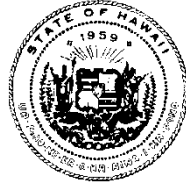


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

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

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

LATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, April 3, 2018
10:00 AM - Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
HB 2281, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning House Bill (HB) 2281, HD1, SD1, relating to homelessness.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **appreciates the intent** of SECTION 4 and SECTION 7 of this measure, so long as it does not adversely affect the Governor's supplemental budget, and offers the following comments.

HB 2281, HD1, SD1, proposes in SECTION 4 of the measure to appropriate a blank amount of general funds for public housing improvements and renovations, and also proposes in SECTION 7 to appropriate a blank amount of general funds to administer a housing homeless children pilot program to assist 100 currently homeless families with minor children or families with minor children at imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic violence.

In SECTION 4, these much needed funds will enable the HPHA to continue to address the extensive capital needs of the HPHA's aging housing stock, and repair our low-income housing properties quicker, and move more needy families into low-income public housing.

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

For SECTION 7, in order to start the rent supplement pilot program right away, the HPHA would like to request the addition of the following amendments:

- “The Hawaii public housing authority shall develop interim rules without regard to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for assisting participants with the state rent supplement pilot program pursuant to section 7 of this Act.”
- “The Hawaii public housing authority may procure case management and counseling services without regard to chapter 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for assisting participants with the state rent supplement pilot program pursuant to section 7 of this Act.”

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Ways and Means with the HPHA’s testimony regarding HB 2281, HD1, SD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

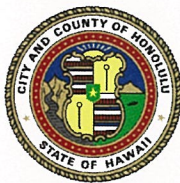
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

ROY K. AMEMIYA, JR.
MANAGING DIRECTOR

GEORGETTE T. DEEMER
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR



April 2, 2018

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
and members of the Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 2281, H.D. 1, S.D. 1
Relating to Homelessness

The Mayor's Office of Housing **offers comments** on House Bill No. 2281, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, Relating to Homelessness, especially in regards to housing and homelessness.

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell has maintained a consistent and clear position on homelessness: **The only permanent solution to homelessness is housing with an effective support system. Housing is the stable platform upon which all other outcomes depend, including mental and physical health, educational success, and gainful employment.** Furthermore, he and his administration have embraced a data-informed and evidence-based approach to homelessness – we utilize strategies that are proven and measurable.

Three City-supported programs illustrate our housing-focused approach. Our Housing First Program for the chronically homeless, when fully deployed, will provide 315 vouchers serving approximately 425 of the most vulnerable homeless members of our community. A University of Hawaii evaluation shows 89% of clients remain in housing after two years, with clients 64% less likely to visit the emergency room and 61% less likely to be arrested after two years. And it's cost effective at \$20,000-\$30,000 per person, rather than the estimated \$40,000-\$80,000 per unsheltered homeless person.

Hale Mauliola, our low-barrier (e.g., takes pets) and housing-focused emergency shelter (Navigation Center), is almost always full. It is being expanded to serve up to 104 persons. It is effective: In January, for example, 50% of the exits from the shelter were into permanent housing.

Kahauiki Village, led by businessman Duane Kurisu, is an example of a public-private partnership that delivers permanent housing for homeless families. The State gave the land, the City provided the infrastructure, and Mr. Kurisu and his many collaborators provided leadership and results. On January 12, 2018, 30 families (114 individuals) moved into their own homes, with kitchens and bathrooms, and were no longer counted among the homeless population. **The project took six months and one day, from groundbreaking to move-in!** When the full array of 153 units is completed, the cost per unit will be less than \$130,000, including infrastructure. These will all be places “fit for human habitation,” dignified homes for Hawaii families.

We ask you to focus funding on proven programs, such as those illustrated above, as well as other effective programs, including LEAD, Rapid Rehousing, housing-focused outreach, civil legal services, mental health services, and substance abuse disorders services. The City cannot address homelessness alone. Please do not fund programs which have failed elsewhere and lack evidence-based support. **Support proven programs backed by both science and true aloha for the most vulnerable in our midst.**

Please note that unless the so-called “ohana zones” meet the federal and local requirements for “fit for human habitation,” persons sheltered in such “ohana zones” would still be classified as homeless persons, living in a place unfit for any person.

We believe that everyone – every child, woman, and man – needs and deserves a safe place to call home, a place truly fit for human habitation and community. On Monday, March 19th the City opened Kauhale Kamaile, our newest housing project in Waianae for homeless and formerly homeless families. Mayor Caldwell handed the keys to three families who had previously been homeless on the Leeward Coast. Some of the children being housed had never lived in a place with a door that locked, a roof overhead, and hot water. Do not all of our keiki deserve at least that?

Very truly yours,



Marc Alexander
Executive Director, Office of Housing

LATE

HB-2281-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 10:27:01 AM
Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carrie Ann Shirota	Testifying for Hawai'i Justice Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

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

Hawai'i Justice Coalition supports this measure. In particular, we would like to highlight the wisdom of funding and expanding the LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) Program.

