

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

**TESTIMONY COMMENTING ON H.B. 1766
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

REPRESENTATIVE TOM BROWER, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date and Time: Thursday, February 7, 2018 at 9:45 a.m. Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Not determined.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) applauds the intent of this bill to
3 continue to administer homeless outreach, counseling, and diversion for unsheltered individuals
4 experiencing substance abuse, and to continue to administer the law enforcement assisted
5 diversion (LEAD) program, but defers to the Governor's Supplemental Budget Request for
6 appropriations priorities. Studies indicate that a significant proportion of the state's chronic
7 homeless population have substance abuse and/or mental health issues and are frequently
8 arrested for non-violent, non-felony offenses.

9 The DOH continues to follow the lead of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness
10 (Coordinator) to ensure that efforts are synchronized in support of the State's comprehensive
11 framework to address homelessness across the system of care. The framework includes focus of
12 efforts on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and
13 public safety. The DOH, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) is especially grateful that

1 one of the initiatives identified by the sponsors of H.B. 1766 and jointly supported by both the
2 DOH and the Coordinator is the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program.
3 Nationally, LEAD was evaluated to have significant positive impact in other jurisdictions where
4 the program was deployed, including significant decreases in rates of re-arrest and increase in
5 engagement of participants with needed treatments and other social services. It has also been
6 successful at decreasing burdens on judicial and law enforcement systems by directing
7 individuals, particularly the chronically homeless, to behavioral health care services in the
8 community. The ADAD also commends the Legislature who in the 2017 Session approved
9 \$200,000 to implement a LEAD pilot project, and for understanding that there is a need for
10 LEAD in Hawaii and sees that there is community willingness to assist with its implementation.

11 The DOH acknowledges that homelessness is one of the State's most significant and
12 challenging social concerns. The DOH and its Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) partner
13 with other state agencies and with both AMHD contracted and non-AMHD contracted
14 community programs to address the mental health needs of individuals experiencing
15 homelessness. Key partners include the Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of
16 Transportation (DOT), Department of Public Safety (PSD), the City and County of Honolulu,
17 law enforcement, and community based health and human service programs.

18 The AMHD continues its commitment to increasing and strengthening linkages to
19 housing and community based referrals that support recovery for adults with serious mental
20 health challenges. The AMHD Homeless Outreach providers focus their outreach efforts on

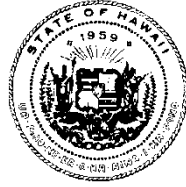
1 locating individuals who live with Serious Mental Illness (SMI), who are chronically homeless,
2 and who meet AMHD's eligibility criteria for AMHD funded services.

3 In 2017, AMHD provided homeless outreach services to 2,817 consumers identified as
4 homeless on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii. In addition to homeless outreach
5 services, AMHD provides specialized treatment and group home housing for 808 individuals,
6 including those who live in twenty-four hour, eight-to-sixteen hour, and semi-independent group
7 homes. There are over 100 eligible individuals who receive supported housing/bridge subsidy
8 through the AMHD. These individuals live with a serious mental illness and have the option to
9 live independently in housing of their choice with services that support their movement towards
10 assuming the role of a neighbor or tenant.

11 The DOH asks for the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive Budget request.
12 In the Governor's Executive Budget request, appropriations to ADAD to continue LEAD and
13 homeless outreach to unsheltered persons experiencing substance abuse, and to DHS for the
14 Rapid Rehousing program are included. The Rapid Rehousing program addresses both
15 homelessness prevention and housing replacement. The AMHD defers to the State Procurement
16 Office and the DHS with regard to contracting and implementation of homeless services.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
AND
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Wednesday, February 7, 2018
9:45 AM - Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol
In consideration of
HB 1766
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Honorable Chair Brower, Honorable Chair Mizuno, and Members of the House Committees on Housing, and Health & Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning House Bill (HB) 1766, relating to homelessness.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports the intent** of SECTION 2 and SECTION 5 of HB 1766 **with amendments**, provided that it does not adversely affect the Governor's supplemental budget. HB 1766 appropriates moneys to the HPHA, the department of human services, and the department of health to fund support programs and services to assist with the ending of homelessness.

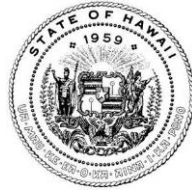
During Governor Ige's Emergency Proclamation to provide emergency relief to address the homeless crisis, the HPHA was able to contract with Catholic Charities and assist a total of 87 homeless families. The rental supplement was \$1000 for the first 6 months, and then \$500 a month going forward.

In order to establish the rent supplement pilot program, the HPHA would need additional funding to contract with service providers to apply wrap around services for all participants. Furthermore, if the intent is to start the rent supplement pilot program right away, the HPHA would like to request the addition of the following amendments:

- "The Hawaii public housing authority shall develop interim rules without regard to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for assisting participants with the housing support program pursuant to section 5 of this Act."
- "The Hawaii public housing authority may procure case management and counseling services without regard to chapter 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for assisting participants with the rent supplement program pursuant to section 5 of this Act."

