

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

March 19, 2018

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

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2014 HD2 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Monday, March 19, 2018, 3:30 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and offers the following comments.

DHS acknowledges the breadth and urgency contained in this measure as reflected in the timeframe (2 years) and the magnitude (8,000 units), and appreciates the detailed conditions required for units and the intended village concept.

The state's framework to address homelessness through Housing First principles is based upon the notion of placement in safe and affordable permanent housing as soon as possible. DHS also recognizes for many families in Hawaii rental subsidies are required to maintain their housing. DHS supports investing in permanent housing solutions that are sustainable, safe, healthy, and near to existing transportation, education, health, and economic infrastructure; these are all significant aspects to ending homelessness for individuals and families currently experiencing it. We support investment of public funds in activities that lead to a permanent housing solution, including maintenance and renovation of existing housing

capacity, as well as investment in the conversion of state property, including property currently being used as shelters, to be renovated to become permanent housing.

However, DHS currently delivers homeless services through the purchase of services provided by community based non-profit organizations statewide. DHS is not a brick and mortar agency and does not have expertise or experience with constructing homes, construction financing, community design, or infrastructure planning; DHS will require additional time to develop the administrative infrastructure to acquire the subject matter expertise and requisite administrative resources to embark on the endeavor.

Consequently, we request that the prescribed conditions in Section 4 be amended to be guidelines instead of mandates, and that the timeframes be extended for at least an additional year from the date of passage.

Further, to avoid working at cross purposes and creating additional administrative infrastructure, DHS urges the legislature to consider and reconcile this proposal with 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>.

HB2746 HD2 proposes to add 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 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, and DHS requests the legislature's continued support of the work mandated by previous statutes.

DHS is also aware of modular prefabricated mini-houses that some communities on the mainland are using, and again there are a number of work groups working on use of mini- or fabricated houses or converted shipping containers in our local communities. It does appear that community investment and ongoing support are required to maintain these village environments. DHS will require time to further meet with County and community members to determine the kind of village community appropriate for the particular community.

DHS is also concerned with impact upon environmental and cultural resources if previously vacant or agricultural lands are converted to housing.

Currently, DHS is able to establish homeless assessment centers in other communities 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. These Family Assessment Centers would link families with existing community resources and available housing. DHS would require an additional appropriation to expand the Family Assessment Center model in other communities.

DHS remains 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.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill requires the Governor to identify available state land for the establishment of a homelessness village and establishes the Pu'uohonua Homeless Villages program. Provides limitation on liability for government entity and volunteers providing services. Makes an appropriation. (HB2014 HD2)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

March 19, 2018

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

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

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

SUBJECT: **HB 2014 HD2 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Monday, March 19, 2018, 3:30 p.m.
Conference Room 016, 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 an unspecified level of funding for fiscal year 2018-2019 for construction and infrastructure, and an unspecified level of funding 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 recognizes the urgent need to implement these solutions. If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator suggests the measure be amended to

include specific exemptions from chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to enable DHS to comply with the deadlines specified in this measure. In addition, the Coordinator recommends the measure 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.

The Coordinator notes that the Administration has been 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>.

Due to the issues identified by the Safe Zones working group related to non-residential zoning and inadequate infrastructure, it appears that the timeframe specified in this measure is ambitious given requirements outlined in chapters 171 and 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, regarding the set aside of public lands and the environmental review process. The Coordinator notes that similar housing projects initiated by the City & County of Honolulu that were exempted from these provisions by the Governor's emergency proclamation to address homelessness took nearly 1.5 years to complete. The Coordinator respectfully defers to DLNR on issues related to land and environmental review, such as potential impacts to historic and cultural sites, streams, reefs and coastal waters, and the potential impact that may result if Puuhonua villages are exempted from these processes or if these processes are expedited.

The Coordinator further notes that the measure requires DHS to collaborate with appropriate state and county law enforcement agencies to provide security for the Puuhonua homeless villages program, but does not specifically appropriate funds for this purpose. There is a distinction between regular law enforcement functions and general security services. The Coordinator defers to the Department of Public Safety in regard to the ability of the Sheriff Division to provide security without a dedicated appropriation, as well as the potential impact on regular law enforcement activities.

Finally, the Coordinator recognizes 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.

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

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Cathy Ross
Deputy Director
Administration

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata
Deputy Director
Corrections

Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2014, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

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

Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Monday, March 19, 2018; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Chairs Green and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, 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) 2, which 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. PSD defers to the testimony of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and offers the following comments.

Page 7, lines 3 - 6 would require the Department of Human Services (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 an unspecified sum for fiscal year 2018 – 2019 for the management, maintenance, and

Testimony on HB 2014, HD 2
Senate Committee on Human Services
Senate Committee on Water and Land
March 19, 2018
Page 2

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 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**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
HUMAN SERVICES
and
WATER AND LAND**

**Monday, March 19, 2018
3:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2014, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

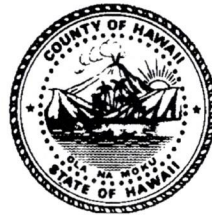
House Bill 2014, House Draft 2 proposes the Governor to identify available state lands to establish a Pu'uhonua Homeless Villages Program. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

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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March 16, 2018

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Committee on Human Services
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 016
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Committee on Human Services
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 016
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Green and Rhoads and Committee Members:

Re: HB 2014, HD 2 Relating to Homelessness
Hearing Date: 03-19-18 – 3:30 pm; Conference Room 016

HB 2014, HD 2 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.

March 16, 2018

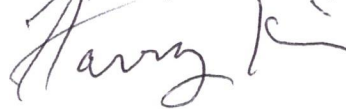
Page 2

I am confident this concept can work, because we have already successfully piloted the village concept at Camp Kikaha in Kona. HB 2014, HD 2 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 2.

We realize that funding for all counties and the State is tight and limited, and HB 2014, HD 2 is expensive. If a pilot project is needed as an initial course of action, the bill could be pared back in conference. However, first we need to keep the bill alive.

Please help us make this vision of ending homelessness in Hawai'i a reality by approving HB 2014, HD 2.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Kim", written in a cursive style.

Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

HB-2014-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 3:04:08 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:



HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM
A S S O C I A T I O N

Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO

Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

before the

Committee on Human Services

Committee on Water and Land

March 19, 2018

House Bill 2014, H.D. 2: Relating to Homelessness

Chair Green, Chair Rhoads, and committee members:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private-sector visitor industry organization with nearly 700 members, thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding House Bill 2014, H.D. 2, which sets forth the foundation for the establishment of homeless villages.

The visitor industry has been front-and-center in addressing the challenge of homelessness in our islands. The hospitality industry, through our association and others, has donated more than \$2 million during the last four years to social service agencies on our largest islands, specifically for homelessness outreach and services. We also support these services and related charities through our annual Visitor Industry Charity Walk. But much more needs to be done.

We support the establishment of this Pu'uhonua Homeless Villages initiative. There are many approaches to dealing with homelessness, and we believe this proposal represents an effective and expedient means of providing housing for those in need. In fact, the use of modular homes for homeless housing is gaining attention across the nation, including Honolulu. This measure would serve as an important first step for the state government to identify suitable public lands and then promptly construct low-cost housing to accommodate the homeless.

We also back the notion of wrap-around support services for these types of villages. This would greatly improve the attention and care that our homeless need to improve their situation.

We support House Bill 2014, H.D. 2, and thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HAWAII KAI HOMELESS TASK FORCE

Mike Goodman, Director

Cell: (808) 428-9779

Fax: (949) 229-1953

Email: MikeGoodman@HawaiiKaiHomelessTaskForce.org

**TESTIMONY FOR HEARING ON MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018,
3:30 PM BEFORE THE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES,
and WATER AND LAND, in Conference Room 016, at the
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania St, Honolulu, HI 96813.**



I'm Mike Goodman, Director of the Hawai'i Kai Homeless Task Force. I would like to thank the Committee Chairs and Members for the opportunity to testify in support of HB2014, also known as the "Pu'u honua Homeless Villages Act". I've also drafted some suggested amendments at the end of my testimony. The actual draft language is available in my on line testimony.

Unlike every other bill before the legislature, and every other program in the State today, HB2014 will not just reduce homelessness; It will literally end the homeless crisis throughout the entire State, and do it for less money than we're already spending on the ancillary costs of homelessness.

The causes of **homelessness** are complex, but decades of studies and real-world evidence-based practices, show the solution to the **homeless crisis** is relatively simple: PERMANENT HOUSING with supportive services. Whether individuals are homeless because of mental illness, substance addiction, catastrophic life-events, economic reasons, or any combination of the foregoing, recovery and self-sufficiency is only possible with a permanent, safe and comfortable place to live. This act provides a practical and affordable strategy for providing a home for every homeless person in the State.

The Director of the Department of Human Services and other officials, testified they were concerned that appropriations for this Act, might divert funds from existing programs with proven track records.

I agree that we should not defund existing programs with proven track records while there is still a need for them. I also have a lot of respect for these individuals and the fine work they do. **However, I think their testimony misses the point:**

Existing programs can indeed boast many successes. The problem, is these programs focus heavily on housing people in **expensive**, traditionally constructed brick and mortar apartments. So although they're successful at transitioning **SOME** homeless to permanent housing, **IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR THESE PROGRAMS TO HOUSE A MAJORITY OF THE HOMELESS, LET ALONE ALL OF THE HOMELESS.**

The math shows why: There are roughly 7,200 homeless in Hawaii. That means we need an inventory of about eight-thousand units to ensure that everyone has housing. Traditionally constructed brick and mortar apartments cost about \$450,000 per unit.

Eight-thousand units would cost over \$3.5 billion dollars, which exceeds the resources of existing programs by roughly two-thousand percent.

Logically, since the only solution to the homeless crisis is permanent housing for every homeless person, programs that focus mostly on brick and mortar housing can never end the homeless crisis.

MOREOVER, THERE'S NOT ONE STUDY OR EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE, WHICH SHOWS THAT THE BENEFITS OF A STABLE AND SAFE HOME, REQUIRE IT TO BE CONSTRUCTED OUT OF BRICK AND MORTAR.

HB2014, "The Pu'uhonua Homeless Villages Act" will house 100% of the homeless in Hawai'i. This bill will succeed because it mandates the use of high-tech modular dwellings that cost about \$15,000 per unit, or under \$200 million for 8000 units. That's 94% less than the \$3.5 BILLION it would cost to build 8000 brick and mortar apartments. It's also less than we're already spending on property damage, law enforcement, rubbish removal, and emergency medical expenses.

HOUSING ONLY SOME OF THE HOMELESS JUST ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH. WE NEED TO HOUSE 100%, OF THE HOMELESS, OR AT LEAST GET PRETTY CLOSE TO 100%, or the chaos and suffering will continue. It's kind of like fixing 10% of a leaky roof; You can call fixing 10% of your roof a success, but the rain will destroy your house unless you fix 100% of your roof.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY, EVEN AFTER THE HOMELESS POPULATION DECREASED BY 9% IN 2016:

- MOST homeless continue living and dying under unspeakable conditions.
- MOST homeless children continue being robbed of their future;
- MOST chronic homeless continue generating expenses of over \$90 million a year, just in Queens Medical Center's emergency room;
- Illegal homeless camps continue generating over 500,000 tons of trash a year, just on Oahu;
- Landowners continue spending millions a year on repairs and security;
- Honolulu continues homeless sweeps that cost over half-a-million each, but do nothing except shift the homeless from one place to another;
- Parents still avoid the Discovery Center, afraid the encampments in Kaka`ako pose a threat to their children;
- Hypodermic needles continue appearing on our world-class beaches and in parks;
- Schizophrenics & drug addicts still roam the streets while acting in bizarre and inappropriate ways;
- Men and women, laying unconscious in their own feces is still commonplace;
- Aggressive panhandlers continue intimidating tourists;
- Some places in Honolulu still resemble a third-world country;

- It's why local residents, frustrated by the assault on their quality of life, become angry with elected officials, and begin losing compassion for the homeless who desperately need our help.

And things can get worse.

Unsheltered homeless are frequently victims of crimes, many committed by other unsheltered homeless. Poor hygiene and exposure to the elements, causes catastrophic health outcomes. A University of Pennsylvania study found the average life expectancy for an unsheltered, chronically homeless person is about 64 years.

Communicable diseases amongst unsheltered homeless can infect the general population. In September of 2017, a public health emergency was declared in San Diego after an outbreak of hepatitis "A" killed 15 people. 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.

Illegal homeless camps also pose a fire danger. Not that long ago, a large fire in a homeless camp, destroyed an overpass on the I-85 highway in Atlanta Georgia. Recently, "The Skirball fire", which was started in an illegal homeless camp near the 405 Freeway in Los Angeles, spread to nearby Bel Air, destroying several multi-million dollar homes.

The Bottom Line is; We Only Have Three Options:

- 1) Continue the status quo, which means housing several hundred people a year while the majority remains homeless.
- 2) Spend at least \$3.5 billion dollars to build enough brick and mortar housing for every homeless person.
- 3) OR Pass HB2014 (or something similar), which mandates the use of low-cost, high-tech modular dwellings.

Your constituents are frustrated, angry, and want answers. HB2014 provides real answers. Your support for this bill, enables you to tell your constituents are part of a practical solution to the worst crisis in the State of Hawai'i since Pearl Harbor.

HERE ARE OUR SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS:

FIRST: The language of SECTION 3. (a) should be modified as follows for greater clarity, **and to provide language that will assure constituents and businesses, who're concerned about establishing homeless villages in their neighborhoods:**

SECTION 3. (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 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. **Wherever possible, the governor shall select parcels of land**

that do not interfere with the integrity or continuity of residential, commercial, retail and tourist areas.

SECOND: Before constructing all 80 villages, it would be prudent to construct one or two as a pilot, and modify the remaining villages in accord with experience. **However, it would be unwise to completely change HB2014 into a pilot program**, thus eliminating the requirement to construct 8000 units and related provisions; **It's essential for HB2014 to remain a comprehensive solution to the homeless crisis. Otherwise, we'll risk having this bill turn into "just-another-homeless-program-that-helps-some-people-but-will-never-end-homelessness.** We also suggest allowing the residents of Pu`uhonua `O Waianae, who're currently living near the Waianae Boat Harbor, to become residents of the pilot program villages. This would enable the State to take advantage of their experience with self-government, and management of a village comprised of formerly homeless individuals. Accordingly, we suggest adding the following language to the end of SECTION 4.(a):

The time limits under this section may be extended for eighteen months, by constructing at least two homeless villages as a pilot program, which fulfill all other requirements under this Act, so that the manner of constructing, maintaining and managing the remaining villages can be modified according to lessons learned from the pilot. The Governor, agency or other entities so-charged with the task of establishing villages under this Act, may take advantage of existing social networks amongst individuals residing in established ad-hoc legal or illegal homeless encampments, by housing those individuals in the two pilot-program villages.

THIRD: 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, there are vendors who manufacture modular dwellings which are virtually earthquake proof, fire proof, and hurricane proof, and provide 300 square feet of living space. Nonetheless, they could run-afoul of a Hawai'i County code which requires homes to have more than 300 square feet of living space. We therefore suggest the following amendment be added after SECTION 4. (f).

SECTION 4.(g) 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.

FOURTH: 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 allow residents to keep and have pets if practical.

SECTION 9. Was amended in the House to have the Act take effect of July 1, 3000, possibly because some Members and agencies were concerned about the two-year time-limit imposed by this Act. We suggest this section be changed back to "July 1, 2018, and if the Legislature believes a two-year time-window is too short, it's better to extend it by a year or two than to have virtually no time limits whatsoever.

SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

MAHALO NUI LOA TO THE MEMBERS AND CHAIRS OF THESE COMMITTEES FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY.

Very truly yours;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael J. Goodman".

Mike Goodman
Director, Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force.

HB-2014-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 3:27:58 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

To the Honorable Josh Green, Chair; the Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

To the Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair; the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House **HB2014 HD2** 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 **HB2014 HD2** and support its passage.

HB2014 HD2 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 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 **HB2014 HD2** 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; 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

**TESTIMONY OF NAHELANI WEBSTER ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII
ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) REGARDING H.B. 2014, HD2**

Date: Monday, March 19, 2018

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Room: 016

To: Chair Josh Green and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and
Chair Karl Rhoads and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

My name is Nahelani Webster and I am presenting this testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Justice (HAJ) regarding H.B. 2014, HD2, Relating to Homelessness as currently drafted.

We agree with the intent of the bill to provide greater support for the homeless but respectfully oppose the provisions limiting liability for providing services to the homeless as they are overly broad. For homeless assistance measures, like this one, there are two broad categories regarding the desirability of limitations on liability. The first deals with broad exercise of governmental judgment and discretion, such as, where to build a homeless community, how much money to spend, the kinds of structures (tents, temporary structures, large concrete buildings) to build, infrastructure, etc.; and the second deals with everyday negligence and safety for the homeless individuals.

It is understandable that the government would seek immunity in exercising its broader policy judgments like where to build and how much to spend. However, there is no sound public policy reason to strip homeless individuals of basic safety protections that all other citizens enjoy, essentially creating a sub-standard class of humans just because they are in need of housing assistance.

If a state employee ignores a crosswalk and runs over a child with his car causing crippling injuries, it should make no difference whether the child is from a well-to-do family walking to his private school or the child was in a crosswalk located in a homeless community. Yet this bill would effectively absolve the driver from liability. This bill is unfairly broad by differentiating the homeless community from the rest of the population as to their entitlement to liability protection. Those who seek shelter in these facilities should be given the same protections as any other citizen. Accordingly, we ask that the sections limiting liability be deleted.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact me should there be any questions.



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

**TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 2014, HOUSE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO
HOMELESSNESS**

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

**Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hon. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Hon. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair**

**Monday, March 19, 2018, 3:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

Honorable Chair Green, Chair Rhoads, 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 2014, HD 2, 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-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 2:50:56 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellen Godbey Carson	Testifying for Housing Now!/FACE (Faith Action for Community Equity)	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please pass HB 2014, to assist in our affordable housing crisis. I am a volunteer member of the Housing Now! coalition of FACE (Faith Action for Community Equity), a group of over 40 churches and temples committed to improving the lives of Hawaii residents. We desperately need lands set aside for establishment of a homelessness village and the Puuhonua Homeless Villages program. This is one solution to a multi-faceted problem, and could help be a vital model for housing more of our residents and working families who cannot afford housing. Thank you.

HB-2014-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 7:29:47 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine k KIm	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii's Homeless situation is getting worse and we need drastic measures to fix the problem.

Housing Flrst is the beginning of the cure. Along with Social services and drug and career counseling, we can help people. Along with a requirement, that they hold jobs which the state can provide like building and cleanup, people can look towards a brighter future.

HB-2014-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 7:32:05 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Representative Josh Green, Chair

Representative Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Committee on Human Services

Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair

Representative Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Committee on Water and Land

Monday, March 19, 2018

Support for HB2014 HD2, Relating to Homelessness

Aloha my name is Chance I am testifying as an individual in support of HB2014. In my belief having a communal sense of place is necessary. Having the homeless housing as a community allows people who are coming out of homelessness to be around those who have had similar experiences. On the list of things that the community will have access to I am glad to see transportation; however there should also be some form of close access to work. I propose hiring neighborhood occupants to work at the community centers, and if at all possible creating benefits for hiring Pu'uhonua residents. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to voice my support of HB2014.

HB-2014-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 9:12:55 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2014-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 9:38:58 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2014-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 5:12:09 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in full support of this proposed temporary solution for getting the homeless population off the streets, beaches, etc. The sweeps resulting in just moving them from one place to another are ridiculous and expensive. Waiting to provide permanent housing that will be a long time in coming before we provide anything to help these people serves to multiply the problems. Thank you for your consideration.

Foo W. Lim & Sons, Inc.

1130 Wilder Avenue, Suite 102, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Phone (808) 521-5468

Date: March 17, 2018
To: Senate Committee on Human Services
Senate Committee on Water and Land
From: Yal Lim, President, Foo W. Lim & Sons, Inc.
Subject: Testimony in support of an amendment to HB2014

Dear Chair Green and members of the HMS Committee,
Dear Chair Rhodes and members of the WTL Committee:

My name is Yal Lim and I represent Foo W. Lim & Sons, Inc. (FLS). On behalf of FLS and the local composite fabrication and manufacturing industry working in fiberglass and related composite materials, we support HB2014 and urge you to add an amendment to include local labor content for fabrication of shelters. On page 5, at line 12 - insert:

“(4) At least 50 percent of the manufacturing labor costs of each home must be in Hawaii:

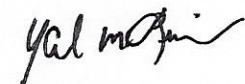
(A) Manufacturing labor in a Hawaii shall be evidenced by Hawaii wages paid that are subject to Hawaii income tax withholding for each home, relative to all other labor costs for manufacturing of each home.”

Foo W. Lim & Sons, Inc. is a local leader in the fabrication and manufacture of advanced structures in fiberglass and have been supplying the Hawaii market since 1983. As a provider of high-quality high-paying jobs including skilled and unskilled trade labor in Hawaii, FLS has the capabilities to manufacture the home shelters as envisioned. The Housing First initiative is valid and can best be served with home structures manufactured in Hawaii. FLS is a generous supporter of Food Bank of Hawaii, Project Vision (including the recent mobile shower vehicle), and other needy causes. In addition, several executives at FLS support Family Promise of Hawaii at the volunteer level.

The amendment is important to allow for Hawaii-made labor content to contribute to this extremely important homeless housing initiative. Our State's people will build the best housing for our State's people whatever their need and circumstance.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Yours Truly,



Yal Lim

HB-2014-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 5:30:08 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jay Sheriff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2014-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 7:13:24 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Glen M. Nomura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2014-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 10:56:31 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah G. Nehmad	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

"I strongly support HB2014."

Thank you

Deborah G. Nehmad

HB-2014-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 2:39:11 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tina Stroede	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support bill HB2014 to end homelessness

HB-2014-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 3:18:27 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB2014.

HB-2014-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 3:28:28 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane VanderZanden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is worth a try. It would help more people with the same amount of money used to help only a few. We need to help people who have been unable to keep up and such "villages" might be a start for those who want to get off the street.

HB-2014-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 3:43:55 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David R. Stilwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I commute by bicycle between Hawaii Kai and Camp Smith, which takes me through the homeless area near the Ka'iwi transfer station. C&C has done excellent work ending this disaster by enforcing laws against living in the open and associated crime. The trouble is that the effort is Whack-a-Mole; a huge camp has sprung up on Ala Moana Blvd near the car dealerships and elsewhere.

This bill can create real solutions in two ways: 1. Providing adequate and safe (but not permanent), shelter for those who have no other option, and 2. Creating an up-or-out mechanism based on time and clearly understood milestones. Hawaiian taxpayers are more than willing to help those who want help, but as the book "Toxic Charity" clearly shows, misinformed efforts to help actually hurt.

Two follow-on bills are needed: one to address the case of mental illness in Hawaii using real science vice throwing more money at the problem, and another to address the substantial number of homeless who consider living on the streets to be an acceptable lifestyle, especially those living in view of tourist areas like Waikiki and Ala Moana. Every day when I ride through homeless areas, the evidence of human waste is unavoidable. Enforcement of laws prohibiting urinating or defecating in public should be stepped up to prevent disease (untreated waste is getting into Ala Moana Beach Park water and flowing into the ocean where I surf), and to slow the erosion of Hawaii's reputation as an idyllic vacation destination.

Finally, the legislature should address the unsustainable cost of keeping homeless facilities in town to ensure access to food, medical, drug rehab and other support, versus the much more reasonable cost of establishing 8000 facilities at Barbers Point or elsewhere. Given Honolulu's recent investment in public transportation, the latter option should be given full consideration.

HB-2014-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 10:32:33 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jo Ann Kocher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I enthusiastically support HB2014 which will mandate the use of low cost modular dwellings to house the homeless. While there are many causes for homelessness, our choice of solutions is limited. Low cost modular dwellings can be built much faster and cheaper than traditional brick and mortar homes. Life in this type of structure would be definitely safer and more appealing than living in shelters or on the street. In addition, services to help the homeless, such as medical, financial, psychological or goal setting, would be easier to provide in a cluster like setting. Everyone would win - the homeless, the community and the visitor industry - when people are no longer forced to live on the streets.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of this important bill.

Jo Ann Kocher

7124 Naakea Street

Honolulu, HI 96825

HB-2014-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 10:40:46 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I do support HB2014 but be sure to impose strict controls and rules on the people accepting the benefits of the bill.

There are enough laws but no real punishment for "lawbreakers" because we have such a wimpy, gutless government ridden with lying and/or crooked politicians!

HB-2014-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 11:39:14 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jamie T	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In support of this bill.

HB-2014-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 7:28:12 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John McGuire	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Sir / Madam:

I support HB2014 for this simple reason: It will insure Oahu remains a desirable place to live and play for future generations. The rising swell of homelessness living without proper facilities is absolutely toxic to the visitor industry and degrades the health, safety and well being of all citizens of the City and County of Honolulu. The sizeable fiscal and human resources spent subsidizing the homeless without a positive outcome for all citizens affected can and must be changed before Oahu suffers a significant and irreversible quality of life decline with an ever increasing homeless population. HB2014 addresses many needs and provides housing solutions - the basic overall need for many homeless to start improving the quality of life for all.

I care about Oahu and its citizens, and after spending a career in public safety in HFD and as a mainland Fire Marshal, I was struck at the endless downward spiral of the quality of life for Oahu citizens when I returned in 2011. Change in homeless policy and solution needs to happen now - before it is too late.

Sincerely,

John McGuire

HB-2014-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:54:49 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Skyla Hammond	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Homelessness is a huge problem in Hawaii. I support this bill because it would establish sufficient supported housing for all homeless individuals in the state. It is important to have supported housing because it would enable agencies to provide services for residents of this housing that would help them move toward self-sufficiency.