



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

February 12, 2018

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1926 Proposed HD1 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the proposed HD1 as it is consistent with our administration proposal HB 2366. This proposed HD1 will further the work of DHS to assist our clients' ability to achieve their full human potential, improve the well-being of individuals, their families, and the community.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill requires DHS to use an integrated and multigenerational approach to delivering human services to reduce the incidence of intergenerational poverty and dependence on public benefits.

DHS has a large stake in ending poverty in Hawaii. DHS provides benefits and services to one in four Hawaii residents, or nearly 360,000 individuals, and provides medical insurance coverage for nearly one-half of Hawaii's children. DHS has the largest operating budget of any state department, approximately \$3.3 billion, to provide benefits and services relating to homelessness, education, employment, health care, child care, food security, protective services, and vocational rehabilitation.

DHS is part of the national movement to improve the delivery of human services lead by the National Governors Association, the American Public Human Services Association, and Ascend of the Aspen Institute, the Urban Institute, and others. DHS is

adopting a service integration and multigenerational approach, is redesigning its business processes, and continues to improve its technology systems.

DHS is also engaged in its first departmental strategic plan to improve overall program outcomes and establish outcome measures of services for children, parents, and families geared to reduce adverse risks and increase protective factors that promote educational attainment and wage progression that lead to economic self-sufficiency. Through service integration and addressing the needs of multiple generations in a family concurrently, efforts and resources will be better targeted to support the well-being of individuals and families. Investment is also being directed to improving the human services workforce by supporting professional development to improve the work environment, encourage retention, and renew employees' dedication to helping Hawaii's vulnerable residents reach their human and economic potential.

Ultimately, the goals of transformation are to improve well-being of individuals, families, and the community, reduce intergenerational poverty, reduce dependence on public benefits, and reduce the human and fiscal costs of poverty. This administration bill will underpin the department's transformation from a siloed service delivery model to an integrated and multi-generational model.

Multiple studies identify the consequences of growing up in poverty: "individuals who grow up in poor families are more likely to be poor in early adulthood;" and "the chances of being poor in early adulthood increases sharply the longer the time spent in poverty in early childhood." See, Robert L. Wagmiller, Jr., and Robert M. Adelman, "Childhood and Intergenerational Poverty: The Long-Term Consequences of Growing up Poor."

The groundbreaking 1988 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study showed clear linkage of the number of ACEs a child experienced to negative health outcomes in adulthood.

Further, a 2015 Swedish study, similarly confirmed the findings of the ACE study using Swedish population data, and concluded that "creating equal opportunities for educational attainment may help to reduce the long-term effect of a disadvantaged childhood and postpone functional health problems." See N. Agahi, B. Shaw, S. Fors, "Social

and economic conditions in childhood and the progression of functional health problems from midlife into old age," J Epidemiol Community Health 2014; 0:1–7. doi:10.1136/jech-2013-20369.

Preliminary analysis of data from Hawaii's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) show that a percentage of Hawaii's SNAP recipients experience intergenerational poverty. For those born from 1987-1996 (currently, 21-30 years old), over 35,000 received SNAP benefits in childhood and as adults, or 21 percent of (166,081) the total number of those born from 1987-1996 who received SNAP benefits during their lifetime. For those born, during the period 1977-1986 (currently, 31-40 years old), more than 33,000 received SNAP benefits in childhood and as adults, or 23.5 percent of (140,930) the total number of those born during the period 1977-1986 who ever received SNAP.

Of particular concern is that individuals in the above age groups represent parents of young children. To change the trajectory of these families and individuals, DHS must transform its practices and provide services more effectively in a way that will support the child's, parent's and other individual's social capital, educational and economic potential to become self-sufficient, and reduce their dependence on public benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health and Human Services
Wednesday, February 14, 2018; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

RE: SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL NO. 1926, PROPOSED HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 1926, Proposed House Draft 1, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would clarify the mission of the Department of Human Services to emphasize an integrated and multigenerational approach to improve economic security and reduce the incidence of intergenerational poverty and dependence on public benefits.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of health.

