

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

March 19, 2018

TO: The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2753 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Monday, May 19, 2018, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and provides comments. Since the measure was last heard in the House on February 23, 2018, on March 7, 2017, the House Committee on Finance amended HB1900 Relating to the State Budget, with Chair Luke announcing the preference to allow discussion of homeless initiatives to continue through the bill process, and implying that additional homeless funding, if any, would be appropriated through the bill process. Consequently, DHS is modifying its support of this measure, to include additional requests.

As is noted in the preamble, the legislature recognizes that individuals in some homeless encampments develop supportive family like relationships, and asks the department to have courage to try something new, which we interpret to mean for DHS to attempt to replicate a supportive communal environment. The State's Housing First approach to end homelessness is through safe and affordable permanent housing, and our approach to this pilot will emphasize the goal of permanent housing.

As we wrestle with maintaining and expanding the array of successful homeless

services such as Housing First and the Family Assessment Center, we are ever mindful of the complex causes of homelessness, and that investing limited public resources, both human and fiscal, be based upon best practices, experience, and knowledge that address root causes, and avoid symptomatic responses that are expensive and significant, but nonetheless temporary.

We also recognize best practices to address poverty recommend integrating homeless individuals into the community to improve access to transportation, services, education, and employment opportunities, rather than establishing isolated communities from existing educational and economic activities and require extensive investment in infrastructure.

Given that this is a new approach, one that is untested and is without any current administrative process, human or IT resources, we request that the December 2018 due date of Section 3, paragraph (f) be amended to December 2019 to give appropriate time for DHS to address the enumerated items to support a successful pilot. Consequently, we request that the timeframe of paragraph (g) also be extended to June 2020 or beyond.

Further, DHS requests that as a part of the sustainability and success of this endeavor, that it be given the latitude to support ongoing community efforts to develop community based permanent housing solutions, that would also include needed investment in existing state owned structures, including those now in use as shelters, to convert them to permanent housing.

DHS appreciates the amendments to include exemption from Chapters 103D and 103F and adoption of Chapter 91 of interim rules, as those may speed up the process of procurement, though we do not necessarily advocate that this should be the way to conduct the state's business with public funds, in that exceptions will later become the rule. We do want to encourage development of community capacity and innovation which is not necessarily served when procurement processes are altered. Further, we have learned that exemptions from certain rules make eligibility for other regulated benefits or services more difficult than if all rules and codes had been followed. For example, exempting a small site from building codes may make development of an onsite licensed child care setting or access to child care subsidies impossible as federally regulated child care requires compliance with building codes.

Further, DHS reiterates that the current array of homeless services programs are

provided through purchase of services, and asks the legislature to continue to support the existing programs to their full capacity, including the Department's ability to administer and oversee those programs, by supporting the Executive budget requests.

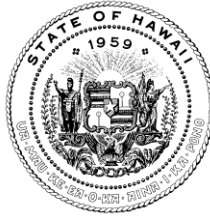
Lastly, DHS is keenly aware that it does not have expertise or knowledge of home constructions, building codes, community design, or other regulations or laws that preserve cultural and environmental resources. However, we are aware there are a number of initiatives ongoing in the different counties and across the country that will require examination in terms of lessons learned to make appropriate plans and recommendations, and avoid working at cross purposes.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill establishes the Ohana Zone Pilot Program. Defines the intent of the pilot program, and sets preliminary milestones that shall be met by the Department of Human Services Office Homeless Programs Office in establishing the pilot program. Appropriates funds. (HB2753 HD1)

In order to continue the momentum in reducing homelessness DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO) requires a minimum of \$13.4 million to continue administering the Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, homeless outreach services, and the Family Assessment Center. DHS asks the Legislature to support the Governor's Executive Budget request to address homelessness which includes \$1.5 million to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) for the Rent Supplement program; \$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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

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

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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
HOUSING
and
HUMAN SERVICES

Monday, March 19, 2018
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2753, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

House Bill 2753, House Draft 1 proposes to establish an 'Ohana Zone pilot program within the Department of Human Services (DHS). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) acknowledges DHS testimony in support and offers the following comments.**

