

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 27, 2017

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia J. Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

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

SUBJECT: HB 2014 HD1 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing: Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 12:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure, and offers comments. In particular, the Coordinator has concerns regarding the potential adverse impact on priorities included in the Governor's supplemental budget request.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to require the Governor to make available state land for the establishment of a homelessness village, and establishes the Puuhonua homeless villages program within DHS. The bill specifies that a minimum of eight thousand homes shall be completed within a certain timeframe, waives all applicable state and county permitting and construction fees, and provides immunity from civil liability to volunteers and state employees who provide housing or services to homeless persons. In addition, the bill appropriates \$190,000,000 for fiscal year 2018-2019 for construction and infrastructure, and \$208,000,000 for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the management, maintenance, and day-to-day operations of the program.

The Coordinator appreciates the Legislature's efforts to adopt innovative solutions to the complex challenge of homelessness and appreciates the specific amendments below by the House Committee on Health and Human Services:

“Changing the requirement for the Governor to make available specific parcels of state land for the purpose of this measure to

instead require the Governor to identify parcels of state land that shall be made available for the purposes of this measure.” STAND.

COM. REP. NO. 508-18.

However, the Coordinator notes that recent efforts to address homelessness through the State’s framework plan are working, and that in 2017 the statewide Point in Time (PIT) count found that the number of homeless people in Hawaii *decreased* for the first time in eight years – a *decrease* of 701 people between 2016 and 2017. It is critical that the State continue to invest in programs that have contributed to this decrease – such as Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, homeless outreach, and the Family Assessment Center – and should this measure proceed, the Coordinator respectfully requests that it does not supplant funding for existing homeless services and related priorities in the Governor’s Supplemental Budget request.

The Coordinator further notes that the Administration is actively working to identify vacant state land for potential housing projects for the homeless population, however it has been challenging to identify land that has adequate infrastructure and is zoned to allow residential use. A preliminary search for vacant state lands by the Act 212 (2017) Safe Zones Working Group identified nine vacant state parcels, which included many that were not suitable for residential use due to zoning, lack of road access and other necessary infrastructure, location on a hillside, and potential ground contamination. The Act 212 (2017) Safe Zones Working Group also received public testimony from legislators and community members expressing concerns that housing projects for the homeless population should not be sited in an area without adequate dialogue with the surrounding community. The vacant state lands identified and the feedback received by the working group warrant closer consideration if this measure proceeds. The full report of the Act 212 (2017) Safe Zones Working Group can be found online at: <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Act-212-2017-Report-on-Safe-Zones-HCR-148-SD-1-on-Squatting.pdf>.

Finally, the Coordinator recognizes the urgent need to implement programs to address homelessness. If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator suggests the measure be amended to include specific exemptions from chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which would enable DHS to comply with the deadlines specified in this measure. In addition, the

Coordinator recommends the measure also be amended to enable DHS and other relevant executive branch agencies to develop interim rules without regard to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the purposes of the Puuhonua homeless villages program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

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Corrections

Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2014, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 27, 2018; 12:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The State of Hawaii, Department of Public Safety (PSD) appreciates the intent of House Bill (HB) 2014, House Draft (HD) 1, and offers the following comments of concern. HB 2014, HD1 would require the Governor to identify available state land for the establishment of a homelessness village, establish the Puuhonua Homeless Villages program, and provide a limitation on liability for government entities and volunteers providing services, and defers to the Department of the Attorney General in regard to the potential legal implications, and to the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and the Department of Human Services (DHS).

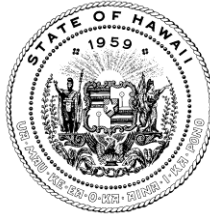
Page 7, lines 3 - 6 would require DHS to collaborate with appropriate state and county law enforcement agencies to provide security for the Puuhonua homeless villages program. Section 8 appropriates to DHS the sum of \$208,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 – 2019 for the management, maintenance, and day-to-day operations of the Puuhonua homeless villages. It is not clear, however, if any of these funds may be transferred or reimbursed to PSD for law enforcement services, if such services are necessary. Without additional positions, providing security at a Puuhonua

Testimony on HB 2014, HD 1
House Committee on Finance
February 27, 2018
Page 2

homeless village would require the diversion of resources from other day-to-day functions, thereby impacting the Sheriff Division's operations at the Judiciary courthouses, State Capitol, Civic Center area, and other homeless enforcements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Tuesday, February 27, 2018
12:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2014, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

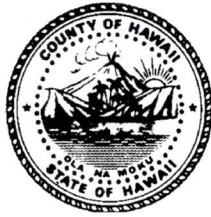
House Bill 2014, House Draft 1 proposes the Governor to identify available state lands to establish a Pu'uhonua Homeless Villages Program. **While the Department acknowledges the intent of this measure, the Department defers to the testimony of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness with regard to the substance of this initiative. The Department offers the following comments.**

The Department is concerned that the rapid construction of 8,000 dwelling units in two years will require the suspension of environmental and procurement laws, and while this may address the housing problem, it will cause long-term, costly impacts to Hawai'i's fragile environment and possibly to historic and cultural sites. Infrastructure costs, such as sewer, water and electricity can be very high and usually require ground disturbance. Failure to adequately address infrastructure needs can also be costly to our environment. Sewer runoff damages our reefs and causes human illnesses forcing our beaches to close. Groundwater contamination is another serious threat to our environment and human health. The Department urges the Legislature to consider the costs of infrastructure, as well as the cost of inadequate infrastructure to the people of Hawaii.