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committees on Housing, and Health and Human Services with the HPHA's testimony regarding HB 1766. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

LATE
LATE



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 7, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair
House Committee on Housing

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

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

SUBJECT: HB 1766 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 9:45 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this bill provided that the measure's passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Governor's supplemental budget request. The Coordinator asks the Legislature to support the Governor's request of \$15 million for homeless services, which includes appropriations to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) for the Rent Supplement program; appropriations to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, homeless outreach services, and the Family Assessment Center; and appropriations to the Department of Health (DOH) for homeless outreach, counseling and diversion services for unsheltered persons experiencing substance abuse. The Coordinator also asks the Legislature to support \$29 million in the supplemental budget for HPHA to provide public housing improvements and renovations statewide.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to make appropriations to HPHA, DHS, and DOH for various programs to address homelessness, as well as capital improvements for public housing facilities. The bill also establishes a state rental assistance pilot program to assist families with

minor children who are either homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic violence.

Homelessness remains one of the most pressing challenges facing Hawaii, and the State has adopted a comprehensive framework to address homelessness that focuses 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 appreciates the willingness of the Legislature to support the continued increase of housing programs for the homeless population, but is concerned about potential adverse impacts on priorities identified in the Executive Budget. The Governor’s supplemental budget request includes over \$15 million for homeless services, including \$3 million for Housing First, \$3 million for Rapid Rehousing, and \$1.75 million for homeless outreach 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 not only to transition at-risk and homeless individuals and families into stable housing, but also designed to prevent homelessness by assisting formerly homeless individuals in maintaining housing over time. Accordingly, the Coordinator respectfully asks for the Legislature’s support of the Governor’s Executive Budget request.

The Coordinator defers to HPHA, DHS, and DOH respectfully in regard to the implementation and contracting for specific programs for homeless individuals and families.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Representative Tom Brower, Chair, Representative Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair, Members,
House Committee on Housing
Representative John Mizuno, Chair, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair, Members,
House Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1766 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: February 7, 2018, 9:45am, CR 329

Thank you for hearing **House Bill 1766** which proposes making critical investments to address homelessness in Hawaii. Mental Health America of Hawaii supports this bill.

Mental Health America of Hawaii is a 501(c)3 organization founded in Hawai'i 76 years ago, that serves the community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education and service. Many of our community members suffering from homelessness are also mentally ill and unable to access the mental health treatment that they need due to the instability of their living situation. Homelessness also puts people at risk for mental health issues due to the high level of stress it causes. We need to support programs that both prevent homelessness and directly intervene in it while targeting the diverse types of populations affected by homelessness in our state.

Many of the programs in this bill are already operating and thus this bill represents continued funding for them. We need these programs to continue as they are already part of what's working during our state's homelessness crisis.

These actions will have a lasting effect on our State and provide a future for our struggling families and individuals who so easily can fall into homelessness.

Thank you for considering my **testimony in support of HB 1766**. Please contact me at trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.

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

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of
West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action
Network

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

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

PHOCUSED

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community
Center

The Catalyst Group

February 5, 2018

To: Representative Tom Brower, Chair
And members of the Committee on Housing

Representative John Mizuno, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1766 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1766 Relating to Homelessness.

Homeless youth who are living on their own on the streets without support or guidance from their families are the most vulnerable segment of our homeless population. They are children who have not completed their education, lack employment experience, and have not yet learned the skills for adult living.

More than 40% were forced to leave home by their families. Nine out of ten (90%) have slept outdoors in a park, beach, sidewalk or car. Two-fifths have been beaten or assaulted while on the streets. Many trade sex for the resources they need for survival – food, money, a safe place to sleep. They lack adequate food, access to education, and have difficulty meeting health care needs.

Street outreach is the first step in helping youth leave the streets for safer and more appropriate living situations. Workers build trusting relationships and convince youth to accept help to leave the streets, while helping them meet their immediate survival needs.

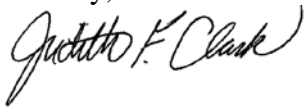
HYSN recommends that at least \$300,000 be specifically allocated for outreach to runaway and homeless youth. These funds should be administered through the State Office of Youth Services.

Youth adults ages 18 – 24 face many housing challenges and could benefit from rapid rehousing and rent supplement programs. Typically, they work at low-wage jobs while trying to complete a GED, attend college, or participate in vocational training. This includes young adults who have emancipated from foster care or are participating in the Imua Kakou Program (voluntary care to age 21) Ensuring that these young adults have stable, safe housing during this critical period can provide the foundation that will enable them to be self-supporting for a lifetime.

By providing an array of services to meet the needs of different segments of our homeless population, we can greatly reduce homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu Continuum of Care

Partners in Care is a coalition of Oahu's homeless service providers, government representatives and community stakeholders working together in partnership to end homelessness.

Testimony in Support of HB 1766 Relating to Homelessness

TO: House Committees on Housing and Health & Human Services
FROM: Partners in Care (PIC)
HEARING: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 9:45 am, Conference Room 329

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1766, which provides funding for services, subsidies, and public housing supports that will help to address homelessness. Partners in Care (PIC)—a coalition of more than 35 non-profit, homelessness providers—strongly supports HB 1766.

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. 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 and quickly move those homeless back to stable housing. Hawaii's proven programs are showing results: Statewide, the number of homeless is down and homeless families decreased by 19%. (Point in Time count, 2017) However, Hawaii still ranks first among the US states for homelessness per capita.

