
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that homelessness is one
2 of the most pressing problems in Hawaii and requires a robust,
3 comprehensive effort to increase the pace at which Hawaii
4 addresses homelessness. In 2017, for the first time in years,
5 Hawaii's homelessness rate decreased. Hawaii is turning the
6 tide on the homelessness crisis by investing in proven programs
7 such as housing first and rapid rehousing. The network of
8 people and resources engaged in addressing homelessness has
9 begun to make more efficient use of available resources by
10 implementing a data-driven, collaborative process that matches
11 those experiencing homelessness with the services they need.
12 However, Hawaii continues to have the highest per capita rate of
13 homelessness of any state in the United States, with an
14 estimated 7,220 homeless people living on the streets and in
15 temporary shelters. Given the magnitude of Hawaii's
16 homelessness problem, the State needs to increase its investment
17 in, and commitment to, a solution.



1 The legislature further finds that addressing homelessness
2 requires a multi-faceted approach using proven interventions
3 that are targeted to particular characteristics of the homeless
4 population and address the root causes of homelessness. First
5 and foremost, Hawaii needs more housing that is affordable to
6 low-income families. Hawaii has the highest housing costs in
7 the nation, and the lowest wages after adjustment for the cost
8 of living. The greatest need is for housing that is affordable
9 to residents at the lowest end of the income scale, with incomes
10 at thirty per cent or below the area median income. Much like
11 housing provided through the State's low-income public housing
12 program, building housing for this income demographic will
13 require significant government subsidies. Also, the Hawaii
14 public housing authority manages hundreds of units that are
15 vacant due to the need for major repairs, and these units could
16 be rapidly brought back into service to assist homeless and
17 extremely low-income families.

18 The legislature further finds that in addition to
19 affordable housing, Hawaii needs to sustain programs that
20 connect people experiencing homelessness with critical services
21 and housing, and programs that provide services such as



1 outreach, rapid rehousing, rent supplements, housing first,
2 assistance at Oahu's family assessment center, law enforcement
3 assisted diversion, and substance abuse treatment.

4 Moreover, the legislature recognizes that outreach is
5 critically necessary to connect people to all available housing
6 options such as emergency shelters, transitional shelters,
7 housing first, rapid rehousing with rent stipends, and other
8 assistance. For many chronically homeless mentally ill persons,
9 it may take fifty or more individual outreach contacts, over
10 several months or years, to establish trust and move them off
11 the streets. Outreach teams may also perform wound care,
12 distribute hygiene kits or snacks, and offer to obtain
13 identification documents. Housing first programs have proven
14 effective in addressing homelessness for chronically homeless
15 individuals, including those who have an addiction, mental
16 illness, or both.

17 The legislature recognizes that the success of housing
18 first programs is attributable to its principles, which include:

19 (1) Moving chronically homeless individuals into housing
20 directly from the streets and shelters without a
21 precondition of accepting or complying with treatment;



- 1 (2) Providing robust support services for program
- 2 participants that are predicated on assertive
- 3 engagement rather than coercion;
- 4 (3) Granting chronically homeless individuals priority as
- 5 program participants in housing first programs;
- 6 (4) Embracing a harm reduction approach to addictions
- 7 rather than mandating abstinence while supporting
- 8 program participant commitments to recovery; and
- 9 (5) Providing program participants with leases and tenant
- 10 protections as provided by law.

11 The legislature finds that, while costly, housing first
12 programs are cost-effective. Providing housing and services
13 under the housing first program is less costly than the
14 alternative of providing emergency services and other necessary
15 services for unhoused chronically homeless persons.

16 The legislature further finds that the State's efforts to
17 combat homelessness would be enhanced by establishing an "ohana
18 zones" program to provide housing to homeless individuals and
19 families based on principles similar to housing first, but with
20 more flexibility that allows for a higher degree of utilization.