SECTION 3 (b) requires consultation with the Department and with people experiencing homelessness to identify and evaluate locations in which an 'ohana zone may be established. The department notes that much of the state vacant land is held by other state departments, in addition to land with vacant buildings that may be relatively easy to refurbish. The Department suggests the following amendments:

(b) The department shall consult with land holding state agencies, as appropriate, including the department of land and natural resources, the department of transportation and the department of accounting and general services, the governor's coordinator on homelessness, and with people experiencing homelessness and their advocates

to identify and evaluate locations in which an ohana zone may be established, beginning with the locations previously identified as potential safe zone sites in the final report submitted by the working group to examine the feasibility of safe zones pursuant to Act 212, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017.

The Department notes that it is not within our mission to manage or run homeless facilities, but the Department has leased property to other agencies or provided other agencies a right-of-entry to use properties for homeless facilities. And because the Department does not run homeless facilities, there is no need for the Department to develop interim administrative rules.

The Department also notes that the City and County of Honolulu (City) has Ohana Zones which allow for additional dwelling units under certain circumstances in single family dwellings. Ohana Zones have been expanded by the City as one way to address homelessness. The Department is concerned that the use of the same term may cause confusion in the general public.

While the Department supports the Ohana Zone concept, the Department prefers House Bill 2281, House Draft 1 over House Bill 2753, House Draft 1 because it is a much broader bill that addresses various causes and components of homelessness, rather than just one aspect. The Department suggests that some of the language from House Bill 2753 House Draft 1 be incorporated into House Bill 2281 House Draft 1 specifically the amendments provided by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness in his original testimony on the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

March 19, 2018

TO: The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

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

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

SUBJECT: **HB 2753 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports the intent of this measure, and offers the following comments. The Coordinator defers to the Department of Human Services (DHS) in regard to the contracting and implementation of homeless services, including the development of performance metrics and the level of funding required for implementation of the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish a three-year Ohana Zone Pilot Program within the Department of Human Services (DHS), and provides an appropriation of an unspecified level of funding for fiscal year 2018-2019. The bill requires DHS to consult with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and with people experiencing homelessness to identify and evaluate locations in which an Ohana Zone may be established, including locations that are on private property. In addition, the bill requires DHS – in consultation with people experiencing homelessness - to establish criteria, a monthly timetable of milestones, performance measures, evaluation criteria, and monitoring and oversight controls for the Ohana Zone Pilot Program by December 31, 2018, and requires the establishment of an Ohana Zone no later than June 30, 2019. DHS will also be required to submit reports to the Legislature

prior to the 2019, 2020, and 2021 regular sessions in regard to the pilot program. The Ohana Zone pilot program will sunset on June 30, 2021.

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

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

In addition, the construction of housing facilities requires specialized skills and expertise that may be beyond the current capacity of DHS, and the Coordinator recommends the

designation of another executive branch agency with this specific expertise if the Legislature's intent is for an Ohana Zone to include construction of facilities and if installation of infrastructure (e.g. sewer, water, and electricity) is deemed to be necessary.

The Coordinator further notes that the costs to implement this measure – including installation of necessary infrastructure and housing-focused social services – may be significant, and the Coordinator is concerned about potential adverse impacts on priorities identified in the Governor's Supplemental Budget request. The Governor's Supplemental Budget request includes funding for critical programs, such as for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, and homeless outreach. 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 Supplemental Budget request.

Finally, the State approach to homelessness includes a focus on oversight and accountability for public funds used for this purpose. DHS established performance measures for homeless services contracts in response to Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016. This approach emphasizes reporting and transparency, and ties payment for homeless services to provider performance. In 2017, DHS executed a series of contracts for housing placement, emergency grant, homeless outreach, and shelter that establish specific performance benchmarks and condition payment in part upon meeting these benchmarks, which are related to the end goal of placing homeless individuals into permanent housing. The State's intent is to apply similar benchmarks and conditions to all new contracts for homeless services. The Coordinator defers to DHS for specific guidance on benchmarks and conditions for the Ohana Zone Pilot Program if this measure proceeds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

HB-2753-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 9:45:14 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lance Niimi	Testifying for County of Hawaii Mayor's Office	Support	Yes

Comments:

Dear Senator Will Espero, Chair and Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
The Senate Committee on Housing

Dear Senator Josh Gren, Chair and Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair: The Senate Committee on Human Services.