LEAD involves a pre-booking or pre-arrest diversion program that refers individuals with repeat, low level drug and other types of offenses to harm reduction-based case management and community based services.

Incarceration is the most costly, and least effective sanction. Taxpayers currently pay over \$50,000 to incarcerate an adult annually. This money would be better invested in LEAD, which has had outstanding outcomes in Seattle. Most notably, LEAD participants in Seattle are 58% less likely to be arrested after enrollment.

Although I understand that Legislators often have reservations about funding PILOT projects, this is the type of project with proven results that we should adopt and expand in our community.

Please stop wasting precious taxpayer dollars by locking up persons with low-level offenses in overcrowded jails that lack the mental health and medical care, and other case management support services required to break the cycle of recidivism.

Please pass HB2281 HD1 SD1. Mahalo!



LATE

CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

COMMENTS on HB 2281, HD1 SD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means
FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer
Hearing: **Tuesday, 4/3/18; 10:00 AM; CR 211**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Comments on **HB 2281, HD1 SD1**, which would establish an Ohana Zones Program within the Department of Human Services, and fund this program as well as other homeless services and public housing improvements, etc. I am Terry Walsh, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 60 years. We provide a wide range of services to homeless persons, the elderly, immigrants, families and youths. We also operate the Kakaako Family Assessment Center.

We agree with the legislature's findings that homelessness is one of the most pressing problems in Hawai'i and requires a robust, comprehensive effort to increase the pace at which our State addresses homelessness. We support funding for the comprehensive programs in this bill that have been proven effective. From rapidly repairing public housing units to Outreach that helps homeless people navigate into housing, to Housing First, to Rapid Rehousing, and vital rental subsidies to fill the gap in affordability, etc., **these services form the base on which other services and programs can be added, it that is the intent of the Legislature**

Based on our long-term support for homeless services and creating pathways into permanent housing, we would like to offer these comments:

- We are concerned that new solutions for homelessness not impact on funding for current ongoing services which are effectively moving people into housing. These ongoing programs are critical to the success of new programs which should collaborate and be part of this network to move the homeless to dignified, safe and permanent housing.
- The state must continue a strong focus on creating permanent housing. Once people are living in Ohana Zones, where will they go? We are concerned that the high cost to set up and operate these Ohana Zones will impact on the ability of the State to fund permanent housing resources via programs like the Rental Housing Revolving Fund. Both may be needed, but the future lies in a strong commitment to funding new permanent rentals.
- Legislation for Ohana Zones must be flexible to allow the State to find creative solutions that meet the needs of different sub-populations and needs on different Hawaiian islands.
- We urge a strong focus on housing navigation and development of supports needed to obtain and maintain permanent housing.
- RE: the "housing homeless children pilot program" in Section 7: **We suggest amending the bill to delete the maximum allowed for rental assistance. This would provide the Hawaii Public Housing Authority with flexibility to meet the needs of the homeless.** Some may require a short period of greater assistance to become stable, before the subsidy is scaled back to approximately \$500 per month.



Thank you for considering our concerns. We appreciate your dedication to ending homelessness and taking a wide view of solutions.

Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org, or 373-0356 for any questions.

HB-2281-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 12:08:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald S. Fujiyoshi	Testifying for Ohana Ho`opakele	Support	No

Comments:

Haven't we learned yet that "trickle down" economics does not work? Gandhi said that the economy needs to be built from the bottom up!

We need to address the housing crisis for our poorer residents. Please support this bill!

Mahalo for allowing us to testify!



LATE

Dedicated to safe, responsible, humane and effective drug policies since 1993

TO: Senate Committee on Ways & Means
FROM: Carl Bergquist, Executive Director
HEARING DATE: 3 April 2018, 10AM
RE: HB2281 HD1 SD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, Committee Members:

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i (DPFHI) **strongly supports** this bill's effort to deal with homelessness in a multiplicity of ways. In particular, we believe that the diversion program funded herein is essential. Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) sends the appropriate signal that vulnerable individuals from our communities should be afforded an opportunity at treatment or services rather being funneled into the criminal justice system. While we would like to see this funding reinserted into the Governor's budget as originally proposed, funding LEAD via this measure will allow the pilot, and all the hard work put into it, continue uninterrupted.

This is particularly true as the state continues its shift towards viewing drug use as a public health issue, informed by the fact that addiction is an illness, not a choice. Moreover, many of the individuals encountered by police also have mental health issues, and also need appropriate treatment for these conditions. Acknowledging and dealing with these issues up front will increase the chances of smoother transitions into housing, removing the unnecessarily early and counterproductive involvement of the criminal justice system. Finally, given the overcrowding in our prisons, an approach like LEAD is not just sound, innovative policy but the humane approach to take.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



LEGAL AID
SOCIETY OF HAWAII

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924 Bethel Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Joanne Lo Grimes, Esq.
President, Board of Directors

M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina, Esq.
Executive Director

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2281 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Committee on Ways and Means - Room 211

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair



April 3, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii submits testimony in support of HB2281 HD1 SD1 – Relating to Homelessness.