1 The legislature also finds that rapid rehousing and the
2 State's rent supplement program have proven effective in
3 securing and maintaining housing for working homeless
4 individuals and families. A significant segment of the homeless
5 population has a stable source of income and only requires
6 modest financial help and some housing stabilization services
7 instead of full-scale subsidies and intensive, ongoing case
8 management. More than a quarter of Hawaii households fall into
9 homelessness simply because they lack money to pay rent, but
10 they have no other underlying issues. For these individuals and
11 families, a small subsidy may allow them to rapidly move out of
12 shelters and into permanent homes. Rapid rehousing provides
13 struggling households with a one-time payment to cover
14 delinquent rent, utility payments, or first month's rent and
15 security deposit. This one-time financial intervention is often
16 all that families need to avoid homelessness or quickly bounce
17 back from becoming homeless. In contrast, the State's rent
18 supplement program provides a "shallow" but sustained subsidy to
19 struggling households. Unlike the "deep" Section 8 subsidy
20 program, which helps families at the lowest end of the income
21 scale by bridging a wide affordability gap between income and



1 housing costs, the State's rent supplement program helps
2 households that are closer to financial self-sufficiency but
3 that still have a narrow affordability gap to fill. The program
4 provides a small time-limited subsidy that wards off
5 homelessness while providing time for families to close the
6 affordability gap and achieve self-sufficiency. Financial case
7 management and counseling are critical to stabilizing these
8 families for future sustainability in permanent housing.
9 Because individual subsidies under the rapid rehousing and state
10 rent supplement programs are relatively low, the programs may
11 resolve homelessness for a large number of individuals and
12 families relative to the total cost of the subsidy program.

13 Additionally, the legislature finds that the family
14 assessment center, which was opened on Oahu in September 2016,
15 has achieved extraordinary results over its first year of
16 operation. Out of fifty-four households served, ninety-one per
17 cent were successfully housed. The assessment center offers
18 comprehensive services including benefit reviews and
19 determinations, health assessments, service coordination, and
20 housing placement. This proven model can be replicated on the
21 neighbor islands as an effective way to move families with



1 children rapidly to permanent housing. For example, on the
2 island of Hawaii, a large parcel of land has been set aside to
3 develop housing solutions for homelessness in Kona, where the
4 need for localized services is particularly acute.

5 Finally, to adequately address homelessness, the
6 legislature recognizes that Hawaii needs to disrupt the
7 ineffective, destructive, and expensive cycle of substance abuse
8 addiction that leads to homelessness, arrest, incarceration,
9 release, and a return to addiction and living on the streets.
10 The law enforcement assisted diversion program is a pre-booking
11 diversion program that grants police officers the discretionary
12 authority to redirect low-level offenders, who are typically
13 drug-involved and homeless, to case managers if the offender
14 consents to being assisted.

15 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 16 (1) Establish within the department of human services an
17 ohana zones program to provide housing to homeless
18 individuals and families based on principles similar
19 to housing first; and
20 (2) Appropriate moneys to the Hawaii public housing
21 authority, the department of human services, and the



1 department of health to support the State's most
2 effective efforts to end homelessness: public
3 housing, outreach, rapid rehousing and the State's
4 rent supplement program, housing first, Oahu's family
5 assessment center, the law enforcement assisted
6 diversion program, and civil legal services.

7 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
8 of human services an ohana zones program to provide housing to
9 homeless individuals and families based on principles similar to
10 housing first. The number and locations of the ohana zones
11 shall be determined by the department.

12 (b) The department of human services shall develop and
13 implement the program, which, at a minimum, shall provide the
14 following facilities and services at each ohana zone site:

- 15 (1) Secure dwelling spaces that:
- 16 (A) May be private or communal;
 - 17 (B) Have access to toilets, showers, and other
18 hygiene facilities; and
 - 19 (C) Have access to an area for food storage and meal
20 preparation;



- 1 (2) Medical and social support services, which shall be
- 2 onsite to the extent practicable;
- 3 (3) Onsite childcare;
- 4 (4) Transportation to school, employment, and any
- 5 appointments related to medical care or supportive
- 6 services that are not available onsite; and
- 7 (5) Any other facilities or services necessary to make the
- 8 ohana zone site a suitable destination to which:
 - 9 (A) Hospitals may directly discharge qualified
 - 10 patients; and
 - 11 (B) Law enforcement agencies may divert, in lieu of
 - 12 arrest, persons apprehended during "sweeps" of
 - 13 homeless encampments.
- 14 (c) The department of human services shall coordinate with
- 15 public or private state or county entities, as appropriate, to
- 16 develop and implement the ohana zones program.