As Mayor Harry Kim's Coordinator for Homelessness for Hawaii County, I support HB2753 for the following reasons:

1. We have already piloted a mini-version of an Ohana Zone on Hawaii Island called Camp Kikaha in Kailua, Kona and are ready to extend the knowledge gained from running this project to a larger, designated site called Village 9 in an area adjacent (on the Kailua side) of our West Hawaii Civic Center. We are also examining other sites in East Hawaii as well. Through this project we learned: 1) The importance of a thorough Assessment process (Assessment Center Concept), so that those coming to us are assigned to appropriate services and resources to ensure the greatest possibility of success. 2) The value of permanent supportive housing early on so that our clientele may develop a sense of Ohana with those with whom they live and not have those positive relationships disrupted as they move on to higher level shelter opportunities. The supportive element means people with true compassion for the homeless population that we serve who provide counseling support and connection to available resources. 3) If funds are available for an Assessment Center as well as permanent supportive housing, we would start our project utilizing shelter types that could function as emergency as well as permanent structures, are more aesthetic to the beholder than tarps which have a limited lifespan, afford a level of privacy and comfort of a home-like atmosphere, could be constructed in a relatively short period of time, offer true protection from strong winds and heavy winds, not present a fire hazard, and still be affordable, e.g. the Intershelter Domes. 4) Ohana Zones would also provide opportunity where feasible for self-governance which facilitates a sense of ownership, pride, honor and dignity (PhD). 5) Our village site would also encourage self-sufficiency, and be a one stop shop for services, a possible community garden, aquaponics employment training and work opportunities (e.g. to be Uber drivers, play ground for children), etc. 6) Village 9 has already earmarked/funded for an environmental assessment and master plan process which we expect to be completed by July, 2018.

Based on the above, we would like to be considered as one of the pilot projects for an Ohana Zone, described in HB2753. Another possible site for an Ohana Zone is a church site in Pahoa, pastored by Pastor Daniel Kikawa who has a non-profit, currently planning to over see a safe zone site for the homelessness in the Pahoa area.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony supporting HB2753.

Sincerely,

Lance Niimi, Homeless Coordinator, County of Hawaii



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII
The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Development & Business
Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 9:30 A.M.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 2753 RELATING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY
REVIEW BOARD**

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **strongly supports** SB 2753, which clarifies the intent of the Small Business Regulatory Review Board's powers when reviewing state and county administrative rules that impact small business.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

For Hawaii's Small Business Regulatory Review Board (SBRRB) to be effective and support small business in Hawaii it is essential that all stakeholders have clarity of the SBRRB powers and mission. This clarity will ensure that the SBRRB outreach efforts are successful and embraced by all members of the small business community in Hawaii.


Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Housing

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

Date: March 14, 2018

Hrg: Senate Committee on Housing and Committee on Human Services Joint Hearing;
Monday, March 19, 2018 at 2:45 PM in Room 016

Re: Support for H.B. 2753, H.D. 1, Relating to Homelessness

My name is Paula Yoshioka and I am a Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's). I appreciate the opportunity to provide support for the intent of H.B. 2753, H.D. 1, relating to homelessness. This bill would establish a pilot program for the creation of ohana zones, with the goal of improving the health and well-being of individuals experiencing homelessness and providing individuals experiencing homelessness with the needed services.

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 those experiencing homelessness. Hawaii has the highest per capita rate of homelessness in the nation and Queen's provides the majority of medical care to our homeless population. Nearly 65% of all state homeless hospital encounters are at The Queen's Medical Center and in 2015, Queen's experienced a net loss of \$10.6 million for treating individuals experiencing homelessness.