Robust and comprehensive solutions are required to increase the pace at which Hawaii can successfully move homeless people into permanent housing. Hawaii needs programs that create a pathway out of homelessness and removes barriers, including one of the greatest barriers: the lack of affordable rental units. The package listed below addresses this by promoting **renovation of public housing** to open up more very low rent units. Enhanced **Outreach**, including for homeless **youth** and **diversion** of homeless from the criminal justice system, **rental subsidies** to house homeless children and children at imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic violence, along with proven interventions like **Housing First** and the **Oahu Family Assessment Center**, are effective but require a large commitment by the State.

PIC strongly supports the following funding, in the base budget, which will create a range of options to significantly reduce homelessness. We call for a 25% increase in the funding for most of these programs to increase the pace of ending homelessness in our state:

- **\$35,000,000** in funding for public housing improvements/renovations
- **\$3,750,000** in funding for the Housing First Program
- **\$3,750,000** in funding for Rapid Rehousing
- **\$800,000** in funding for a pilot program to quickly move homeless children into permanent housing (includes financial case management and administration)
- **\$2,200,000** in funding for homeless outreach, including outreach to unaccompanied youth

- Includes \$310,000 for civil legal services
- **\$1,000,000** in funding for outreach and counseling services for homeless individuals and families with substance use disorders
 - Includes \$250,000 for a LEAD pilot project
- **\$680,000** in funding for the Oahu Family Assessment Center

Repair of Public Housing: This is a quick fix that enables homeless and very low income people from the community to move into rentals offering rents at 30% of their incomes. Repairing units is much quicker and less costly than building new affordable housing.

Housing First: Partners in Care urges that funding for Housing First and other homeless services be placed in the base budget of the appropriate departments. For example, Housing First has successfully moved chronically homeless people into permanent housing. The cost savings is immense once these chronic homeless are stable—and over 90% remain in their housing, surpassing the national average. A study by the UH Center on the Family found a 43% drop in healthcare costs, resulting in savings of about \$4,590/person/month or **\$55,000/year per person**. For every 100 chronic homeless housed, the estimated savings is \$5.5 million/year.

Rental Assistance: Rapid Rehousing is effective to help secure and maintain housing for working people. More than 25% of households fall into homelessness simply because they cannot pay the rent. Many families need a financial shot in the arm—usually a one-time payment—to get back on their feet and into housing. However, some homeless families need an ongoing rental subsidy and financial case management to stabilize their housing. Establishing a **Housing Homeless Children Pilot Program within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority** with ongoing rental subsidies would provide resources to move homeless children back into permanent housing. Studies have shown that as many as 57% of homelessness for women was caused by Domestic Violence. Including families with minor children facing imminent homelessness due to DV is critical to prevent homelessness among this very vulnerable population. Financial case management by a HUD certified financial counseling agency is essential to help the families close the affordability gap and achieve self-sufficiency.

Outreach: Children living alone on the streets is a tragedy. **Outreach to unaccompanied homeless youth** is essential to help these often “hidden homeless” kids who are living in perilous and life threatening situations. Enhanced **outreach for families and adults** connect people with critical services and help them to navigate into housing. **Civil legal services** are essential to remove barriers to entering housing. **Homeless with substance abuse disorders** require focused and specialized outreach. This includes funding for **Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)** to divert this population from the criminal justice system and into services

Oahu Family Assessment Center: This new program has had spectacular successes in its first year of operation. Serving 194 persons, it placed 91% of the homeless families into permanent housing in less than 3 months, with 100% remaining stably housed. 48% of the households had four or more members who are usually more difficult to place. Most importantly, it has created Ohana Nui to break up silos and transform Hawaii’s Human Services delivery system.

This year it is critical to enhance pathways out of homelessness and build these systems/programs into the base budget of the state. For these reasons, Partners In Care strongly supports HB 1766. Thank you for your consideration of this very important bill.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1766: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative Tom Brower, Chair; Representative John Mizuno, Chair; and Members, Committees on Housing and Health & Human Services
FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer
Hearing: **Wednesday, 2/7/18; 9:45 am; Conference Room 329**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 1766, which provides funds for a continuum of services to end homelessness. I am Terry Walsh, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care. This funding provides critical long range 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. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Ending homelessness is a top priority for 2018.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i strongly supports **putting these funds in the base budget**, since this funding is vital to create ongoing pathways out of homelessness. We must increase the pace of helping the homeless into permanent housing. These comprehensive solutions are proven effective. From rapidly repairing public housing units to outreach that helps homeless people navigate into housing to Housing First and vital rental subsidies to fill the gap in affordability, this bill provides robust and effective solutions. We need to prevent substance abusers from falling into the criminal justice system and instead into programs via the new Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program—reducing homeless in jails and flooding the justice system.

The Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC) is a good example of a new pathway that has had spectacular results moving homeless families off our streets and beaches. Operated by Catholic Charities Hawai'i, the FAC (see 1st year Report Card, attached) served 54 households last year. 41% of participants were 12 years of age or younger. The FAC placed 91% successfully into housing in an average of 81 days! 100% have remained housed. Another new pathway urgently needed is ongoing rental assistance to get homeless children into housing ASAP. Many children are homeless simply due to the family not having sufficient income to pay rent. Many other children are at imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic violence. To clarify and enhance the pilot program at the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, outlined in Section 5, we suggest:

- Change the name to “**Housing Homeless Children Pilot Program**”, to avoid confusion with another program operated by HPHA, the State Rent Supplement Program.
- **Delete the “100 families” and “up to \$500/month”** to give HPHA flexibility to meet the individual needs of the families.
- Allow HPHA to adopt **Interim Administrative Rules** to address the amount of subsidy and other program requirements, and to implement this new pilot program ASAP.

We need to act now. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org, if you have any questions.



54

households served ^(1,2)

Catholic Charities Hawaii's Family Assessment Center



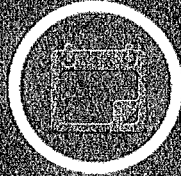
91%

successfully housed

2016 - 2017 Report Card ⁽³⁾

Our Success

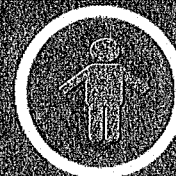
Celebrating the achievements of our program participants and honoring our community partners for their continued support and commitment.



81
average number of days in program ⁽⁴⁾



48%
households with four or more members ⁽⁵⁾



41%
participants 12 years of age or younger

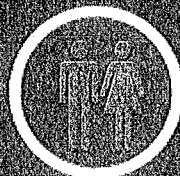


31%
households single female parent with children

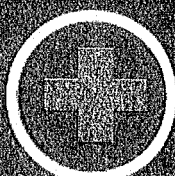
Community Partners



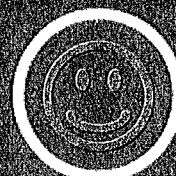
Hawaii H. S. M. E. Project
Homeless Outreach & Medical Education



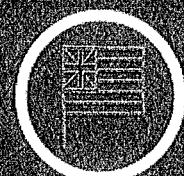
194
persons served ⁽⁶⁾



59
participants enrolled into health insurance



100%
participants placed in housing remain stably housed



85%
Hawaii residents

Services

Benefits review and determination
Health screenings
Health assessments
Legal support
Linkage to financial assistance

Housing readiness
Housing placement
On-site computer lab
Service coordination

[1] Unduplicated count of households served from September 1, 2016 - October 1, 2017

[2] 42% homeless for 1 year or more; 72% received homeless services before intake

[3] All housing data provided by the State of Hawaii's Department of Human Services Homeless Programs Office

[4] Mean number of days between intake and discharge

[5] Average number of individuals per household is 3.59

[6] 101 adults and 93 children

Hawaii State House Committee on Housing
Hawaii State House Committee on Health & Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 9:45AM
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 329

Position Statement Supporting House Bill 1766

Dear Chair Brower, Chair Mizuno, and Members of the Committees on Housing, and Health and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to strongly support HB 1766 which provides multiple pathways to move people out of homelessness. It is a tragedy that Hawaii has the highest rate of homeless per capita of all the states in the US. I am disturbed by the number and sad condition of so many people living on our streets. It is affecting many of our neighborhoods and beaches. I ask your support for the wide range of programs below, which provide real solutions for homelessness.

First, we need affordable rentals units. \$35 million to the **Hawaii Public Housing Authority for improvements and renovations of public housing units** will bring rental units back into service. These units are particularly valuable since they come with federal subsidies that enable families to pay 30% of their incomes on rent.

Hawaii must increase its investment in proven programs that will reduce homelessness in our state. I ask for your support to increase the current funding by 25% to the Department of Human Services for **Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Outreach, including civil legal services and youth outreach**. I also ask your support to also increase funding by 25% for **Outreach and Counseling for homeless with substance abuse disorders, including the LEAD pilot project**. We must divert this population away from the criminal justice system and into services.

Creating new effective programs, like the **Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC)**, is also critical to reducing homelessness. Please support continued funding for the **FAC**, which successfully housed 91% of the homeless families it served last year, in under 3 months. Lastly, we need a **Housing Homeless Children Pilot Program**, to assist homeless children and those imminently facing homelessness due to domestic violence. An ongoing rental subsidy along with financial case management can bring these families out of homelessness and stabilize them in a permanent rental unit.

These actions will have a lasting effect on our State and provide a future for our struggling families and individuals who so easily can fall into homelessness.

Kathleen Algire
Director, Public Policy and Advocacy
YWCA O'ahu

HB-1766

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 1:09:05 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/7/2018 9:45:00 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 HOUSING
AND
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Wednesday, February 7, 2018
9:45 a.m.**

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 1766, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

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

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

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. 1766 regarding appropriations to help the homeless population through Rapid Rehousing; State Rent Supplement; Housing First; Oahu Family Assessment Center; and the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 1766 and support its passage.

House Bill No.1766 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it appropriate moneys to the Hawaii public housing authority, the department of human services, and the department of health to support the State's most effective efforts to end homelessness: public housing, outreach, rapid rehousing and the state's rent supplement program, housing first, Oahu's family assessment center, the law enforcement assisted diversion program, and civil legal services.