17 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general

18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much

19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the

20 establishment of the ohana zones program and expenses related to

1 facility construction, provision of services, staffing, and
2 administrative costs.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 human services for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
8 Hawaii public housing authority to provide public housing
9 improvements and renovations statewide.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii public
11 housing authority for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
15 department of human services to continue to administer housing
16 first programs for chronically homeless individuals in the
17 State.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
19 human services for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
 2 department of human services to continue to administer the rapid
 3 rehousing program to assist homeless individuals or families in
 4 obtaining or maintaining permanent housing and to cover housing
 5 stabilization services and administrative costs to operate the
 6 program.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 8 human services for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general
 10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
 12 Hawaii public housing authority to administer a state rent
 13 supplement pilot program to assist one hundred currently
 14 homeless families with minor children or families with minor
 15 children at imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic
 16 violence in obtaining or maintaining permanent housing, by
 17 providing time-limited rental assistance of up to \$ per
 18 month and financial case management by a United States
 19 Department of Housing and Urban Development certified financial
 20 counseling organization.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii public
2 housing authority for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
6 department of human services to continue to administer the
7 outreach services program to homeless persons, including but not
8 limited to individuals and families with children and
9 unaccompanied homeless youth, including \$ for civil
10 legal services.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
12 human services for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
16 department of health to continue to administer outreach,
17 counseling, and diversion for unsheltered homeless persons
18 experiencing substance abuse, including \$ to continue
19 administering the law enforcement assisted diversion pilot
20 program.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 health for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 10. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
6 department of human services to continue to administer the
7 family assessment center for homeless families.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
9 human services for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 11. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

11

INTRODUCED BY:

<u>Friedelchinger</u>	<u>John M. Pappas</u>
<u>De Winter</u>	<u>Roy M. Latta</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>Richardson</u>	<u>John K. Carr</u>
<u>Guthrie Thielen</u>	<u>Liz Pez</u>
<u>Al [Signature]</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
	<u>[Signature]</u>
	<u>Debra A. Bellotti</u>

H.B. NO. 2281

Report Title:

Homelessness; Housing; DHS; DOH; HPHA; Outreach; Rapid Rehousing; State Rent Supplement; Housing First; Ohana Zones; Oahu Family Assessment Center; Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes within the Department of Human Services an Ohana Zones program to provide housing to homeless individuals and families based on principles similar to Housing First and appropriates unspecified funds for the program. Appropriates unspecified funds to the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health to continue to administer programs for individuals or families who require assistance to avoid or escape homelessness including outreach, Rapid Rehousing, Housing First, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, and the Family Assessment Center on Oahu. Appropriates unspecified funds to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for public housing improvements and renovations statewide and a rent supplement pilot program.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.





EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 7, 2017

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

The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair
House Committee on Housing

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

SUBJECT: **HB 2281 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports sections 4 through 10 of this measure, provided that the measure's passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. The Coordinator asks the Legislature to support the Governor's Executive Budget request of \$15 million for homeless services, which includes appropriations to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) for the state rent supplement program; appropriation to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, homeless outreach services, and the Family Assessment Center; and appropriation to the Department of Health (DOH) for homeless outreach, counseling, and diversion services for unsheltered persons experiencing substance abuse. The Coordinator also asks the Legislature to support \$29 million in the Executive Budget for HPHA to provide public housing improvements and renovations statewide.

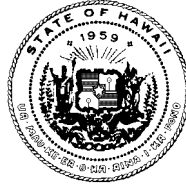
The Coordinator appreciates the overall intent of the measure to address homelessness utilizing a Housing First approach, and offers comments on sections 2 and 3 relating to the establishment of and appropriation for an Ohana Zones program. The Coordinator defers to DHS in regard to the contracting and monitoring of homeless services.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to make appropriations to HPHA, DHS, and DOH for various programs to address homelessness, as well as capital improvements for public housing facilities. The bill also establishes a state rent supplement pilot program within HPHA, as well as a 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. In particular, the State has worked together with the Legislature and other stakeholders to increase resources for permanent housing programs, such as Housing First and Rapid Rehousing. Between 2015 and 2017, the number of permanent housing beds for homeless individuals statewide increased by 1,986 – an increase of 146%, more than doubling the supply of permanent beds.

The Coordinator appreciates the willingness of the Legislature to support the continued increase of housing programs for the homeless population, but is concerned about potential adverse impacts on priorities identified in the Executive Budget. The Governor’s Executive Budget request includes over \$15 million for homeless services, including \$3 million for Housing First, \$3 million for Rapid Rehousing, and \$1.75 million for homeless outreach services. Collectively, the homeless programs administered by DHS and other State agencies represent an array of financial 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 not only to transition at-risk and homeless individuals and families into stable housing, but also designed to prevent homelessness by assisting formerly homeless individuals in maintaining housing over time. Accordingly, the Coordinator respectfully asks for the Legislature’s support of the Governor’s Executive Budget request.