The Department requests that if any of its lands are identified for the purposes of a Pu'uhonua Homeless Village, it be consulted, and the land be transferred if deemed appropriate, to an agency whose mission better matches the purposes of a Pu'uhonua Village.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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February 26, 2018

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308
Honolulu, HI 96813

Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair
Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

Re: HB 2014, HD 1 Relating to Homelessness
Hearing Date: 02/27/18 – 12:00 pm; House Conference Room 308

I would like to thank you for scheduling HB 2014, HD 1, and hope that you can give it favorable consideration.

HB 2014, HD 1 provides a logical, evidenced-based statewide plan to address homelessness. This bill:

- Recognizes the Housing First priority of placing the most chronically homeless and vulnerable individuals and families into permanent, supportive housing as soon as possible, utilizing an effective coordinated entry system.
- Recognizes the fact that we do not have enough permanent supportive housing to meet the need, and that we will not meet this need unless we utilize alternative housing types that make permanent supportive housing affordable and available in much shorter periods of time than currently is the case.
- Takes a bold holistic approach that addresses the homeless crisis statewide rather than being County/area specific.
- Recognizes the fact that villages with proper compassionate and caring leadership, self-governance, and boundaries will promote a sense of Ohana, ownership, pride, hope and dignity. We think these are the necessary elements for a healthy and thriving community.

February 26, 2018

Page 2

I am confident this concept can work, because we have already successfully piloted the village concept at Camp Kikaha in Kona. HB 2014, HD 1 would help us move further. We currently have a 35-acre site that will soon go through master planning and the environmental assessment process for a homeless village and affordable housing, similar to what is envisioned under HB 2014, HD 1.

We realize that funding for all counties and the State is tight and limited, and HB 2014, HD 1 is expensive. If a pilot project is needed as an initial course of action, the bill could be pared back in your Committee. However, first we need to keep the bill alive in Finance.

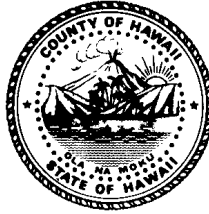
Please help us make this vision of ending homelessness in Hawai'i a reality by approving some version of HB 2014, HD 1.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Kim". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

Maile Medeiros David
Council District 6
Portion N. S. Kona/Ka'ū /Volcano



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County of Hawai'i
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February 26, 2018

Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol, House Conference Room 308
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: HB 2014, HD 1 – Relating to Homelessness.

Honorable Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen:

Aloha and mahalo a nui loa for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2014, HD 1. My name is Maile David, Councilmember representing Council District 6 (rural districts of South Kona, Ka'ū and Volcano Village).

I fully support the intent of HB 2014, HD 1 as a continued positive effort in addressing homelessness and assisting Hawaii County with addressing its homeless population. I therefore humbly request that HB 2014, HD 1 be favorably acted upon.

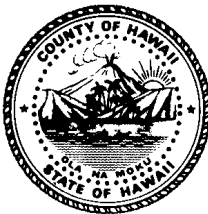
Mahalo a nui loa for your favorable consideration.

Very truly yours,

Maile David

Maile David, Council Member
Council District 6, S. Kona, Ka'ū, and Volcano Village

Karen Eoff
Council Vice Chair
Council District 8 - North Kona



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

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February 26, 2018

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Re: **Testimony Supporting** HB2014, HD1; Relating to Homelessness
Hearing Date and Time: February 27, 2018 at 12:00 p.m., Conference Room 308

Dear Committee:

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8 in North Kona, support for the above referenced Bill is expressed, with brief testimony provided as follows:

The homeless situation is well known and widespread throughout Hawai'i County. We need to allow the State to place more homelessness individuals expeditiously into housing, on a scale that is large enough to greatly reduce, if not end homelessness.

Requiring the Governor to identify available State land for the establishment of homelessness villages is long overdue.

We strongly support the Pu'uhoonua Homelessness Villages Program, and recommend the passing of this bill.

Sincerely,

KAREN EOFF, Council Vice Chair
Council District 8, North Kona

KE.wpb

HAWAII KAI HOMELESS TASK FORCE

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TESTIMONY

I'm Mike Goodman, Director of the Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force. I want to thank everyone on this committee for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB2014 also known as the Pu`uhonua Homeless Villages Act.

IT'S SIMPLE: THE ONLY WAY TO END THE HOMELESS CRISIS IS FOR ALL THE HOMELESS TO HAVE A PLACE TO LIVE.

THIS BILL WOULD HOUSE EVERY HOMELESS PERSON, BY USING UNCONVENTIONAL MODULAR DWELLINGS, THAT COST NINETY-NINE PERCENT LESS, THAN CONVENTIONAL BRICK AND MORTAR HOUSING.

WE COULD BUILD 80 VILLAGES, EACH WITH 100 MODULAR HOMES, USING ONLY 160 ACRES OF UNDERUTILIZED STATE LAND, THAT WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE INTEGRITY OF RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL RETAIL OR TOURIST AREAS, FOR LESS THAN \$200 MILLION DOLLARS. CONVERSELY, 8000 CONVENTIONALLY CONSTRUCTED BRICK AND MORTAR UNITS, WOULD COST ABOUT \$3.5 BILLION DOLLARS.