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.1766 provides appropriations for Rapid Rehousing; State Rent Supplement; Housing First; Oahu Family Assessment Center; and the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program as part of a combined effort to assist Hawaii's homeless population, 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



February 6, 2018

To: Representative Tom Brower, Chair, Committee on Housing
Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice-Chair, Committee on Housing

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

Re: HB 1766 Relating to Homelessness – **SUPPORT**

Hearing: Date, February 7, 2018; Hearing Time 9:45; Conference Room 329

Honorable Chairs, Vice-Chairs & Committee Members:

Aloha United Way supports the intent of HB 1766 which appropriates funding to continue several important homeless programs. However, Aloha United Way believes that a comprehensive homeless program must include diversion elements to reduce the pipelines feeding our homeless population.

Recently, Aloha United Way released a report titled ALICE: A STUDY OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP IN HAWAII. ALICE® (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) are hardworking folks struggling financially from paycheck to paycheck and unable to accrue the assets to enable them to weather a temporary financial setback. The study identified 165,013 ALICE households in Hawaii – 37% of all households. These individuals and families have difficulty covering basic expenses like childcare, food, housing, healthcare and transportation. For ALICE, it takes just one crisis – loss of employment for a short period, an unexpected health emergency or car repair, an increase in monthly rent – to be at even greater risk of long-term problems like homelessness.

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). Further, 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.

The Coordinated Statewide Homeless Initiative (CSHI) was an example of an effective diversion program. Initially intended to serve both the homeless and divert those at-risk of becoming homeless, 72% of the households served were at-risk as evidenced by an eviction notice. In 18 months of operation, CSHI assisted 1,610 households (4,944 individuals) by providing total rent assistance of \$3.7M. Significantly, on Oahu, CSHI experienced a 97% success rate. Of the 717

diverted households, only 22 (3%) eventually fell into homelessness. Per court records, total evictions on Oahu fell 25% during the CSHI program.

The key learning from the CSHI grant is that for every one homeless person served, there were three individuals in the eviction process. Aloha United Way believes that similar diversion programs must be included in any comprehensive plan to address our homeless issue. Legislation has been introduced to re-establish the diversion portion of CSHI.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We urge your favorable consideration of HB 1766.

Sincerely,


Cindy Adams
President & CEO



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

February 7, 2018

Board of Directors

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Trisha Kajimura
Debbie Shimizu, Ex Officio
Natalie Okeson, Exec. Dir.

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

FROM: Pedro Haro, Advocacy Consultant

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of HB1766, RELATING TO
HOMELESSNESS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill 1766. I am Pedro Haro, advocacy consultant for PHOCUSED.

PHOCUSED is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to increasing the safety for, visibility of, and investment in the children and adults in Hawaii who are marginalized, impoverished, and under-served. Our organization has been a leading voice in advocating for our homeless populations since our formation, as the membership of PHOCUSED and our Board of Directors represent many of the major providers of human services across our state. In addition, as a member of Partners in Care, PHOCUSED is proud to strongly support Senate Bill 2401.

Our organization believes that although many strides have been made, Hawaii's ranking as the nation's leader in per capita homelessness demands major investment, as well as action on the part of all community members. This bill is a crucial piece of the aforementioned investment. What this bill will do is invest in what we know works and will continue to build momentum.

The Rapid Rehousing, Housing First, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, Public Housing, Outreach, and the Family Assessment Center are all pillars of what works to change the tide in the race to end homelessness in Hawaii. We strongly support the continued funding of these programs.

PHOCUSED is a membership and advocacy organization for health and human services in Hawaii, which works together with community stakeholders to collectively impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our state. Our commitment to the people is reflected in our name – Protecting Hawaii's 'Ohana, Children, Under-Served, Elderly, and Disabled. We are guided by the shared commitment of our members to protect the interests of Hawaii's people and the sector which seeks to provide them with quality programs and services.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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PHOCUSED also strongly supports the creation of the shallow, long-term rental assistance pilot project. As you know, more than a quarter of the State's households fall into homelessness simply because they are short of money to pay for their rent but have no other underlying issues. This includes children whose families are simply too poor to retain housing. For these children and their families, small subsidies allow them to more rapidly secure housing and move out of shelters into permanent housing. This gap group will best be served through this pilot project, which will include financial case management by a United States Department of Housing and Urban Development certified financial counseling organization.

We support this bill for the multitude of reasons expressed above. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 1766.

PHOCUSED is a membership and advocacy organization for health and human services in Hawaii, which works together with community stakeholders to collectively impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our state. Our commitment to the people is reflected in our name – Protecting Hawaii's 'Ohana, Children, Under-Served, Elderly, and Disabled. We are guided by the shared commitment of our members to protect the interests of Hawaii's people and the sector which seeks to provide them with quality programs and services.



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

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 9:45 AM, room 329
HB 1776, Relating to Homelessness

TESTIMONY

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

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

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii fully supports HB 1776 that explicitly finds, inter alia, that:

- **housing first programs are cost-effective;**
- **housing affordability gaps faced by the homeless population that has a stable source of income can be addressed rapid rehousing support;**
- **comprehensive services that include benefits review, health assessments, service coordination, and housing placements reflect a successful model; and**
- **law enforcement diversion programs can address substance abuse addiction in the context of homelessness.**

We support this comprehensive approach to turning the tide on homelessness. Taking into account the continued lack of affordable housing, together with impacts of substance abuse addiction within the context of the criminal justice system, homelessness is clearly a multi-faceted challenge. It is our sincere and adamant hope that the appropriations under this measure will reflect that Hawaii's continued efforts are effective and sustainable.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



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

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 1766, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

House Committee on Housing
Hon. Tom Brower, Chair
Hon. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health and Human Services
Hon. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Hon. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 9:45 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Honorable Chair Brower, Chair Mizuno, and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 400 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of House Bill 1766, relating to homelessness.