With regard to sections 2 and 3 of this measure, the Coordinator notes that construction of housing facilities requires specialized skills and expertise that may be beyond the current capacity of DHS. The construction and installation of necessary infrastructure (e.g. sewer, water, electricity, and road access) may require more than 12 months to complete.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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

February 7, 2018

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

The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair
House Committee on Housing

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2281 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and offers comments. DHS asks the Legislature to support the Governor's supplemental budget request to address homelessness which includes \$1.5 million to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) for the Rent Supplement program; \$13.4 million to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, homeless outreach services, and the Family Assessment Center; \$800,000 to the Department of Health (DOH) for homeless outreach, counseling and diversion services for unsheltered persons experiencing substance abuse. The Department of Human Services also asks the Legislature to support \$29 million in the Executive Budget for HPHA to provide public housing improvements and renovations statewide.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to establish within the Department of Human Services an Ohana Zones program to provide housing to homeless individuals and families based on principles similar to Housing First and appropriates unspecified funds for the

program. Appropriates unspecified funds to the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health to continue to administer programs for individuals or families who require assistance to avoid or escape homelessness including outreach, Rapid Rehousing, Housing First, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, and the Family Assessment Center on Oahu. Appropriates unspecified funds to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for public housing improvements and renovations statewide and a rent supplement pilot program.

The State's coordinated effort to end homelessness is moving forward with positive results. In 2017, the Point in Time (PIT) count found that the number of homeless people in Hawaii decreased for the first time in eight years. DHS has worked with the Legislature and other stakeholders to increase resources for permanent housing programs, such as Housing First and Rapid Rehousing. The State's Rapid Rehousing program provides flexibility that supports those who are literally homeless or those who are imminently at risk of homelessness. The Rapid Rehousing program allows households to maintain their homes or quickly divert them from utilizing existing homeless programs. These programs can be accessible to benefit those who are the most vulnerable and have higher service needs.

DHS recently expanded its Housing First program services statewide. From May to December 2017, Housing First served a total of 181 unduplicated households and 24 unduplicated individuals: 87 unduplicated households and 125 unduplicated participants on Oahu; 75 unduplicated households and 88 unduplicated participants on Hawaii Island; 6 unduplicated households and 7 unduplicated participants on Kauai; and 13 unduplicated households and 21 unduplicated participants on Maui.

The State's Rapid Rehousing program provides flexibility that supports those who are homeless or those who are imminently at risk of homelessness. The Rapid Rehousing program allows households to maintain their homes or quickly divert them from utilizing existing homeless programs. These programs are accessible to those who are the most vulnerable and have higher service needs.

Rapid Rehousing is not a one-time payment to cover delinquent rent, utility payments, or first month's rent and security deposits as stated in section one. Rather, the Housing Placement Program or State Homeless Emergency Grant is best used to assist with a one-time payment.

In 2017, the Rapid Rehousing program provided financial assistance to 232 households with 588 individuals. The following is a preliminary list of the average amount of potential expenses. This illustrates how families may use Rapid Rehousing assistance to remain in housing and avoid homelessness:

- Rent = \$657.30;
- Security Deposit = \$724.74;
- Utilities Deposit = \$257.88;
- Rent Arrears = \$950.25; and
- Move in Expense = \$600.00

Also, the Family Assessment Center (FAC) in Kaka'ako utilizes 'Housing First' principles to quickly move families with minor children off the streets and into permanent housing. FAC opened in September 2016 and served 184 people and placed 35 out of 38 families entering the facility into housing in the first year. The housing placement rate for the center in its first year was 92% (35 out of 38), and families were housed in an average of 82 days.

In addition to quickly moving families with minor children out of homelessness and into permanent housing in its first year, FAC also increased the income for 59% of families through linkages to public benefits, employment, and other critical resources during their stay at the facility.

With regard to section 1, DHS is unclear and concern about; "principles similar to housing first, but with more flexibility that allows for a higher degree of utilization". DHS's current contract enforces low barrier and accessibility into programs. DHS has found during the process of program monitoring that some agencies have challenges with changes to its response after providing services the same way after many years.