\$200 MILLION DOLLARS IS ALSO LESS THAN WE'RE ALREADY SPENDING ON UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS. FOR EXAMPLE, Queens Medical Center SPENDS OVER \$90 MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR, JUST IN THEIR EMERGENCY ROOM, TAKING CARE OF UNSHELTERED HOMELESS PEOPLE.¹ IN 2014, HONOLULU OFFICIALS SAID THEY REMOVED 10 TONS OF RUBBISH **EVERY WEEK**, FROM SIDEWALKS AND PARKS. WE SPEND ABOUT HALF A MILLION DOLLARS EVERYTIME WE DO A HOMELESS SWEEP. It ALSO costs about \$1000 a week FOR EACH HOMELESS PERSON WE incarcerate, plus the ancillary costs of police, judges, defense attorneys and prosecutors.

SADLY, EVERY OTHER HOMELESS BILL, AND EVERY OTHER POLICY AND PROPOSAL, ONLY PROVIDES A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION WITH PERMANENT HOUSING. BECAUSE BRICK AND MORTAR IS SO EXPENSIVE, MOST HOMELESS MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN

SHELTERS, OR THE STREETS. EVERY DAY, WE SEE THE FAILURE OF THIS POLICY ON OUR SIDEWALKS, BEACHES AND PARKS.

A final word about the cost: You may not have to use GENERAL FUNDS to finance this. Perhaps, instead of asking developers to set aside affordable units in luxury condo's built on expensive land, they could instead contribute towards the construction and maintenance of Pu'uhonua Homeless Villages. BONDS COULD ALSO BE USED.

THE vast majority of VOTERS believe Homelessness is the most important issue facing the State THE PU'UHONUA HOMELESS VILLAGES ACT, (HB2014) IS THE ONLY BILL BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE WITH A FORESEEABLE SOLUTION TO THE HOMELESS CRISIS. THEREFORE, IF YOU DON'T HAVE A PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE, YOU SHOULD EITHER VOTE FOR THIS BILL, OR BE PREPARED TO TELL YOUR CONSTITUENTS TO ACCEPT THINGS AS THEY ARE.

BUT ACCEPTING THINGS AS THEY ARE, IS UNNACCEPTABLE. Homelessness is a public health and safety AND QUALITY OF LIFE disaster for everyone, not just the homeless.

Communicable diseases amongst the unsheltered can infect the general population.² In September of 2017, a public health emergency was declared in San Diego after an outbreak of hepatitis "A" amongst the homeless killed 15 people.³ In New York City during the 1990's, a super-strain of drug-resistant tuberculosis was generated amongst mentally ill homeless who refused to finish their course of antibiotics.⁴ Poor hygiene and exposure to the elements, invariably generates the need for massive medical intervention, creating needless suffering, at a huge cost to taxpayers. A University of Pennsylvania Study found the average life expectancy for an unsheltered, chronically homeless person is about 64 years.⁵

Unsheltered homeless are also frequently victims of crimes, many committed by other unsheltered homeless.⁶

Illegal, unmanaged homeless camps also pose a fire danger. In Atlanta Georgia, a large fire in a homeless camp, destroyed an overpass on the I-85 highway.⁷ Recently, "The Skirball fire" in Bel Air, one of the wealthiest areas of Los Angeles, was begun by a fire in an illegal homeless encampment, and destroyed several MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR homes.

The status quo is madness. I urge you to support HB2014, AND END THIS PLAGUE DECIMATING OUR STATE.

WE ALSO HAVE SOME SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS, THAT WERE INCORPORATED INTO A SENATE VERSION OF THIS BILL (SB2628). (*The Senate bill died*). I'VE POSTED MY TESTIMONY ON-LINE, SO YOU CAN COPY THE TEXT OF THESE AMENDMENTS IF YOU WANT.

HERE ARE OUR SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS:

FIRST: There are many arbitrary and capricious local building codes which have no impact on health and safety, but could delay construction for years. For example, InterShelter makes modular dwellings (for about \$10,000) which are virtually earthquake proof, fire proof, and hurricane proof, and provide 320 square feet of living space. But they would violate a Hawai'i County code which requires homes to have more than 320 square feet of living space. To resolve these issues we suggest the following amendment:

SECTION 4. (a) The State, in lieu of compliance with local building approval procedures pertaining to health, habitability, planning and zoning, or safety standards, procedures, and laws, may adopt reasonable standards and procedures to ensure health and safety for the design, site development, and operation of homeless dwellings and facilities as contemplated under this Act, and the structures and facilities therein, to the extent that strict compliance with local standards or laws in existence would not materially improve health and safety but would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay construction.

SECOND: An Amendment that will help with NIMBY issues

SECTION 2. (a) Within one year after the effective date of this Act, the governor shall take all steps and engage in all actions necessary to make available not less than an aggregate total of 160 acres of State land to be distributed as needed between all the counties in the State for the purpose of providing housing and supportive services to homeless persons. **Where practical, the governor shall endeavor to choose parcels of land that do not interfere with the continuity of existing residential, commercial, retail and tourist areas.**

THIRD: Many homeless people have pets. Pets have therapeutic value. Moreover, forcing the homeless to give up their pets would add to the problems we have with stray animals. We therefore suggest the following amendment.

SECTION 3. (10) Villages should also allow residents to keep and have pets if practical.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY.

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¹ Allyson Blair, *Hawaii's Largest Hospital Cracking Under the Strain of the Homeless Crisis*, KHNL HAWAII NEWS NOW (Feb 14, 2017) available at <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/clip/11862932/treating-homeless-patients-costs-queens-medical-center-millions>

² SÈKÈNÈ BADIAGA, DIDIER RAOULT & PHILIPPE BROUQUI, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL, EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES VOL. 14 NO. 9 PREVENTING AND CONTROLLING EMERGING AND REEMERGING TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES IN THE HOMELESS, 1356 (Anne Mather ed., 2008) available at www.cdc.gov/eid

³ Tom Christiansen, *Local Public Health Emergency for Hepatitis A Outbreak Ratified by Board of Supervisors*, County News Center, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE, September 6, 2017, available at <https://www.countynewscenter.com/local-public-health-emergency-for-hepatitis-a-outbreak-ratified-by-board-of-supervisors/>

⁴ KAREN BRUDNEY & JAY DOBKIN, JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY, VOL. 13 NO. 4, RESURGENT TUBERCULOSIS IN NEW YORK CITY: HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS: HOMELESSNESS, AND THE DECLINE OF TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAMS, 435-50 (Winter, 1992) available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3342533>

⁵ Kevin Fagan, *The Coming Homeless Die-Off*, SFGATE BLOG., March 27, 2013 available at <http://blog.sfgate.com/stew/2013/03/27/the-coming-homeless-die-off/>

⁶ *Crimes Against America's Homeless: Is the Violence Growing?*. Hearing before the Subcomm. on Crime and Drugs of the S. Comm. on the Judiciary, 111th Cong. Hearing no. 111-915, ser. no. J-111-112 at 1 (Mar. 29, 2010) (statement of Sen. Cardin, Member S. Comm. on the Judiciary).

⁷ Jason Hanna, Faith Karimi, Steve Almasy, *I-85 collapse: Three arrested after major fire under Atlanta highway*, CNN, April 1, 2017 available at <http://www.cnn.com/2017/03/31/us/atlanta-interstate-85-fire-collapse/index.html>, See also Dan Nakaso, *Concern Grows Over Fires at Homeless Camps Under Roads and Bridges*, HONOLULU STAR ADVERTISER, July 8, 2017 available at <http://www.staradvertiser.com/2017/04/09/hawaii-news/concern-grows-over-fires-at-homeless-camps-under-roads-and-bridges/>



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**TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 2014, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO
HOMELESSNESS**

**House Committee on Finance
Hon. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Hon. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair**

**Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 12:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

Honorable Chair Luke and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMU Alliance, 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 2014, HD 1, 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, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 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.

Chronic, unsheltered, and nomadic homelessness is a humanitarian emergency endangering public health and safety. **If there is sufficient under- or unutilized state public land suitable for the construction of homeless villages, then using such land to create housing and implement and scale Housing First principles (which combine the stability of a permanent home with streamlined access to supportive services and medical and psychological treatment), as this bill aims to do, would be a strategic use of state resources that could significantly reduce homelessness throughout the islands.**

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

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 8:43:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kellen Smith	Wai'anae Coast Neighborhood Board	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a member of the Wai'anae Coast Neighborhood Board serving my 3rd consecutive term, and we have consistently supported the Pu'uhonua O Wai'anae. The residents in this village take care of one another by keeping the area safe, and they even help each other get back into housing. This community needs a space where they will not be threatened or evicted by the state. They are a subsistence community that would prefer to live off of the land. I support this bill.

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:57:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII'

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

12:00 P.M.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308

RE: Testimony in Support of **HB2014 HD1**, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

To the Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair; the Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Good afternoon, 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. **2014 HD1** regarding the Puuhonua Homeless Villages Program; Appropriation; Homelessness; Department of Human Services; Government Liability; and Immunity.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. **2014 HD1** and support its passage.

House Bill No. **2014 HD1** is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the Governor to identify available state land for the establishment of a homelessness village and establishes the Puuhonua Homeless Villages program; provides a limitation on liability for government entity and volunteers providing services and makes an appropriation.

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. **2014 HD1** requires the Governor to identify available state land for the establishment of a homelessness village and establishes the Puuhonua Homeless Villages program; provides a limitation on liability for government entity and volunteers providing services and makes an appropriation, 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, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 1:32:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike	Community First	Support	No

Comments:

Community First supports HB2014, The Pu'uhonua Homeless Villages Act. Homelessness is not a problem which can be solved just by giving someone a place to live. Homeless people have to be part of a community and this Act recognizes that. Also the larger community of Hawaii Island has already secured land to create such a village. We also believe that the Legislature should empower communities to find solutions which make the most sense at the local level. For these reasons, we hope you will pass this Act.

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 3:10:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Dolena	Pele Lani Farm LLC	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill for many reasons and PRIMARILY BECAUSE WE CAN NO LONG HAVE BAND-AIDE SOLUTIONS. We need SOLUTIONS THAT WORK. Let's put OUR Tax payer money to good use.

WHY THIS BILL IS DIFFERENT FROM EVERY OTHER HOMELESS BILL. HB2014 (The Pu`uhonua Homeless Villages Act) is the only bill THAT WILL END THE HOMELESS CRISIS IN HAWAI`I. Every other bill or policy is only a piecemeal measure, or a repetition of the failed policies of the past..

The **ONLY WAY** to end the homeless crisis is for there to be somewhere (*it doesn't have to be an apartment*) for **EVERY** homeless person to live (*housing only some of the homeless has never worked and never will*).

The **ONLY WAY** for every homeless person to have somewhere to live is to use unconventional, modular dwellings (*\$200 million for unconventional dwellings as opposed to \$3.5 BILLION for brick & mortar*).

THIS BILL WILL ACTUALLY COST LESS THAN THE GOVERNMENT IS ALREADY SPENDING. For example, Queens Medical Center SPENDS OVER \$90 MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR, *JUST IN THEIR EMERGENCY ROOM*, TAKING CARE OF UNSHELTERED HOMELESS PEOPLE. We also spend about \$500,000 EVERY TIME WE DO A HOMELESS SWEEP. It costs about \$1000 a week FOR EACH HOMELESS PERSON we incarcerate, plus the ancillary costs of police, judges, defense attorneys and prosecutors. IN 2014, HONOLULU OFFICIALS REPORTED REMOVING 10 TONS OF RUBBISH **EVERY WEEK**, LEFT BY UNSHELTERED HOMELESS ON SIDEWALKS AND IN PARKS.



Statement of
Mary Rait
Director of Regulatory Compliance and Government Relations
Mary.Rait@craftbrew.com / 503-802-1568
Kona Brewing Co.
before the
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, February 27, 2018
12:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB2014 HD1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS “The Pu’uhonua Homeless Villages Act”

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Finance Committee.

Kona Brewing Co. **supports** HB2014 HD1 that would appropriate funds and require the Governor to identify available state land for the establishment of a homelessness village to establish the Pu’uhonua Homeless Villages program; and provide limitation on liability for government entity and volunteers providing services.

Kona Brewing Co. is Hawaii’s oldest and largest craft brewery, and is today a top 10 national craft beer brand. The flagship brewhouse operates in Kailua-Kona, where the company is embarking on a large expansion, with a commitment to grow in a sustainable manner. We are one of the largest employers on Hawaii island and one of the largest tourist draws in this community with over 250,000 visitors each year. Unfortunately, over the past six months there was a relocation of a homeless shelter in an adjacent property that has caused us, and local law enforcement, to deal with constant negative impacts relating to the safety of our employees, guests and homeless population. We cannot solve this alone. HB2014 HB1 offers a creative solution to end homelessness by creating permanent housing, more transitional and emergency shelters and supportive services needed to help the chronically homeless and those most vulnerable.



Many of the homeless issues we deal with relate to chronic mental health. This vulnerable homeless population roams freely throughout this community which has created numerous safety issues. The following examples illustrate this. Many of our guests are first time visitors to the island and drive down Pawai Place soon after they arrive. We have witnessed some of mentally ill individuals jump into the road in front of cars or throw things at cars passing by. This road near our brewery and pub has very high traffic, combine that with construction, streets with no sidewalks, rampant drug activity, crime and mental illness, all of which creates a situation that has a very high risk for serious injury. For the safety of our staff we have security on site for the property. Even with this presence, we routinely have homeless people harassing our staff and guests. To ease the concerns of our staff, we have instituted a buddy system after hours for all staff walking to/from the restaurant or going to storage areas, but we continue to face struggles of harassment on an almost daily basis.

As a responsible business, we are doing our part to improve safety by adding lighting, security, training, awareness, locks, buddy policy, and other programs. We recently had a cookout and provided free sandwiches to all police in the city who stopped by to maintain positive relations and show our appreciation. However, people will not truly feel safe until the crime and mentally ill elements that have been brought into this community are addressed. HB2014 HD1 allows for a coordinated entry system that will make sure the most chronically homeless, and vulnerable people are housed first, but there will be enough permanent housing for the scope of homeless along this continuum of need. This bill will provide enough housing for every homeless person in the state in two-acre villages very economically.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Testimony in Support for HB 2014, HD 1, Relating To Homelessness

Hearing Before the Committee on Finance; February 27, 2018, 12:00 P.M., Conf. Room 308

My name is Charlene Iboshi and I live on Hawaii Island. I have been working on the challenges of the homeless, the limited service resources to address their many needs, the inadequate inventory of permanent affordable housing, and the negative impact of the social and “visual cues” of homelessness on the economic vitality on both sides of Hawaii island hubs, in Kona and Hilo.

Hawaii County has proven collaboration of governmental agencies, service providers, business and community associations, to address the acute homeless issues in Kailua-Kona. We are still working on the encampment’s self-governance, and acquisition of a larger parcel. There is still an inadequate inventory for any subsidized housing programs in Kona and throughout the rest of the island.

The East-side patiently waited until the West Hawaii project was initiated. Now, more meaningful planning has started on the East-side. The visual cues of homelessness, including urine and feces in business alcoves and associated behaviors such as aggressive pan-handling, have become more concentrated and noticeable in Hilo Town.

Until long-term, permanent affordable housing can be built, extraordinary approaches must be taken. Hawaii County has proven collaboration and, most importantly, if state lands cannot be used immediately, we have the county government or private lands that could be used if adequate resources were available for a demonstration project(s). We have confidence that our island community can demonstrate the building and integration of adequate services for emergency and transitional housing, then later for affordable housing.

I have read the testimonies previously submitted. The state has a comprehensive plan developed by the Governor with all the counties’ and service providers’ input. Hawaii County has a complementary draft to address social and housing needs of the homelessness. Other civic and business groups are working on the reduction of the negative impacts on the economic vitality by the fear of behaviors associated with homeless and aggressive pan-handlers. Everyone wants a safe and welcoming community, not fearful with the blight of problems as found in Honolulu.

Our Hawaii Island community requests that you pass the HB 2014, HD 1, to provide us an opportunity to propose how pilot-projects can be demonstrated with concerted efforts with state and county resources. Some additional funding to provide the integrated services and transitional structures are key. Hawaii County and State have the land. The Community has the willingness and “know how” to get an individual assessment process and stabilization done, but needs some flexibility in funding to develop what works in our county.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Charlene Iboshi

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 7:06:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen Moura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 10:50:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Normann	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Friends,

I support bill HB2014. We need to take concrete action to concrete action to end homelessness in the state. Homelessness is a social issue. Until we are willing to get at the root of the problem and provide housing as well as livable wage employment, homelessness will plague our state and local communities.

No bill is perfect. However, this bill is the only bill that seeks to realisitcly house the homeless and not just continueing the bandaid approaches that we tied thus far. I encourage you to support this bold bill and help us house all of our houmeless individuals, families, and children.

Paul Normann

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 12:10:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jane DiNola	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 12:46:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 1:47:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jane Howard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I truly believe the only way to end homelessness is to provide housing where individuals and families can keep their belongings, pets, and get the help they need. Housing First, I'm a big believer. Shelters don't provide the kind of housing that makes much sense when everyday you have to leave, take all your belongings with you and can't keep a pet. If they are going to continue to take drugs and drink I would rather have it off the streets where we can make our society feel safe. It makes sense to take care of those issues after they are put into suitable housing. I'm in total agreement that the current policies are costing all of us a fortune in cleanup costs, emergency room visits, ambulance services and a treat to tourism. Compassionate disruption and we call rousting people out of parks and homeless encampments is highly ineffective and expensive. The homeless don't evaporate just because we asked them to move. Instead they go to a new area and cause the same issues within days. Our current policies are highly ineffective and financially bankrupting us all without any tangible results. I support HB2014.

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 3:00:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
I. Robert Nehmad	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Homeless issue has been growing in Hawaii and unless we as a community take immediate action, the problem will continue its current path and will be harder to address and resolve in the future.

Now is the time we begin the path to a solution by passing HB2014.

Thank you for considering this comment.

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 4:52:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Garvin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable members of the Finance Committee,

This is a good step in decreasing so many of the problems and costs associated with attempts to clear homeless populations and to help them. The amounts currently being spent with little to no improvement could be directed to a more productive use. Obviously it would not solve all of the problems, but would reduce many of them far more rapidly than the present approach. I do not see this as the ultimate solution and know there would be much more to do, but believe it is a good pathway to making a measurable improvement and ultimately costing less in taxpayer dollars.

I urge you to pass this bill.

Respectfully, Rene M. Garvin, Hawaii Kai

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 9:55:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terri Lynn Lum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support of HB2014 as I believe our state, and particularly the Big Island, desperately needs effective solutions to dealing with the issue of homelessness. As a social worker, I hear daily of the struggles that children and families have that are directly related to their lack of stable housing including poor school attendance and academic progress, health and hygiene concerns, risk for child abuse and neglect. I strongly support HB2014 as a viable option to help ease this crisis. Your committee's support will demonstrate our Legislature's commitment to exploring all options to ensuring the safety, well-being and dignity of our community. Thank you for your attention to this issue.

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 7:47:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. This is a small island, so the "stratification" of wealth that exists in large mainland states hasn't had an outlet. Think about it: on the mainland there's everything from Beverly Hills to trailer parks (BTW trailer parks are quite nice nowadays, go figure). In Hawaii, "trailers/mobile homes" haven't been allowed. Well, this was before the current crisis. We need to get off our high horse and allow alternative dwellings, heck, they already live "alternatively", on the streets! It is NOT compassionate to let people live as animals, even though they choose to, most need mental health help. Others, particularly Hawaiians want to live off the land as their ancestors did, who are you to stop them? At least let them be safe in designated areas, this is fair to both them and general populace. Get this under control now before people leave this state in droves and no more nobody to pay your salaries...

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2014: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Toni Symons

Hearing: Committee on Finance; February 27, 2018, 12:00 P.M., Conf. Room 308

Chairperson Luke and Vice-Chair Cullen;

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of HB 2014. My name is Toni Symons and I am the Program Director for social services at Na Kahua Hale O Ulu Wini and a member of the Community Alliance Partnership. 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 a place to become stable.

HB 2014 HD1 will work because we know that the following things are critical to changing systems and we have seen evidence of it working on the Big Island with the following components contained in this bill:

It recognizes the Housing First priority of placing the most chronically homeless and vulnerable individuals and families into permanent, supportive housing as soon as possible, utilizing an effective Coordinated Entry System. We are currently using the Coordinated Entry System to place transitional families at Ulu Wini and it works.

The fact that we do not have enough permanent supportive housing to meet the need, and that we will not meet this need unless we utilize alternative housing types that make permanent supportive housing affordable and available in much shorter periods of time than currently is the case.

This bill takes a bold holistic approach to address the homeless crisis statewide rather than being County/area specific. It also recognizes the fact that villages with proper compassionate and caring leadership, self-governance, and boundaries will promote a sense of Ohana, ownership, pride, hope and dignity. We think these are the necessary elements for a healthy and thriving community.

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, Toni Symons

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 9:35:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Vandervoort	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 9:47:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frances Pueo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2014 - The Pu'uhonua Homeless Village Act. How can we not be compassionate to help rescue and reach out to the many of our own species struggling to survive daily. Have we blinded our conscious to NOT see those human beings in makeshift shelters of tarps, pallets, along the road ways, parks, in various terrains and then tag them as losers?. Do we say, "Its their problem in falling from our standards? Do we say," Its not our problem? and not reach out with variable solutions?

We humans are the caregivers of this Earth of all species, including our own. These are people needing help of a secured and safe housing and or camp site that needs to be sanctioned with all our community funding which then can provide pathways so once again they can be self-reliant.

Low paying jobs on Oahu so I worked 18 hours a day, full time, part time and on call. It was rough. Lived in my car, in a bus and under my mothers roof. Life was a daily struggle. It took years but I finally saved enough for a down payment on my fix-up house in Waianae. I had no one to turn to for help, no safe area to feel secure. I'm a rare survival of such financial hardships, and my heart goes out always to those who are obviously living without housing.

Please pass HB2014,

Frances Pueo, (808) 769-1128

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 10:16:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shoshannah Ruwethin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 10:28:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 11:06:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shirley David	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB2014 is needed to continue the work of ending homelessness in Hawaii with modular villages added to the wrap around services to help individuals an families to be safe while they are working towards a sustainable lifestyle. This bill helps keep those who are struggling from overwhelming our emergency rooms which is more expensive that housing.

Testimony regarding HB2014

I support house Bill 2014, the Pu'uhonua Villages Act. For the following reasons:

Since 1999 I have worked as an occupational medicine doctor in the state of Hawaii. I have seen and treated people who have had very serious injuries and minor injuries and seen the devastating effect of homelessness on chronic medical problems in people's lives. During treatments I have come to treat homeless people and heard their stories. It is emotionally devastating to a person to not live in a stable home on a daily basis. It is devastating to not have a home in which a person can live on a daily and nightly basis. Although shelters may find some protection from bad weather at nighttime, if a person has to leave that shelter in the morning it is very disruptive to a sense of safety. Children need a place to call home in order to grow up with good mentation and in order to be able to succeed in school. I've also seen the effects of homelessness on disjointed medical and early care. Homelessness increases morbidity sickness in the homeless populations.

This bill would provide a very financially reasonable way to provide shelter for those people who have become homeless. For whatever reason the people are homeless having a place to live in every night would allow people to heal, it would decrease potentially decrease crime.

I support this bill because it is the only bill out there to house all the homeless. Housing only some of the homeless leaves the great majority of homeless people unsheltered to live on the streets that we walk by or drive by.

Having wraparound social services and medical care would treat medical problems early so that they don't become devastating for people who have them and would permit social services to be provided on an early intervention program. I support this bill because it is a financially reasonable way to house all the homeless in Hawaii which is what is needed.

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2018 11:46:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 1:24:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kathryn castillo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

In 2017, the statewide Point in Time count found that the number of homeless people in Hawaii had decreased for the first time in eight years. Even with decreasing numbers homelessness remains a major challenge facing Hawaii, however, HB2014 does not provide the answer.

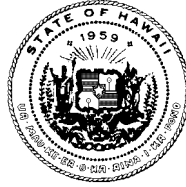
Who will provide the oversight and legally be held accountable for this long-term housing project?

How will the daily operations be financed; trash, security, water, electricity and other items necessary to develop this housing project? How will residents access medical services or employment opportunities?

How will the final parcels of land be chosen? Will portions include of state parks in active use by the public which contains no infrastructure, as well as being near residences?

The state needs to continue to invest in programs such as Housing First and Rapid Rehousing that have proven to be effective. Safe zones, encampments, or tent cities take away individual choices. The best way end homelessness is to find people safe and affordable housing not separate or remove homeless from our urban cities and tourist destinations.

Please instead focus on providing affordable housing for ALL of Hawaii.



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



February 26, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2014 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 12:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and offers the following comments. To avoid working at cross purposes and creating additional administrative infrastructure, DHS urges the legislature to consider the work being done by the Special Action Team on Affordable Rental Housing (Special Action Team), established through Act 127, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2016, as amended by Act 96, SLH 2017, section 2. Here is a link to the Special Action Team's report to the 2018 Legislature; <http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/annuals/2017/2017-op-affordable-rental-housing.pdf>.

On February 23, 2018, this committee passed HB2746 HD1 that adds the Director of the Department of Human Services and the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness to serve as members of the Special Action Team.

The Director of the DHS also currently serves as a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD Council), established by Act 130, SLH 2016. The TOD Council is similarly focused on "the promotion of mixed uses, affordable and rental housing, and compact, pedestrian friendly developments in designated transit areas." See the annual report of the TOD Council to the 2018 legislature, at <http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/annuals/2017/2017-hictod.pdf>.

While this measure's specific goals may not mirror the plans and recommendations of the Special Action Team and the TOD Council, these two groups are addressing the fundamental goals to increase the inventory of low income rentals which is a major investment needed to reduce homelessness.

PURPOSE: Requires the Governor to identify available state land for the establishment of a homelessness village and establishes the Puuhonua Homeless Villages program. Provides limitation on liability for government entity and volunteers providing services. Makes an appropriation.

We reiterate that DHS does not have expertise or current capacity for capital improvement projects of this nature, and respectfully recommends that the legislature consult with to the more experienced and knowledgeable agencies as to feasibility of different aspect of the proposal including identification of properties, length of construction, financing, security, refuse, utilities, transportation, and other provisions necessary to develop housing project of 8,000 units in two years. DHS also recommends the legislature consult with the relevant state and county agencies with regard to waiver of construction or other fees. DHS also refers the committee to the on-going planning efforts of the Special Action Team and the TOD Council.

DHS requests clarification if the village will serve as a temporary, long term, or permanent housing. Although the Housing First principles are identified in the bill, the proposal does not align with homelessness becoming rare, brief, and non-recurring; if the proposal were towards permanent housing, this would be consistent with Housing First. A model in Olympia, Washington houses those who are identified as needing permanent supportive housing. See https://www.huduser.gov/portal/casestudies/study_08312015_1.html. Those experiencing homelessness shall be provided with the appropriate intervention such as prevention to avoid homelessness and diversion from the homeless services.

DHS is able to establish homeless assessment centers through contracted services modeled after the Family Assessment Center in Kaka'ako, assuming property and facilities are identified and available for use, and an appropriation of general funds are made for necessary

renovation, maintenance, and services. Additional staff may be required to operationalize this section.

DHS agrees the best strategy to end homelessness is to find people safe and affordable housing.

DHS is concerned that an appropriation for this measure would remove resources from on-going services and projects, and requests the legislature continue to support the Governor's supplemental budget requests to continue the successful package of on-going homeless services, as well as those budget requests that support current renovation of public housing authority properties, and other housing developments currently in progress.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

LATE

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 4:28:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Webb	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I approve of the passage of HB2014. It is time that we start providing permanent housing for our homeless and stop homeless sweeps so that the homeless can just move to the next street or park. In Hawaii Kai we have had a influx of homeless living next to

Sandy Beach. I am quite sure this group of homeless caused a fire next to Koko Crater. The fire came very close to our homes and nearly burnt them down. I can't go to our shopping centers without having homeless begging for money or taking up bus stops. We had a few homeless men walking our neighborhood almost every day last summer before the camp next to Sandy Beach broke up. We had two homeless men walk into our driveway to look at what was in our garage. We had to call the police. The policeman advised us to not confront these two men and to call them for help if and when they came again.

My issue is small compared to many others that I have talked to.

We need HB2014 to pass!

Thanks,

Pam Webb

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 6:09:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tony frascarelli	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support this bill. It's time to act n the homeless issue.

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 11:48:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Okamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 5:34:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Pakele	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of bill HB2014 Pu'uhonua Villages Bill.

I am a resident of Waianae and very involved with the Pu'uhonua o Wai'anae village next to the Waianae Boat Harbor. When I first got involved with them we came up with a vision, one of embracing a communal setup, much like what was done in old Hawai'i. When trying to address the living needs of a large group of people, it is far more economical and manageable to implement a communal living situation. School dorms do it, prisons do it, when I attended Job Corps, they did it. A place to cook and eat, showers and bathrooms shared by the community. This approach has been used for some shelters, but I haven't yet seen it used to address homelessness in a more permanent living situation.

This plan could very well end or greatly reduce the need to do "sweeps" while actually addressing the issue, instead of pushing it down the road. Further, any future "sweeps" could actually be relocation to the nearest village. This would get around the stored ordinance issue, as it would be relocated to the nearest village along with the owner. Sweeps are a perpetual cost that does nothing to solve anything. They simply move people to another location, to be swept again later. Instead of telling people everywhere they CAN'T go, this would give them a place TO go. Especially if the place is planned and designed for permanent living.

Having people in concentrated areas would allow service providers constant and steady access to their clients. Service providers could concentrate their efforts in specific areas instead of chasing down their clients from place to place. Especially after sweeps where there are no forwarding addresses and can't find their clients again for some time. Having people in a fixed area will help to ensure social services efforts and more efficient and effective. This is something that Pu'uhonua o Wai'anae enjoys being a fixed area, service providers know where to go, churches that come and help know where to go, the general public looking to provide donations know where to go. This has

been a key to some of the success the village has seen that allows them to do so much with so little, operating mostly on donations and services provided by the community.

Much like social services, health services providers could also operate more effectively and efficiently. Fixed location would allow health service providers to provide maintenance and preventive care to decrease the amount of issues that turn into ER visits and hospital stays, stays that we all know no one is going to pay and the hospital is going to eat the cost. Things as simple as steady insulin or dialysis, or even simpler, open wound care. The old saying an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure comes into play here.

An example I like to use, spill some rice across a tabletop. Even a child, when asked to deal with the rice, will bring it into a pile and address the pile as opposed to scattering it further across the table and deal with it one grain at a time. This is the difference between having fixed locations as opposed to constantly spreading people across wider and wider spaces. Being able to address issues in a more effective and efficient manner.

Aloha,

James Pakele

LATE

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 7:48:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth Whitehead	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. The houseless are people too. A lot of us struggling to make ends meet from day to day. And a lot of us are one stroke of bad luck or unfortunate circumstance away from also being houseless.

LATE

HB-2014-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 9:41:30 AM
Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lance Niimi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 306
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Luke, and Committee Members:

Re: HB 2014 relating to Homelessness

I am one of Mayor Harry Kim's executive assistants charged with the responsibility of addressing homelessness for Hawai'i County. Prior to joining Mayor Kim's cabinet, I had been a social worker for 37 + years (10 yrs as a Juvenile Probation Officer with the Family Court, and 27 years as a Unit Manager for the Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center.)

We submitted HB2461 which was a much less costly, demonstration project to implement the logic of Mike Goodman's Pu`uhonua Homeless Villages (HB2014) solution to Homelessness. Our bill got through the Health and Human Services and Housing Committees but was never scheduled for a hearing with the House Judiciary Committee so it unfortunately died.

I have had long discussions with Mike Goodman and believe that his HB2014 has tremendous merit and should definitely be given the opportunity to be heard and debated, as in it lies at the very least, part, if not all of the solution to our Homeless crisis. It's components of prioritizing Housing First, Permanent Supportive Housing, the

village concept and affordable, innovative, quick build housing structures are all core strengths of the bill.

If a pilot project is deemed an avenue to demonstrate the merits of the bill, Hawai'i County would be more than willing to participate as we already have a 35 acre site going through the Master Planning and Environmental assessment process in Kona.

Please pass HB2014 through the Finance Committee and move it forward so it's merits may be discussed further on the legislature floor.

Aloha.....Lance Niimi (808)938-2694