According to the 2017 statewide *Point In Time Count* (PITC) report, 7,220 houseless persons were counted on a single night in January last year, down 9 percent overall from 2016. Yet, O’ahu experienced a 0.4 percent *increase* from the previous year, with 4,959 people counted, up from 4,940 the year before. Hawai’i island saw the largest decrease in its homeless population, which fell 32 percent, or 441 people. Maui County had a 22 percent drop, or 249 people, while Kaua’i saw a 7 percent drop, or 30 fewer homeless people. Notably, the size of the houseless population on O’ahu is up more than 25 percent from 2009, when 3,638 homeless people were counted. Additionally, Department of Education officials have estimated that between 3,500-4,000 public school students experience homelessness at some point during the school year—last year’s PITC captured just over half of them—and over 91,000 students are economically disadvantaged. We know, then, that our state’s homeless population is consistently larger than the statistics show. It remains the highest per-capita homeless population in the country, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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 of runaway children will be approached for sexual exploitation within 48 hours of being on the run, with over 80 percent being approached for the commercial 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 actual 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 find innovative ways to fund homeless services, especially human services, health care, outreach, and rapid rehousing to our state’s unsheltered and at-risk population, many of whom are gainfully employed and contributing our economy. 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 6 percent in the summer of 2017 to a record \$425,000, while the median price for single-family homes increased by 3 percent to \$795,000, according to the Honolulu Board of Realtors, a number that they expect to increase by at least another 5 percent in 2018. Average fair market rent for two-bedroom apartments in *outlying* communities in the City and County of Honolulu now exceeds \$2,000, with the cost of a four-bedroom home in urban Honolulu now exceeding \$1.1 million. At least 43 percent of residences in Hawai’i are owner unoccupied, according to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, meaning that nearly 50 percent—and by some estimates over half—of Hawai’i’s homes are likely 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 2017* report found that a full-time worker would need to earn \$35.20/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 \$2,000 in recent years, with minimum wage workers needed to log 116 hours per week at their jobs to afford a modest one-bedroom apartment at fair market value and 139 hours per week to afford a two-bedroom—a number that is equivalent to working 20 hours a day with no days off year-round. In the past three years alone, Honolulu rent has increased by more than 25 percent. While 43 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 \$15.64/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, a number that rises to 83 percent of extremely low-income households. 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 services that show aloha for our economically disadvantaged neighbors.

When you fund housing, outreach, and human 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



Community Health Outreach Work

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 226
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone (808) 853-3292 • Fax (808) 853-3274

TESTIMONY in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1766: RELATING TO FUNDING FOR HOMELESSNESS PROGRAMS

TO: Representative Tom Brower, Chair; Representative John Mizuno, Chair;
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair; House Committee on Housing; House Committee
on Health and Human Services; House Committee on Finance

FROM: Heather Lusk, Executive Director, CHOW Project

Hearing: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 9:45 AM Conference Room 329, State Capitol

Dear Chair Brower, Chair Mizuno, Chair Luke, and Members of the Committee(s):

I Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1766 a proposal which appropriates crucial resources for addressing homelessness in Hawai'i.

As you know, Hawaii has the HIGHEST rate of homelessness among states in the U.S, but for the first time in years this number decreased in 2017. By continuing to proactively engage resources in the following ways we can increase the pace that Hawai'i addresses homelessness.

Hawai'i needs programs that create a pathway out of homelessness and remove barriers, including one of the greatest barriers: the lack of affordable rental units. The package listed below addresses this by promoting **renovation of public housing** to open up more very low cost rental units. Enhanced **outreach**, including for homeless **youth** and **diversion** of homeless from the criminal justice system, **rental subsidies** to house homeless children and children at imminent risk of homeless due to domestic violence, along with proven interventions like **Housing First** and the **Oahu Family Assessment Center**, are effective but require a large commitment by the State.

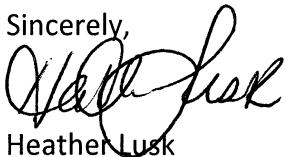
As vice chair of Partners In Care, I strongly support the following funding, **in the case budget, which will create a range of options to significantly reduce homelessness. We call for a 25% increase in the funding for most of these programs to increase the pace of ending homelessness in our state:**

- **\$35,000,000** in funding for public housing improvements/renovations

- **\$3,750,000** in funding for the Housing First Program
- **\$3,750,000** in funding for Rapid Rehousing
- **\$800,000** in funding for a pilot program to quickly move homeless children into permanent housing (includes financial case management and administration)
- **\$680,000** in funding for the Oahu Family Assessment Center
- **\$1,000,000** in funding for outreach and counseling services for homeless individuals and families with substance use disorders
 - Includes \$250,000 for a LEAD pilot project
- **\$2,200,000** in funding for homeless outreach
 - Includes \$310,000 for civil legal services

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and am confident that these specific action steps outlined in HB 1766 will reduce the number of vulnerable individuals and families that fall into homelessness in Hawai'i.