The common challenges identified amongst agencies are the limited program fees allowed to be collected by a program, providing services to participants who may have mental illness or substance abuse problems, and providing services for participants who are chronically homeless. Prior to the Housing First model, those identified with a higher acuity were not appropriate for services and often times were terminated from a program because of eligibility criteria or behavior issues; these practices resulted in the individual experiencing further

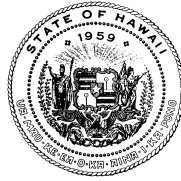
homelessness. Furthermore, DHS is concerned that this may allow agencies to be selective in placements into its services and reduce necessary services for the most vulnerable population.

With regard to section 2, we defer to other state departments and counties, as to parcels of land and transportation. DHS is concerned that areas identified are not in areas that are accessible to participants and will increase cost burdens to other departments. DHS is also concerned that the discharge of medically fragile patients into a setting that may not be accessible will not benefit that population, and specific programming this large requires specific skill sets and qualified expertise.

The best strategy to end homelessness is to find people safe and affordable housing. Housing First is an approach that emphasizes stable, permanent housing as a strategy for ending homeless. Safe zones, encampments, or tent cities created by measures take away that choice, which is the critical component of Housing First. Housing First has been successfully implemented on Oahu and DHS Homeless Programs Office has expanded the Housing First program to the neighbor islands.

Additionally, as noted by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Housing First is based on the theory that client choice is valuable in housing selection and supportive service participation, and that exercising that choice is likely to make a client more successful in remaining housed and improving their life. The Ohana Zones proposed in this measure takes away that choice which is the critical component of Housing First.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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

**TESTIMONY COMMENTING ON H.B. 2281
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

REPRESENTATIVE TOM BROWER, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Hearing Date and Time: Thursday, February 7, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Not determined.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) applauds the intent of this bill to
3 continue to administer homeless outreach, counseling, and diversion for unsheltered individuals
4 experiencing substance abuse, and to continue to administer the law enforcement assisted
5 diversion (LEAD) program, but defers to the Governor's Supplemental Budget Request for
6 appropriations priorities. Studies indicate that a significant proportion of the state's chronic
7 homeless population have substance abuse and/or mental health issues and are frequently
8 arrested for non-violent, non-felony offenses.

9 The DOH continues to follow the lead of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness
10 (Coordinator) to ensure that efforts are synchronized in support of the State's comprehensive
11 framework to address homelessness across the system of care. The framework includes focus of
12 efforts on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and
13 public safety. The DOH, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) is especially grateful that

1 one of the initiatives identified by the sponsors of H.B. 2281 and jointly supported by both the
2 DOH and the Coordinator is the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program.
3 Nationally, LEAD was evaluated to have significant positive impact in other jurisdictions where
4 the program was deployed, including significant decreases in rates of re-arrest and increase in
5 engagement of participants with needed treatments and other social services. It has also been
6 successful at decreasing burdens on judicial and law enforcement systems by directing
7 individuals, particularly the chronically homeless, to behavioral health care services in the
8 community. The ADAD also commends the Legislature who in the 2017 Session approved
9 \$200,000 to implement a LEAD pilot project, and for understanding that there is a need for
10 LEAD in Hawaii and sees that there is community willingness to assist with its implementation.

11 The DOH acknowledges that homelessness is one of the State's most significant and
12 challenging social concerns. The DOH and its Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) partner
13 with other state agencies and with both AMHD contracted and non-AMHD contracted
14 community programs to address the mental health needs of individuals experiencing
15 homelessness. Key partners include the Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of
16 Transportation (DOT), Department of Public Safety (PSD), the City and County of Honolulu,
17 law enforcement, and community based health and human service programs.

18 The AMHD continues its commitment to increasing and strengthening linkages to
19 housing and community based referrals that support recovery for adults with serious mental
20 health challenges. The AMHD Homeless Outreach providers focus their outreach efforts on

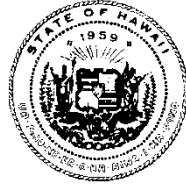
1 locating individuals who live with Serious Mental Illness (SMI), who are chronically homeless,
2 and who meet AMHD's eligibility criteria for AMHD funded services.

3 In 2017, AMHD provided homeless outreach services to 2,817 consumers identified as
4 homeless on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii. In addition to homeless outreach
5 services, AMHD provides specialized treatment and group home housing for 808 individuals,
6 including those who live in twenty-four hour, eight-to-sixteen hour, and semi-independent group
7 homes. There are over 100 eligible individuals who receive supported housing/bridge subsidy
8 through the AMHD. These individuals live with a serious mental illness and have the option to
9 live independently in housing of their choice with services that support their movement towards
10 assuming the role of a neighbor or tenant.

11 The DOH asks for the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive Budget request.
12 In the Governor's Executive Budget request, appropriations to ADAD to continue LEAD and
13 homeless outreach to unsheltered persons experiencing substance abuse, and to DHS for the
14 Rapid Rehousing program are included. The Rapid Rehousing program addresses both
15 homelessness prevention and housing replacement. The AMHD defers to the State Procurement
16 Office and the DHS with regard to contracting and implementation of homeless services.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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
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Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AND
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

**Wednesday, February 7, 2018
9:30 AM - Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of
HB 2281
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Honorable Chair Mizuno, Honorable Chair Brower, and Members of the House Committees on Health & Human Services, and Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning House Bill (HB) 2281, relating to homelessness.

HB 2281 establishes a state rent supplement 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, and appropriates funds to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) for public improvements and renovations statewide. The 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.

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.

In order to establish the rent supplement pilot program, the HPHA would need additional funding to contract with service providers to apply wrap around services for all participants. Furthermore, if the intent is 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 House Committees on Health and Human Services, and Housing with the HPHA's testimony regarding HB 2281. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive
Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of
West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action
Network

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Maui Youth and Family Services

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together
(PACT)

Planned Parenthood of the
Great Northwest and
Hawaiian Islands

PHOCUSED

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community
Center

The Catalyst Group

February 5, 2018

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

Representative Tom Brower, Chair
And members of the Committee on Housing

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2281 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2281 Relating to Homelessness.

Homeless youth who are living on their own on the streets without support or guidance from their families are the most vulnerable segment of our homeless population. They are children who have not completed their education, lack employment experience, and have not yet learned the skills for adult living.

More than 40% were forced to leave home by their families. Nine out of ten (90%) have slept outdoors in a park, beach, sidewalk or car. Two-fifths have been beaten or assaulted while on the streets. Many trade sex for the resources they need for survival – food, money, a safe place to sleep. They lack adequate food, access to education, and have difficulty meeting health care needs.

Street outreach is the first step in helping youth leave the streets for safer and more appropriate living situations. Workers build trusting relationships and convince youth to accept help to leave the streets, while helping them meet their immediate survival needs.

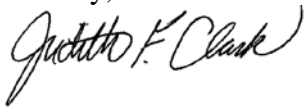
HYSN recommends that at least \$300,000 be specifically allocated for outreach to runaway and homeless youth. These funds should be administered through the State Office of Youth Services.

Youth adults ages 18 – 24 face many housing challenges and could benefit from rapid rehousing and rent supplement programs. Typically, they work at low-wage jobs while trying to complete a GED, attend college, or participate in vocational training. This includes young adults who have emancipated from foster care or are participating in the Imua Kakou Program (voluntary care to age 21) Ensuring that these young adults have stable, safe housing during this critical period can provide the foundation that will enable them to be self-supporting for a lifetime.

By providing an array of services to meet the needs of different segments of our homeless population, we can greatly reduce homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

HB-2281

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:34:18 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

PRESENTATION OF THE

OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

AND

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

9:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2281, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

To the Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair; the Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Health & Human Services:

To the Honorable Tom Brower, Chair; the Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Housing:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of

Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 2281, regarding the Ohana Zones program which provides housing to homeless individuals and families based on principles similar to Housing First,

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 2281 and support its passage.

House Bill No.2281 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it (1) establishes within the Department of Human Services an Ohana Zones program to provide housing to homeless individuals and families based on principles similar to Housing First and appropriates unspecified funds for the program; (2) appropriates unspecified funds to the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health to continue to administer programs for individuals or families who require assistance to avoid or escape homelessness including outreach, Rapid Rehousing, Housing First, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, and the Family Assessment Center on Oahu; and (3) appropriates unspecified funds to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for public housing improvements and renovations statewide and a rent supplement pilot program.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that we "believe in the concept of "Housing First" to develop affordable, stable housing and support services to break the cycle of homelessness for people with the fewest housing options.

We support dedicated social services and housing opportunities for Hawaii's homeless population to get them off the streets and reintegrated into society, with specific devoted services for disenfranchised groups including but not limited to, the Hawaiian community, aged-out foster kids, youth, returning veterans, the aged, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender homeless." (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 352-358 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No.2281 establishes the Ohana Zones program which provides housing to homeless individuals and families based on principles similar to Housing First, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ **Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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

HB-2281

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:46:00 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Bergquist	Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:


The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i supports the continued funding of the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion pilot program. This crucial program is an integral part of overall criminal justice reform and the adoption of a compassionate public health lens focused on drug users in lieu of the discredited punitive approach.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Health and Human Services

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair
The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Housing

From: 
Paula Yoshioka, Vice President, Government Relations and External Affairs, The
Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 6, 2018

Hrg: House Committee on Health and Human Services and Committee on Housing Joint
Hearing; Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 9:30 AM in Room 329

Re: **Support for H.B. 2281, Relating to Homelessness**

My name is Paula Yoshioka, and I am a Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's). I would like to express my **support** for H.B. 2281, Relating to Homelessness. The bill would appropriate funds to support efforts to end homelessness.

The mission of Queen's is to provide quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all the people of Hawai'i, which includes our most vulnerable and underserved patient populations like the homeless. Hawaii has the highest per capita rate of homelessness in the nation, with roughly 5,000 homeless individuals heavily distributed on Oahu and concentrated in Honolulu and on the Waianae Coast.^{1,2} An upwards of 64% of all hospital visits by the homeless are at Queen's, where care is delivered at partial or no reimbursement.

There is a high utilization of Emergency Department (ED) resources by homeless individuals for non-emergent needs. Many of our homeless patients are Super Utilizers of the ED and suffer from mental health and substance abuse issues.³ Queen's believes that increasing coordinated care services for our homeless patients and connecting them to community resources such as supportive housing services, social services, behavioral health, etc. will address underlying issues that may stem from their unique circumstances. Therefore, we respectfully request consideration for the inclusion of the Emergency Department Homelessness Assessment Pilot Program from H.B. 1761 into the bill.

¹ The Department of Housing and Urban Development, "The 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress", December 2017

² State of Hawaii, Homeless Point-in-Time Count, January 22, 2017

³ HHIC Special Homeless Project, 2016

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

Queen's believes that community partnerships to provide medical respite is critical in the healing process for our homeless patients, who require additional time to recover in a more appropriate level of care setting after their acute care treatment. We would appreciate the committee's consideration of establishing a pilot program for medical respite care for the chronically homeless to leverage community-based resources to deliver care coordination and navigation in a cost-effective manner. Those who experience homelessness deserve to have access to community resources and the care they need in more appropriate settings.

The costs to the entire continuum of care—from hospitals to long-term care facilities to home-based services—of treating the homeless population are large and growing. There are still unmet needs for our homeless patients and while Queen's has been a leader in care coordination, we know that much more needs to be done within the community to close the gaps in services and supports for our homeless population. Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Committee on Health & Human Services

Jon Gabriel, Student

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Support for HB2281, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hello, my name is Jon Gabriel and I am a Master's of Social Work student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am testifying in favor of HB2281.

In my first semester I was placed at Lighthouse Outreach Center, an emergency homeless shelter in Waipahu. Up until then, I had zero experience with anything regarding homelessness. In my hometown of Anaheim, the only homeless individuals I had seen were those who were camped on the freeway on-ramps and pushing carts around. When I began working at Lighthouse Outreach Center, I was surprised to find that most of the guests there were families. I witnessed children eat, sleep, and do homework in less than ideal conditions.

According to the State of Hawaii Homeless Point-in-Time Count published January 22, 2017, "A total of 2,685 individuals were counted as family members living in 666 households. This represents a 19 percent decrease in the total number of homeless family individuals compared to 2016. Within those families, a total of 299 children were found living unsheltered. Sheltered families totaled 539 households with 2,162 persons including 1,250 children (354 in emergency shelters and 896 in transitional housing); down compared to 2016." The downward trend shows success in reducing homelessness but this problem is far from over. Thousands of children are still unable to have a home to call their own.

Homeless individuals and families with nowhere else to go will find solace in the ohana zones and receive the help they need to be housed. In addition, revenue of the State of Hawaii provided to the HPHA will facilitate public housing improvements and renovations. These sections and the rest of the proposed plans of HB2281 mean that homeless children will be able to find a safe place to eat and sleep. They'll be able to have a quiet home to study. They will have transportation to school. Finally, they'll be given a better opportunity to break the cycle of homelessness. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.