In 1854, Abraham Lincoln wrote that the *"object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all, or cannot so well do, for themselves, in their separate and individual capacities."* Lincoln believed, in other words, that government is how we organize our responsibilities to each other.

The path envisioned by Lincoln, where government naturally assumes a smaller role -- not by refusing to meet its responsibilities, but because in meeting those responsibilities fully, the need for government diminishes, would appear to be at the heart of the proposed bill.

Taking responsible steps to reduce poverty is not merely a moral imperative but an economic one. And government should act now. This bill ensures that the State of Hawaii firmly moves toward that end.

Testimony on House Bill No. 1926, Proposed House Draft 1
Wednesday, February 14, 2018; 9:30 a.m.
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President Lincoln couldn't have envisioned the complex problems we face now. But when he wrote that government *"embraces all which, in its nature, and without wrong, requires combined action, as public roads and highways, public schools, charities, pauperism, orphanage, estates of the deceased, and the machinery of government itself,"* he had a good handle on what it meant to use government as a tool to provide the stability and opportunity needed to attack poverty.

Accordingly, we **SUPPORT** this measure and urge your favorable consideration.

In advance, thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

HB-1926

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 8:50:48 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 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

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Monday, February 14, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 1926, HD1 RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

To the Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair; the Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Health and 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. 1926, HD1, relating to the integrated and multigenerational approach to the reduction of intergenerational poverty.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No.1926, HD1 and supports its passage.

House Bill No.1926, HD1 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the Department of Human Services to use an integrated and multigenerational approach to delivering human services to reduce the incidence of intergenerational poverty and dependence on public benefits.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e believe that all families should have an equal opportunity to build their assets and become self-sufficient, and we support a strong safety net of programs that will afford them the opportunity to do so. We must protect our children, our future, from violence and neglect and provide them with a safe and healthy environment in which to grow and thrive."

"We support initiatives that enhance access and equity in education, employment, and business opportunities intended to lift families and individuals out of poverty and remove existing barriers to equal opportunity in our communities. We support legislation and best practice policies that prioritize the safety," (Platform of the DPH, P. 4, Lines 184-191 (2016)).

"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. 1926, HD1 requires the Department of Human Services to use an integrated and multigenerational approach to delivering human services to reduce the incidence of intergenerational poverty and dependence on public benefits, 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

HB-1926

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 7:59:08 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeny Bissell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Multigenerational-Centered system of care is a comprehensive and holistic approach that will bring positive outcomes in Hawaii's keiki and their Ohana.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty Culen, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 14, 2018 at 9:00 am, Conference Room 329

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 1926: RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and there are simple commonsense strategies that can have positive impact and serve the community needs as well. Thus far interventions and have been limited in impact because of funding, organization, collaboration, coordination issues. A central homeless intake office can efficiently and effectively improve efforts of outreach, shelter organizations and law enforcement to address the needs of homeless individuals and families. It can also enhance access to services and providers' efforts to deliver such services.

HB 1926 will provide the foundation for Hawaii to organize, coordinate, and implement strategies and approaches to address essential needs of homeless individuals.

Please vote **YES** on HB 1926 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Respectfully submitted,

James Plichta

BSW, CSAC, ICADC

Graduate Student

Myron B Thompson School of Social Work University of Hawaii at Manoa

Intern Department of Health Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division

HOUSE OR REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
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HEARING: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 1926: RELATED TO HUMAN SERVICES

The homeless about in the public is an issue across the entire state on every island. Addressing this issue requires simple strategies to benefit not only the community, but also the homeless individuals themselves. Current interventions have had limited impact as a result of issues such as funding and collaboration. Establishing this central homeless intake office will streamline the process for outreach, shelter organization, and law enforcements to better assist with homeless individuals and families. It can also provide more accessible services from providers.

HB 1926 will provide the means in which Hawai'i to better address issues regarding the homeless and better assist in the delivery of services and implementation of strategies to resolve these issues.

Please vote **YES** on HB 1926 to allow easier care access for such a vulnerable population.

Respectfully submitted

Alika Terao

Graduate Student

Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Intern Susannah Wesley Community Center Youth Services Division

LATE

HB-1926

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 7:15:05 PM
Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: