

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

**TESTIMONY COMMENTING ON HB2021 HD1
RELATING TO HEALTH**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date and Time: Friday, February 23, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. Room Number: 308

1 The Department of Health (DOH) acknowledges that homelessness is one of the
2 State's most significant and challenging social concerns. The DOH and the Adult
3 Mental Health Division (AMHD) partner with other state agencies and with both AMHD
4 contracted and non-AMHD contracted community programs to address the mental
5 health needs of individuals experiencing homelessness. Key partners include the
6 Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness (GCH), Department of Human Services
7 (DHS), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Public Safety (PSD), the
8 City and County of Honolulu, law enforcement, and community based health and human
9 service programs.

10 The purpose of this Act is to require the DHS, in consultation with the DOH, to
11 establish a pilot project to operate a facility to provide shelter and mental health
12 treatment for homeless individuals with severe mental illness who are subject to court-
13 ordered involuntary hospitalization to a psychiatric facility pursuant to part IV of chapter
14 334, Hawaii Revised Statutes, with the goal of enabling these individuals to find
15 permanent housing through housing first programs.

1 The AMHD appreciates the intent of this bill and offers the following comments.

2 AMHD Homeless Outreach Services

3 The AMHD continues its commitment to increasing and strengthening linkages to
4 housing and community based referrals that support recovery. The AMHD continues to
5 work with Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Formula
6 Grant Homeless Outreach providers to link homeless individuals to case management
7 and recovery support services so that the realization of recovery may reduce the barrier
8 of discrimination and the stigma of mental illness.

9 AMHD Homeless Outreach providers focus their outreach efforts on locating
10 individuals who live with Serious Mental Illness (SMI), who are chronically homeless,
11 and who meet AMHD's eligibility criteria for AMHD funded services.

12 Linkage to health care services, Social Security benefits, entitlements, workforce
13 development, job training opportunities, emergency shelters, transitional housing,
14 clothing, mental health treatment, substance use treatment, service coordination,
15 collateral contacts, advocacy on their behalf, and/or assistance with finding individuals
16 with a home in the private marketplace are examples of tasks that Homeless Outreach
17 providers assist with. Homeless Outreach case managers help to complete
18 Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
19 applications using the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) model.

1 In 2017, AMHD provided homeless outreach services to 2,817 consumers
2 identified as homeless on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii. Homeless
3 Outreach services are accessed in a variety of ways including homeless shelters and by
4 contacting Homeless Outreach providers directly to request assistance.

5 In addition to Homeless Outreach services, AMHD provides specialized
6 treatment and group home housing for approximately 808 individuals, including those
7 who living in 24 hour, 8-16 hour, and semi-independent group homes. There are over
8 100 eligible individuals who receive supported housing/bridge subsidy through the
9 AMHD. These individuals live with a serious mental illness (SMI) and have the option to
10 live independently in housing of their choice with services that support their movement
11 towards assuming the role of a neighbor or tenant. AMHD Crisis Mobile Outreach
12 (CMO) services are available to adults in an active state of crisis.

13 Court-Ordered Involuntary Hospitalization to a Psychiatric Facility

14 In addition, Section 2, Part (a) of HB2021 HD1 states that the DHS and DOH,
15 “shall establish a pilot project to operate a facility to provide shelter and mental health
16 treatment for homeless individuals with severe mental illness **who are subject to**
17 **court-ordered involuntary hospitalization to a psychiatric facility.**”

18 As defined in §334-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, a “psychiatric facility” means a
19 public or private hospital or part thereof which provides inpatient or outpatient care,

1 custody, diagnosis, treatment, or rehabilitation services for mentally ill persons or for
2 persons habituated to the excessive use of drugs or alcohol for intoxicated persons.

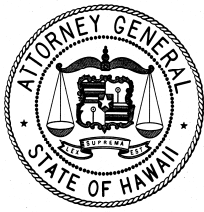
3 Our comments are focused on the following language in the bill: “who are subject
4 to court-ordered involuntary hospitalization to a psychiatric facility.” If an individual has
5 been involuntarily committed to a psychiatric facility, the individual would not be housed
6 in the proposed pilot project’s facility, unless it is a hospital.

7

8 We thank the Legislature for introducing a variety of measures that aim to
9 address the issue of homelessness in Hawaii. Respectfully, the AMHD asks for the
10 Legislature’s support of the Governor’s Executive Budget request, SB2065/HB1900,
11 which includes appropriations to the DHS and DOH for \$3 million for Housing First, \$3
12 million for Rapid Rehousing, \$1.75 million for homeless outreach, and \$800,000 for
13 outreach and counseling services for chronically homeless persons with severe
14 substance use disorders.

15 The AMHD defers to the DHS for their preferred use of a suitable unused state
16 facility. The DOH will be available for consultation with DHS and the Governor’s
17 Coordinator on Homeless to coordinate services.

18 We thank the committee for considering our testimony.



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

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2021, H.D. 1, RELATING TO HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS WITH SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: Friday, February 23, 2018

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 308

TESTIFIER(S): Russell A. Suzuki, Acting Attorney General, or
Andrea J. Armitage, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides these comments.

The purpose of this measure is to require the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Health, to establish a pilot project to operate a facility to provide shelter and mental health services to homeless individuals who suffer from severe mental illness, and who are subject to court-ordered involuntary hospitalization pursuant to part IV of chapter 334, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The Department of Human Services shall use a suitable unused state facility for this purpose. The pilot project shall last for an unspecified period of time. The bill appropriates \$500,000 for fiscal year 2018 – 2019 to establish the pilot project, to be expended by the Department of Human Services.

This measure aims to create an alternative placement for the involuntary civil commitment of homeless persons who have a severe mental illness. There is one legal problem with this approach. Section 334-60.5(j), HRS, requires that persons subject to an involuntary civil commitment order be "hospitalized" in a "psychiatric facility." Section 334-60.5(j) provides:

If the court finds that the criteria for involuntary hospitalization under section 334-60.2(1) has been met beyond a reasonable doubt and that the criteria under sections 334-60.2(2) and 334-60.2(3) have been met by clear and convincing evidence, the court may issue an order to any law enforcement officer to deliver the subject to a facility that has agreed

to admit the subject as an involuntary patient, or if the subject is already a patient in a **psychiatric facility**, authorize the facility to retain the patient for treatment for a period of ninety days unless sooner discharged.
[Emphasis added.]

Section 334-1, HRS, defines "psychiatric facility" as "a public or private **hospital** or part thereof which provides inpatient or outpatient care, custody, diagnosis, treatment or rehabilitation services for mentally ill persons or for persons habituated to the excessive use of drugs or alcohol or for intoxicated persons." [Emphasis added.] The facility envisioned by this bill does not appear to be a hospital as required by the definition of psychiatric facility in section 334-1, HRS. It would have to be a facility that is licensed by the Department of Health pursuant to section 334-21, HRS ("licensing of psychiatric facilities"), and chapter 11-93, Hawaii Administrative Rules ("broad service hospitals").

We recommend that the Committee omit the requirement that in order to qualify for this project the person must be involuntarily hospitalized pursuant to part IV of chapter 334, HRS.

We respectfully request that the Committee consider our comments.



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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FRIDAY, February 23, 2018, 3:30 PM, room 308
HB 2021, HD1, Relating to Homeless Individuals with Severe Mental Illness

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii provides comments on HB 2021, HD1 that establishes a pilot project to operate a facility to provide shelter and mental health treatment for homeless individuals with severe mental illness who are subject to court- ordered involuntary hospitalization to a psychiatric facility.

The overwhelming amount of previous public testimony supports the intent of this bill and to this extent we concur. It is well-recognized that the homeless individuals who are the direct beneficiaries of this measure are in dire need of a coordinated effort that integrates shelter and mental health support. We must collectively continue to find creative and innovative approaches to address this. However, we note that there appears to be a technical issue with respect to the definition of involuntary hospitalization to a psychiatric facility. It is unclear in the measure whether the shelter provided to the beneficiaries would comprise a psychiatric facility..

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-2021-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 2:57:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 3:30:00 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 HAWAI'I

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, February 23, 2018

3:30 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2021 HD1 HD1 RELATING TO
HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS WITH SEVERE MENTAL
ILLNESS

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. 2021 HD1 relating to Individuals with Severe Mental Illness; Homeless; Facility; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No.2021 HD1 and supports its passage as it requires the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Health, to establish a pilot project to operate a facility to provide shelter and mental health treatment for homeless individuals with severe mental illness who are subject to court-ordered involuntary hospitalization to a psychiatric facility and appropriates funds.

House Bill No.2021 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the department of human services, in consultation with the department of health, to establish a pilot project to operate a facility to provide for homeless individuals with severe mental illness who are subject to court-ordered involuntary hospitalization to a psychiatric facility.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that "[w]e also support the establishment of adequate mental health and statewide drug rehabilitation programs set up in conjunction with policing policies aimed at enabling all that seek assistance to obtain whatever support assistance is needed to allow them to remain free of drug dependence." (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 386-387 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. 2021 HD1 requires the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Health, to establish a pilot project to operate a facility to provide shelter and mental health treatment for homeless individuals with severe mental illness who are subject to court-ordered involuntary hospitalization to a psychiatric facility and appropriates funds, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to strongly support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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

HB-2021-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 2:00:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven P. Katz	NAMI HAWAII	Support	No

Comments:

As a parent of an adult son who has a diagnosis of schizoaffective disorder, a facilitator of a family support group at Castle Medical Center (through NAMI), Vice President of NAMI Hawaii's Board of Directors, I strongly support this bill. Please pass this bill! I am also a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist working with individuals, couples and families through my offices in Kailua and Hawaii Kai. I am also the former host of "Shrink Rap Hawaii," where I was pleased to host Senator Thielen as a guest last year.

Steven P. Katz

152-F North Kalaheo Ave

Kailua, HI 96734

808-220-3625

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator John M. Mizuno, Chair
Senator Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Senator Sylvia Luke, Chair
Senator Ty J. K. Cullen, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Friday February 23, 2018 at 3:30 PM
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2021

Relating to Homeless Individuals with Severe Mental Illness

Honorable Chairs Mizuno and Luke, Vice Chairs Kobayashi and Cullen, and members of the Committees, my name is Brandi Sanpei, I am a current Masters in Social Work student of the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2021, which would require the Department of Human Services to establish a pilot project to operate a facility to provide shelter and mental health treatment for homeless individuals with severe mental illness who are subject to court-ordered involuntary hospitalization to a psychiatric facility.

Homelessness is a serious problem in Hawaii. The absence of safe and stable living conditions puts homeless individuals at a much higher risk for abuse, incarceration, and disease; even higher for those homeless with mental illness. Many of these individuals do not seek treatment services which puts them at a greater risk to themselves. Also, many who receive help, end up slipping back into psychosis and end up back on the streets.

I am currently employed at Kuakini Medical Center, I work as an Emergency Room Admission Clerk and see first-hand the excessive use of emergency department services by the homeless population, many with mental illness.

This measure would benefit because by placing these individuals into housing that provides mental health services, individuals would be able to stabilize their illness and hopefully improve enough to get off the streets and live in group homes or permanent housing.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Brandi Sanpei

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of HB 2021

February 23, 2018, 3:30 pm, House Conference Room 308

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the committee, my name is Cherise Franco. I am a current Masters in Social Work student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I am in support of House Bill 2021, which requires the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Health, to establish a pilot project to provide housing and mental health treatment for homeless individuals with severe mental illnesses who are subject to court-ordered involuntary hospitalization to a psychiatric facility.

Approximately one-third of the total homeless population includes individuals with serious, untreated mental illnesses. Social service and government agencies assisting the homeless with severe mental illnesses in Hawaii have limited resources to address the issue. In the past, only short-term fixes have been implemented that essentially move homeless populations from one locale to another but do not address the complex root of the problem.

As an aspiring social worker, I advocate for my clients who cannot advocate for themselves. These include those who lack adequate mental health treatments/services, safe living arrangements and are at risk for self-neglect, injury or abuse.

This measure would benefit the community and this specific population by having the proper care and treatment put forth for those to be directly placed into housing and provided mental health care services in a timely manner. With that, the goal would be set to enable these individuals to find permanent housing and reduce the number of homeless in Hawaii.

I respectfully ask for your support of House Bill 2021 relating to homeless individuals with severe mental illness. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Cherise Franco

HB-2021-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 1:39:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ANSON REGO	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a former Board member of NAMI Hawaii, families of mental ill relatives, I strongly support HB 2021 RELATING TO HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS WITH SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS.

It is a start/pilot program for nonforensic mentally ill patients who need comprehensive care and housing and cannot function in the community on their own until stabilized and reeducated how to care for themselves.

Anson Rego

Waianae Attorney

Nami Hawaii member

HB-2021-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 2:11:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randolph Hack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Finance Committee:

I am in strong support of this measure creating a pilot residential facility for homeless individuals with mental illness. This sort of facility can help divert these individuals from being jailed. Often homeless mentally ill people commit minor crimes and wind up in the criminal justice system where they may not receive the treatment they need. In the facility they can rest, get nourishment, because being homeless is fatiguing and starving. They can also receive treatment including medications.

I am a person in recovery from mental illness. I was homeless on the streets of Honolulu many years ago. If I did not get some help, I would not have had a better life. Please give the homeless mentally ill folks a chance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB2021 HD1

HB2021

Date: February 22, 2018
To: House Committee on Finance
From: Mike Durant
Subject: Testimony in support of HB2021

I strongly support this bill. When people a severe mental illness are released from the hospital they must have a place to go to continue their recovery. Releasing them onto the streets only insures they will return to the hospital soon. I had a son who suffered from schizophrenia and I know how important follow up treatment is. I am a member NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Hawaii.

LATE

To: Representative Sylvia Luke,
Chair, House Finance Committee

From: Kathy Hammes

RE: HB 2021 – RELATING TO HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS WITH SEVERE MENTAL
ILLNESS

Date: February 22, 2018

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in testimony for your House Finance Committee meeting on February 23, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. I appreciate the House's intent to address this service gap for citizens living with severe mental illness in our state.

This letter is individual testimony from a family member who volunteers to support other families with loved ones living with severe mental illness. I am also a member of NAMI Hawaii living on the Big Island and retired from the Adult Mental Health Division.

I strongly support establishing a pilot project to address homelessness, incarceration, emergency treatment, and crisis services by providing housing and effective mental health treatment for people experiencing homelessness and severe mental health symptoms and consequences.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of this promising bill.

LATE

HB-2021-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 5:03:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Corey Arakaki	NAMI Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2021-HD-1

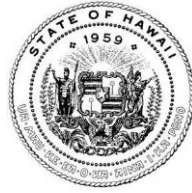
Submitted on: 2/22/2018 6:33:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carol Denis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB 2021. Those who are homeless who suffer from a mental health illness really are in need of housing and support. Thanks for your compassion and support for the homeless thru this bill! I recommend your support of this bill!



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 23, 2018

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

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

SUBJECT: **HB 2021 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS WITH SEVERE MENTAL
ILLNESS**

Hearing: Friday, February 23, 2018, 3:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure, and offers comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to require DHS, in consultation with DOH, to establish a pilot project to operate a facility to provide shelter and mental health treatment for homeless individuals with serious mental illness who are subject to court-ordered involuntary hospitalization to a psychiatric facility pursuant to part IV of chapter 334, Hawaii Revised Statutes. In addition, the bill appropriates \$500,000 for fiscal year 2018-2019 to be expended by DHS for the purposes of the pilot project, including administrative expenses and any necessary renovations to the facility.

Homelessness remains one of the most pressing challenges facing Hawaii, and the State has adopted a comprehensive framework to address homelessness that focuses on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. The Coordinator has worked closely with both DHS and DOH to implement this framework through the expansion of homeless outreach and other homeless programs, including services specifically targeting homeless individuals with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders. The coordinated efforts to implement the State's framework to address homelessness have made progress in reducing the number of homeless individuals statewide.

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

However, the Coordinator is concerned about the adverse impact that an appropriation for this measure may have on priorities in the Governor’s supplemental budget request for existing homeless services. Collectively, the homeless programs administered by DHS and other State agencies represent an array of financial and other resources designed to provide one-time crisis assistance, as well as medium term (3-24 months) and longer-term support. This mix of short-, medium-, and long-term assistance is designed to transition at-risk and homeless individuals and families into stable housing, and is also designed to prevent homelessness by assisting formerly homeless individuals with maintaining housing over time. Accordingly, the Coordinator respectfully requests the Legislature’s support of the Governor’s Executive Budget request, which includes over \$15 million for homeless services administered by DHS and DOH.

The Coordinator notes that part IV of chapter 334, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), outlines a process for individuals to be involuntarily hospitalized at a psychiatric facility. As defined in HRS §334-1, a “psychiatric facility” is “a public or private hospital or part thereof which provides inpatient or outpatient care, custody, diagnosis, treatment or rehabilitation services for emotionally distressed persons, mentally ill persons or persons suffering from substance abuse.” The unused residential facility, which is identified in the measure as the potential site of the proposed pilot project, does not meet this definition. In addition, the administration and oversight of a psychiatric hospital facility requires specialized skills and expertise that is beyond the current capacity of DHS, and there is substantial difference between the administration of a homeless shelter and a hospital facility.

The Coordinator further notes that section 334-60.6, HRS, establishes that a psychiatric facility may detain a subject for a period of no more than ninety days. As currently drafted, it is unclear whether this same ninety day period applies to the pilot program facility, or whether the pilot program facility is intended to be a location where homeless individuals who are involuntarily hospitalized may be discharged to following the stay in a psychiatric facility.

If this measure moves forward, the Coordinator suggests clarifying whether the pilot project facility is intended to have a different definition from “psychiatric facility” as defined by section 334-1, HRS. In addition, the Coordinator suggests clarifying whether the pilot program is intended to serve homeless individuals during their stay in a psychiatric facility, or following their stay in a psychiatric facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

HB-2021-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 7:52:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 3:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony to the
Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair



Friday, Feb. 23, 2018
8:30 am Rm 308

HB 2021

From: Marc Sicignano

Submitted on: Feb. 22, 2018

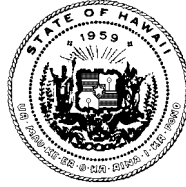
Re: HB 2021: Relating to Homeless Individuals with Severe Mental Illness

Position: Support, with comments

Aloha chair Luke and members of the committee. As a member of the community with a family member who suffers from serious mental illness who has been homeless at times in the past, I wholeheartedly support the intent of this bill and am incredibly grateful that the problem is recognized and being discussed by the state legislature. After reading the bill I was initially strongly in support but then after reading the testimony from agencies involved in trying to serve this population, I hope that the comments submitted can be taken into account so that the success of this pilot leads to a fully funded program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Marc Sicignano
Kalaheo, HI



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

LATE

February 23, 2018

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2021 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS WITH SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS**

Hearing: Friday, February 23, 2018, 3:30 p.m.
Conference Room 415, State Capitol

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

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill requires the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Health, to establish a pilot project to operate a facility to provide shelter and mental health treatment for homeless individuals with severe mental illness who are subject to court-ordered involuntary hospitalization to a psychiatric facility. Appropriates funds.

DHS appreciates the amendments of House Committee on Health & Human Services

"Deleting the specific requirement that an unused residential facility within the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility be used to provide shelter and mental health treatment services for the pilot project and instead simply requiring that a suitable unused state facility be used for the provision of these services[.]" STAND. COM. REP. NO. 419-18

We agree that there is a gap in services for mentally or severely mentally ill (SMI) individuals who are homeless. Based on preliminary research, other similar proposals utilize a Housing First approach with extensive wrap around services for those with severe mental

illness. U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development has published reports on these types of programs and other jurisdictions have successfully established similar programs. (See <http://brilliantcorners.org/brilliant-solutions/housing-services/> for a program established in San Francisco). Also, <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/hsgfirst.pdf> lists essential components for a successful program including but not limited to: direct placement into housing; mental health case management services in the community; provision of housing and treatment services separately; and careful monitoring of outcomes.

Per section 346-378, HRS, the state's Housing First program has been in operation on O'ahu for over four years (and recently expanded to neighbor islands), and has provided supportive housing to 115 chronically homeless, highly vulnerable individuals and family members during this period. Housing retention rate of the state's Housing First program is approximately 97% – that is 97% remain housed – which far exceeds the national average of 80%.

However, to address the needs of individuals with SMI or those who are court-ordered involuntarily to treatment as proposed will require a very different skill set and expertise than the way the state's Housing First program which is voluntary, and wraps services and places individuals and families in permanent housing in private rentals throughout the community. This proposal will require DHS, DOH, and the community enough time and resources to further study the successful models highlighted above and to develop the best plan.

DHS also requests that should this measure move forward, that appropriations do not supplant budget priorities identified in the Governor's supplemental budget. As evidenced by the 2017 Point In Time Count's finding of the first *decrease* in the number of homeless counted in eight years, the coordinated homeless services system has made tremendous progress in the last four years, and requires the legislature's focus and support to maintain this momentum.

We appreciate the comments and expertise of other departments and agencies who choose to submit testimony.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

LATE

HB-2021-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:46:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana K. Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a member of the Board of NAMI Hawaii for 10 years and as a member of the State Mental Health Task Force, I have followed the awful conjugation of severe mental illness and homelessness on Oahu and the outer islands. I am writing to ask that a facility finally be funded and built to receive members of our community who need shelter, treatment and a reason to hope. I pray that our elected officials will move with conscience and compassion to make HB2021 a reality.

Thank you,

Dana K. Anderson

HB-2021-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 5:09:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 3:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
NAMI Hawaii	National Alliance on Mental Illness Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

NAMI Hawaii receives many calls from individuals and families each month asking for information because of someone affected by serious mental illness, many whom are homeless and arrested. Mental illness is an illness, just like heart disease or epilepsy, We wouldn't arrest someone for causing a disturbance because of a seizure. We also wouldn't discharge someone from the hospital with a serious heart condition just because they looked well enough or said they felt well enough.

Thank you,

Kumi Macdonald

Executive Director, NAMI Hawaii