Sincerely,



Heather Lusk

Executive Director

CHOW Project



LATE

LATE

HB1766 Homeless, Rent, Housing, LEAD

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING:

- Rep. Tom Brower, Chair; Rep. Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES:

- Rep. John Mizuno, Chair; Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
- Wednesday, February 7th, 2018: 9:45 am
- Conference Room 329

HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION (HSAC) supports HB1766 with Recommendations:

GOOD MORNING CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide hui of almost 40 alcohol and drug treatment and prevention agencies.

The Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition supports HB1766 for Homeless and LEAD

HSAC supports low income rental units, Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, rent supplements, Homeless Outreach, including civil legal services and youth outreach. HSAC especially supports Outreach and Counseling for homeless with substance abuse disorders as well as LEAD pilot project. HSAC also supports the Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC) and a pilot program for families.

Recommendations:

HSAC recommends more modern language to help bridge the gap between the different principles between harm reduction strategies and abstinent-based chronic illness treatment models by changing to language that addresses both, helping people with problems ranging from misuse to severe chronic addiction.

Section 1: 5th paragraph. Number (4). Embracing a harm-reduction approach in collaboration with prevention and early intervention approaches to addictions reduce the impact of substance use disordersⁱ, which includes a spectrum of multiple opportunity strategies from safer use to abstinence providing critical links to deepen the impact to populations at greater risk.ⁱⁱ rather than mandating abstinence while supporting program participant commitments to recovery;

SECTION 11. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much there of as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the department of health to continue to administer homeless outreach, counseling, and diversion for unsheltered persons experiencing substance abuse including professional case managers that employ basic core competencies for substance abuse treatment; provided that \$ 2 5 0 , 0 0 0 of the sum appropriated shall be expended to continue administering the law enforcement assisted diversion pilot program.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify.

ⁱ SAMHSA: Prevention for substance use disorders and mental illness <https://www.samhsa.gov/prevention>

ⁱⁱ SAMHSA: Prevention and Harm Reduction: Opportunities for Collaboration to Address Opioid-Related Overdose <https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/news-announcements/conferences-trainings/prevention-harm-reduction-opportunities-collaboration>

LATE

HB-1766

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 2:03:25 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/7/2018 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melanie Boehm	The Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services	Support	No

Comments:

The multi-faceted funding approach to addressing homelessness in Hawaii is much needed. In the area that The Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services and Family Treatment Services can assist, we stand ready to support and participate in service provision. These funding resources are valuable and can be used very wisely by qualified service providers.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Rep. Rep. Tom Brower, Chair
Rep. Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair

LATE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

LATE

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

3:30 pm

Room 329

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 1766 - HELPING OUR MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Aloha Chairs Brower & Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura & Kobayashi and Members of the Committees!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the approximately 5,500 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that approximately 1,600 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

HB 1766 appropriates funds to DHS and DOH to continue to administer programs for individuals or families who require assistance to avoid or escape homelessness including outreach, Rapid Rehousing, Housing First, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, and the Family Assessment Center on Oahu. It appropriates funds to HPHA for public housing improvements and renovations statewide and a pilot program for the State Rent Supplement Program.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure that addresses the challenges some of our most vulnerable people struggle with daily. This bill highlights some of the innovative solutions that are being employed to address these challenges.

We are proud and active members of the LEAD Hawai'i Hui that has been working since 2016 to build the infrastructure so that when LEAD takes off in Chinatown, it has the foundation and fidelity needed to succeed. **This collaboration**, with government, law enforcement, community groups, agencies in all branches of government at the state, county, and city levels, **is the kind of public-private partnership that the community supports. It is nurturing - not exploitive.**

Community Alliance on Prisons
HSG, HHS - HB 1766 - STRONG SUPPORT
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 - 9:45 am - Rm 329
Page Two ...

Our community is suffering and we are proud that HPD has been so terrific in working closely with the community. We are constantly learning from each other and strong relationships and partnerships are being formed. Lt. Mike Lambert of HPD's District 1 has been an incredible inspiration in how he approaches people. He trains his officers to come from a place of concern, rather than a place of surveillance. I have witnessed this with one of his officers when we ran into a houseless gentleman he knew. The way he greeted the man was as a friend, not as an authority. The three of us had a pleasant conversation and after the officer walked away, we continued our conversation. People down on their luck are just like us.

All these programs approach people from a harm reduction approach. Meet people where they are at; not where you think they ought to be.

Amazing things happen when we work WITH people instead of working ON them!

Community Alliance on Prisons thanks the committees for hearing this important bill and we humbly ask that you pass this measure and then advocate for it, since both Vice Chairs are on Finance!

Mahalo for this opportunity to support this great bill.

*We are all here on earth to help others;
what on earth the others are here for I don't know.*

W. H. Auden

HB-1766

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 7:36:22 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/7/2018 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Augustus Acosta	ALEA Bridge	Support	No

Comments:

ALEA Bridge is in strong support of this bill as it provides critical resources to address one of the State's most critical issues. Failure to fund these programs will exacerbate the crisis we are facing and build on the enormous challenges facing the homeless and service providers alike.

