for 2018. We strongly support Prevention of homelessness. One key to ending homelessness is to prevent families from losing their housing.

The Star Advertiser (1/10/18) reported on a study by Aloha United Way, which found that nearly half of isle households do not earn enough to cover basic needs, much less save anything for an emergency. More than half of Hawaii's renters are cost-burdened (pay more than 30% of their income on rent). More than 40,000 people spend more than 50% of their income for rent. Any crisis can put these families at great risk for long-term problems like loss of housing. The situation is dire and demands a great investment to prevent homelessness

CSHI is proven effective in helping families through a short-term crisis and prevent eviction and homelessness. Indeed, the total number of evictions dropped by 25% on Oahu due to CSHI assistance. The program also had long-lasting effects. Only 3% of the households assisted on Oahu eventually fell into homelessness. 97% of the households remained stably housed.

Hawaii's homeless situation has reached crisis proportions. We are ranked #1 among the states for the rate of homelessness per capita. It is critical to stop the flow into homelessness.

We urge you to support this bill to work towards our goal of ending homelessness in Hawaii. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at 373-0356, or at bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org, if you have any questions.



HB-1706

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:20:59 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AND
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Wednesday, February 7, 2018
9:30 a.m.**

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329

**RE: Testimony in Support of HB 1706, RELATING TO
APPROPRIATIONS TO ADDRESS
HOMELESSNESS**

To the Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair; the Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Health & Human Services:

To the Honorable Tom Brower, Chair; the Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Housing:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 1706, regarding appropriations for the coordinated statewide homeless initiative to prevent homelessness and rehouse homeless people in the State,

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 1706 and support its passage.

House Bill No.1706 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it appropriates money to continue and improve the coordinated statewide homeless initiative to prevent homelessness and rehouse homeless people in the State.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that we "believe in the concept of "Housing First" to develop affordable, stable housing and support services to break the cycle of homelessness for people with the fewest housing options.

We support dedicated social services and housing opportunities for Hawaii's homeless population to get them off the streets and reintegrated into society, with specific devoted services for disenfranchised groups including but not limited to, the Hawaiian community, aged-out foster kids, youth, returning veterans, the aged, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender homeless." (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 352-358 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No.1706 provides appropriations for the coordinated statewide homeless initiative to prevent homelessness and rehouse homeless people in the State, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ **Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889

Aloha United Way
200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 700
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817



Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Committee on Health & Human Services

Representative Tom Brower, Chair
Representative Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair
Committee on Housing

Re: HB 1706 Relating to Appropriations to Address Homelessness – **STRONG SUPPORT**
Wednesday, February 7, 2018; 9:30 AM; Conference Room 329

Aloha Chairs Mizuno and Brower, Vice Chairs Kobayashi and Nakamura and members of the Committees:

Aloha United Way strongly supports HB 1706, which appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services for the coordinated statewide homeless initiative. We would like to propose the following amendments to address the concerns raised regarding the contractors' responsibilities:

- Delete Section 2; paragraph (2)(B); Page 3; lines 9-13.
- Delete Section 3; paragraph (2)(C); Page 5 lines 17-19.

The CSHI program was originally funded under the State's Homeless Emergency Proclamation. In 18 months of operation, CSHI assisted 1,610 households (4,944 individuals) by either preventing an imminent eviction or helping homeless move into permanent housing. The total cost to provide this critical assistance was \$3.7M.

Forty-two percent of households in Hawaii are renters (fourth highest rate in the country) and 54% of these households pay 50% or more of their monthly income for housing (the second highest rate in the country). Finally, 63% of households lack emergency savings to deal with an unexpected \$500 expense. These statistics highlight the need for a program that can help a family with a short-term financial crisis weather the setback without becoming homeless. CSHI has done that effectively and efficiently.

A key learning from the CSHI grant is that for every one homeless person served, there were three individuals in the eviction process. As a direct result of CSHI, total evictions dropped by 25% on Oahu. Additionally, only 3% of the at-risk households assisted on Oahu eventually fell into homelessness; 97% remained housed. This very effective diversion program must be included in any comprehensive plan to address our homeless issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We urge your favorable consideration in passing HB 1706.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Adams", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cindy Adams
President and CEO



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813
www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7448 | voters@lwv-hawaii.com

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

WEDNESDAY, February 7, 2018, 9:30 AM, room 329

HB 1706, RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

TESTIMONY

Nina Eejima, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Mizuno, Committee on Health & Human Services; Chair Brower, Committee on Housing; and
Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB 1706 that appropriates funds to the
Department of Human Services for the coordinated statewide homeless initiative.**

We note that this initiative is 18 months old and has provided assisted close to 5,000 adults and children
who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless by providing short-term assistance to prevent eviction
and decreasing the eviction rate in family court by 25 percent. We also note that the landlord coordination
program which was established as part of the initiative reached over 7,000 landlords and led to about
1,600 placements.

We fully support the proposed appropriation to continue and improve this vital initiative.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1706: RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative John Mizuno, Chair, Committee on Health & Human Services
Representative Tom Brower, Chair, Committee on Housing
And Members, Committees on Health & Human Services and Housing

FROM: Toni Symons

Hearing: Wednesday, 2/7/10; at 9:30 am; Conference Room 329

Chair Mizuno, Chair Brower, and Members, Committees on Health & Human Services and Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of HB 1706, which appropriates funds to the Coordinated Statewide Homeless Initiative (CSHI). My name is Toni Symons and I am the Program Director for social services at Na Kahua Hale O Ulu Wini. We are the only transitional housing program for families in West Hawaii. We also serve 71 very low-income families who receive Section 8 project-based vouchers. Almost every day we receive calls from community members who are homeless or on the brink of homelessness and many just need short term assistance to get through whatever crisis they might be experiencing at that time.

During the period of time where CSHI money was being administered by the Aloha United Way, we were able to refer people to Catholic Charities and other providers to receive help from these funds. It was critically important and it kept many people housed.

CSHI is proven effective in helping families through a short-term crisis and prevent eviction and homelessness. Indeed, the total number of evictions dropped by 25% on Oahu due to CSHI assistance. The program also had long-lasting effects. Only 3% of the households assisted on Oahu eventually fell into homelessness. 97% of the households remained stably housed. We saw similar outcomes on the Big Island.

Hawaii's homeless situation has reached crisis proportions. We are ranked #1 among the states for the rate of homelessness per capita. It is critical to stop the flow into homelessness.

Please continue to move this bill forward and fund it.

Thank you