As the major trauma center for the state of Hawaii and the Pacific Basin, Queen's provides comprehensive trauma services, is the only Comprehensive Stroke Center, and was recently designated by the American College of Surgeons as a Level One Trauma Center. Over the years, ED visits have steadily been on the rise and our average daily census has increased to 180 patient visits. Overutilization of the ED for non-emergent services for homeless patients continues to place a strain on our health care system and too often leads to ED crowding and excessive ED ambulance diversion. Many of our homeless patients are Super Utilizers of the ED and suffer from mental health and substance abuse issues.¹ 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

¹ 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.

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. (Attachment 1)

Further, 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. Those who experience homelessness deserve to have access to community resources and the care they need in more appropriate settings. We would very much appreciate the committees' consideration of establishing a pilot program for medical respite care for the chronically homeless (Attachment 1)

The costs to the entire continuum of care—from hospitals to long-term care facilities to home-based services—for 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 the opportunity to testify on this measure.

ATTACHMENT 1

Testimony: The Queen's Health Systems

Proposed Language from HB 1761: Request to Add to HB 2753

Section XX- Add:

In addition to the harm that homelessness inflicts on individuals, there are hidden costs of homelessness that are borne by the community. The over-utilization of emergency department services for non-emergency conditions by individuals experiencing homelessness puts upward pressure on medical costs for everyone.

Based on publicly available statistics, the outlook at emergency departments is worsening. Hawaii Health Information Corporation estimated that Hawaii's hospitals statewide had around fifteen thousand nine hundred emergency department visits by patients experiencing homelessness in 2015. By the end of fiscal year 2016, Queen's Medical Center's emergency department alone logged almost eleven thousand visits by individuals experiencing homelessness. Further, between September 1, 2016, and November 30, 2016, at the Queen's Medical Center, thirty-nine individuals experiencing homelessness accounted for approximately seven hundred thirty-four emergency department visits.

The need for Medical Respite care for individuals experiencing homelessness is a critical part of the continuum of care for this population. Once individuals experiencing homelessness are ready for discharge from a hospital, many times they do not have a place to go to complete their post-acute care recovery. Medical Respite facilities not only provide emergency shelter, they also serve as a "place of healing". Eligible guests are able to recover from acute conditions of medical, surgical or psychiatric nature.

The legislature finds that it is in the public's interest to explore methods to mitigate the increasing cost of medical care due to the unnecessary use of emergency department visits by patients experiencing homelessness as well as ensuring they have a place to go to complete their post-acute care recovery and will receive transitional services into the community.

Additionally, the legislature finds that identifying patients experiencing and at risk for homelessness in emergency departments and conducting individualized assessments of those patients may increase the likelihood that those patients will receive referrals to services that address their particular situations. The legislature further finds that providing these patients with referrals to Medical Respite facilities with appropriate social services and other necessary services, such as preventative medical care and mental health treatment, may decrease the number of unnecessary, repeated emergency department visits by patients experiencing homelessness.

The purpose of this Act is to:

- Establish a pilot program to place social workers and social worker designees in emergency departments to identify individuals experiencing or at risk for homelessness and provide individualized assessments and referrals for wrap-around social services with a goal of reducing costs associated with chronic use of emergency departments;
- Establish a pilot program for Medical Respite in the community that will offer medical, nursing, psychiatric, and other care in at least two sites for accommodations for individuals experiencing homelessness discharged from a hospital.

SECTION XX. Definitions. For purposes of this Act:

"Emergency department" means a department in a hospital designated to provide critical care to stabilize and support a patient's condition due to sudden illness or injury.

"Governing body" means the policy making authority, whether an individual or a group, that exercises general direction over the affairs of a facility and establishes policies concerning its operation and the welfare of the individuals it serves.

"Hospital" means any institution with an organized medical staff which admits patients for inpatient care, diagnosis, observation, and treatment.

"License" means a license issued by the relevant department regulating the profession at issue that certifies that an individual practicing the profession is in compliance with all existing state and federal laws and rules.

"Medical Respite" means acute and post-acute medical care for homeless persons who are too ill or frail to recover from a physical illness or injury on the streets but are not ill enough to be in a hospital.

"Medical Respite facility" means a facility that provides acute and post-acute medical care for homeless persons who are too ill or frail to recover from a physical illness or injury on the streets but are not ill enough to be in a hospital.