As the current recipient of funding for homeless legal services from the Department of Human Services, Legal Aid provides civil legal assistance, including identification replacement, public benefits assistance, and other legal services aimed at reducing barriers to finding housing and stabilization. Eviction defense is also provided to keep people in housing where appropriate.

These are targeted services which are just one part of the overall breadth of supportive services those who are homeless need. With the support of this program, legal services are provided on-site at over thirty outreach locations each month across the state, including the neighbor islands. We ask that funding levels remain stable, so that civil legal assistance can continue.

Civil legal services are critical in that they can provide real world solutions to help families in crisis find stability and hope. The funding provided through this program has replaced funding that was no longer available through HUD and has helped to expand this program for Oahu based only to the entire state.

The Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i has provided civil legal services to the community for over 65 years. Through our ten offices which include one on each of the major Hawaiian islands, our staff assist residents of Hawai'i to navigate and solve basic issues which require legal interventions. In 2017, our staff of 100 closed about 8,300 cases in legal areas ranging from family, housing, consumer, foreclosure, public benefits, elder law, homelessness, immigration, language access, and child welfare. The funding from this program is just one of the programs that we are grateful for the support of the state for and helps us to serve people across the islands.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina
Executive Director

Sergio Alcubilla
Director of External Relations



HAWAII KAI HOMELESS TASK FORCE

Mike Goodman, Director

Cell: (808) 428-9779

Fax: (949) 229-1953

Email: MikeGoodman@HawaiiKaiHomelessTaskForce.org

Monday, April 2, 2018

LATE



RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2281 - FOR THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, HEARING ON APRIL 3, 10 AM IN ROOM 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, and all Committee Members. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB2281.

There are four important bills that have come to the forefront to address homelessness: SB2401; HB2281, HB2014 "The Pu'uhonua Homeless Villages Act" and the bill which is the subject of this hearing, HB2281.

Homelessness is a massively complex problem, that can only be resolved with a multifaceted approach. Each of these bills contains elements essential to ending the homeless crisis. As to be expected, there is also a great deal of duplication between them. I believe they should not be competing with each other. Instead, either the best of each should be combined into a single measure, or they should be amended with reference to each other. In other words, all of these bills should be kept alive, and then amended in conference to eliminate duplication and preserve the best of each.

Nonetheless, without regard to the other bills, this bill should be amended to house people in ultra-low-cost modular dwellings instead of traditionally constructed units. Otherwise, we'll be replicating the mistakes of the past.

Generally, the State, Counties and other service providers, house people in traditionally constructed brick and mortar apartments, which cost about \$450,000 dollars per unit to build, which would total over \$3.5 billion dollars for 8000 units. Rent subsidies run anywhere from \$1,000 to \$1,500 a month, and many landlords won't lease to homeless tenants. Recently, less-expensive modular dwellings have been used for projects like Kahauiki Village, which costs about \$250,000 per unit, and Kauhale Kamaile in Waianae, which costs about \$320,000 per unit. Rents for these developments range anywhere from \$700 dollars to over \$1,100 dollars a month. While this is a step in the right direction, costs are still much too high.

THE CHEAPEST CONSTRUCTION METHOD USED BY THE FOREGOING PROGRAMS WOULD COST OVER TWO BILLION DOLLARS FOR 8000 UNITS. The reality is we have *never*, and likely will *never* have the resources to house everyone using these methods. Moreover, the rents are far too expensive for most homeless people. Consequently, it's mathematically impossible to end the homeless crisis unless we radically change the way we build housing.

Decades of research and real-world experience, shows that permanent housing, with wrap-around supportive services under a "housing first" paradigm, is the most effective way to end homelessness. However, there is nothing in the reams of data, studies and evidenced-based practices showing that dwellings must be made from brick & mortar, metal, wood, or any other material in order for "Housing First" to be effective.

Therefore, we must avail ourselves of materials, designs and technology, that enable us to build exponentially more housing at an exponentially lower cost.

There are many high-tech modular dwellings manufactured by a variety of companies that cost less than 94% of brick and mortar housing. There are also new technologies that can sometimes circumvent the need for infrastructure. Moreover, construction would take less than 2 years, instead of the 8 to 10 years it takes for traditional housing. For under \$200 million, 80, 2-acre "homeless villages", could be established on a total of 168 acres. That's less than we're already spending on unsheltered homelessness for emergency medical care, law enforcement, property damage and homeless sweeps.

Mahalo!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Goodman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Mike Goodman
Director, H.K. Homeless Task Force

LATE

HB-2281-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 9:21:13 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support Homeless villages, Ohana Zones, and the replication of the successful Assessment Center which has been very successful on Oahu (Kakaako Family Assessment Center). The County of Hawaii envisions the Assessment Center to be a part of our Village 9 as well as our other possible homeless sites on our island. Please support this bill and our County's efforts. Mahalo.

LATE

HB-2281-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 10:53:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kevin landers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2281-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 6:58:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2281-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 8:56:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means-

I am submitting testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2281 HD1 SD1. Please support this measure as we must do everything possible to support actions and programs relating to support and outreach services for the homeless.

Thank you-

Raelyn Reyno Yeomans