LATE

LATE

HB-1766

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:28:41 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/7/2018 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I commend the legislature for continuing the momentum toward alleviating homelessness. I strongly support the Rapid Rehousing and Housing First programs. I also support maximization of effort and funds toward the development and longevity of Affordable Housing, one of the most pressing issues this state faces. Subsidies along with financial counseling will aid in stabilizing some families, but the greater need is long term affordability.

HB-1766

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 12:46:11 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/7/2018 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thaddeus Pham		Support	No

Comments:

As a public health professional and concerned resident of Hawaii, this bill will increase our capacity to more effectively address health and social disparities. Hawai'i needs programs that create a pathway out of homelessness and remove barriers, including one of the greatest barriers: the lack of affordable rental units. The package listed below addresses this by promoting renovation of public housing to open up more very low cost rental units. Enhanced outreach, including for homeless youth and diversion of homeless from the criminal justice system, rental subsidies to house homeless children and children at imminent risk of homeless due to domestic violence, along with proven interventions like Housing First and the Oahu Family Assessment Center, are effective but require a large commitment by the State.

I strongly support the following funding, in the case budget, which will create a range of options to significantly reduce homelessness. We call for a 25% increase in the funding for most of these programs to increase the pace of ending homelessness in our state:

- \$35,000,000 in funding for public housing improvements/renovations
- \$3,750,000 in funding for the Housing First Program
- \$3,750,000 in funding for Rapid Rehousing
- \$800,000 in funding for a pilot program to quickly move homeless children into permanent housing (includes financial case management and administration)
- \$680,000 in funding for the Oahu Family Assessment Center
- \$1,000,000 in funding for outreach and counseling services for homeless individuals and families with substance use disorders
 - o Includes \$250,000 for a LEAD pilot project
- \$2,200,000 in funding for homeless outreach
 - o Includes \$310,000 for civil legal services

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1766

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 5:04:54 PM

Testimony for HSG on 2/7/2018 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jun Shin		Support	No

Comments:

HB-1766

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 4:00:02 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/7/2018 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
		Support	No

Comments:

Please prioritize the investments in this measure to reduce homelessness in Hawaii. Funding the Hawaii Public Housing Authority with \$35 million will help make more rentals available. Increasing funding to Department of Human Services for outreach, housing and counseling programs is important so required services can be provided. Support for the Oahu Family Assessment Center will assist in their continuing effectiveness. A pilot program addressing and assisting with issues surrounding homelessness due to domestic violence should be explored.

TESTIMONY in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1766: RELATING TO FUNDING FOR HOMELESSNESS PROGRAMS

LATE

LATE

TO: Representative Tom Brower, Chair; Representative John Mizuno, Chair; Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair; House Committee on Housing; House Committee on Health and Human Services; House Committee on Finance

FROM: David Shaku, Concerned Citizen

Hearing: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 9:45 AM Conference Room 329, State Capitol

Dear Chair Brower, Chair Mizuno, Chair Luke, and Members of the Committee(s):

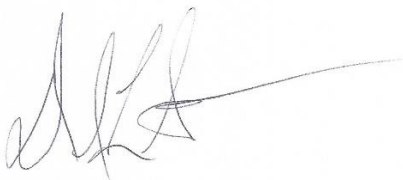
Thank you for the opportunity to voice my STRONG SUPPORT of the HB 1766 bill laying out funding for programs that address homelessness and some of its root causes.

In line with Partners in Care, I would like to call for a 25% increase to the funding of the following programs to increase the pace to end homelessness in our state:

- I. \$35,000,000 in funding for public housing improvements/renovations
- II. \$3,750,000 in funding for the Housing First Program
- III. \$3,750,000 in funding for Rapid Rehousing
- IV. \$800,000 in funding for a pilot program to quickly move homeless children into
- V. permanent housing (includes financial case management and administration)
- VI. \$680,000 in funding for the Oahu Family Assessment Center
- VII. \$1,000,000 in funding for outreach and counseling services for homeless individuals and
- VIII. families with substance use disorders
 - a. includes \$250,000 for a LEAD pilot project
- IX. \$2,200,000 in funding for homeless outreach
 - a. Includes \$310,000 for civil legal services

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and remain hopeful that taking the steps outlined in HB 1766 will see that the people of Hawai'i who are living through homelessness receive the care and compassion they deserve from the Aloha State.

Mahalo,



David Shaku

LATE
LATE

HB-1766

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 12:24:04 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/7/2018 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael L Inouye		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong support of this bill because it focuses on a non-punitive, housing first approach to ending homelessness and treating substance abuse. We need stop treating homeless like a problem to be solved or swept away from public view, and more like human beings who deserve to be treated with dignity and respect and to have their basic needs met. If we fail the least among us, we fail as a society.

- Mikey

LATE

LATE

HB-1766

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 8:03:07 AM

Testimony for HSG on 2/7/2018 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Bickel		Support	No

Comments:

This looks like a good bill to approach the mammoth problem of houselessness. The

Rapid Rehousing, Housing First, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, and the Family Assessment Center seem like innovative ways to help people.