"Medical staff" means physicians and other individuals licensed by the State, who are permitted by law and who have been authorized by the governing body to provide patient care services within a facility.

"Physician" means a doctor of medicine or osteopathy licensed by the Hawaii medical board pursuant to chapter 453, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

"Social worker" means the same as in section 467E-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

"Social worker designee" means a staff person other than a social worker but with similar professional qualifications, such as nursing, psychology, psychiatry, counseling, or human development, and two years of social work supervised experience in a health care setting working directly with individuals and who is supervised by means of consultation with a social worker.

SECTION XX. (a) There is established within the department of health for administrative purposes a pilot program to be known as the emergency department homelessness assessment

pilot program. The department of health, in consultation with Hawaii interagency council on homelessness and any other appropriate agency, shall serve as the administrator of the pilot program.

(b) A participating hospital in the pilot program shall place social workers or social worker designees in its emergency departments. The social workers or social worker designees shall identify patients experiencing homelessness or patients at risk of experiencing homelessness, assess the patients' current circumstances, and refer those patients to appropriate and available social services with a goal of reducing costs associated with chronic use of emergency departments.

The social workers and social worker designees who provide services as part of this pilot program shall be employees of the participating hospital or individuals who are otherwise permitted by law and the governing body of a hospital to provide social services in the hospital.

(c) Each participating hospital shall submit qualitative and quantitative data as determined by the department of health to the department of health to demonstrate whether there is any correlation between interventions by social workers or social worker designees and the repeated use of emergency departments by patients experiencing homelessness.

(d) The department of health shall submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2019. The report shall contain a summary and explanation of the data submitted by participating hospitals regarding the efficacy of emergency department intervention by social workers and social worker designees in mitigating the number of unnecessary emergency department visits by patients experiencing homelessness or patients at risk of experiencing homelessness. The report shall also contain findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, for continuation, modification, or termination of the pilot program.

(e) The emergency department homelessness assessment pilot program shall cease to exist on June 30, 2019.

SECTION XX. (a) There is established within the department of health for administrative purposes a pilot program to be known as the Medical Respite pilot program. The department of health, in consultation with Hawaii interagency council on homelessness and any other appropriate agency, shall serve as the administrator of the pilot program.

(b) A participating community human services provider in partnership with a hospital in the pilot program shall provide emergency housing for eligible individuals experiencing homelessness discharged from the participating hospital and will include but not limited to meals, case management, medical, nursing, and psychiatric care.

(c) The Medical Respite facilities utilized shall:

- Be ADA accessible for at least two residents;
- Be in compliance with existing standards of State safety codes and local, and/or State health and sanitation codes;
- Be kept clean and free of bed bugs, dirt, grime, mold, or other hazardous substances that detract from a healthy environment;
- Be equipped with first aid equipment and an evacuation plan in the case of an emergency;

(d) The department of health shall submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2019. The report shall contain findings relating to the number of individuals experiencing homelessness referred to the program, average length of stay, and average occupancy level. The report shall provide recommendations, including any proposed legislation, for continuation, modification, or termination of the pilot program.

(e) The Medical Respite pilot program shall cease to exist on June 30, 2019.

SECTION XX. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ 600,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to the department of health for implementation of the emergency department homelessness assessment pilot program, including all program costs and hiring of necessary staff.

The department of health shall reimburse participating hospitals for expenses directly related to the emergency department homelessness assessment pilot program; provided that no funds shall be disbursed to participating hospitals unless matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the participating hospital. All funds designated as matching funds by the participating hospital shall be funds expended by the participating hospital for the pilot program.

There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ 600,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to the department of health for implementation of the Medical Respite pilot program, including all program costs and hiring of necessary staff.

The department of health shall reimburse participating community human services providers in partnership with a participating hospital for expenses directly related to the Medical Respite pilot program; provided that no funds shall be disbursed to participating community human services providers in partnership with a participating hospital unless matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the participating community human services providers in partnership with a participating hospital. All funds designated as matching funds by the participating community human services providers in partnership with a participating hospital shall be funds expended by the participating community human services providers in partnership with a participating hospital for the pilot program.

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

SECTION XX. This Act shall take effect upon its approval; provided that section 4 shall take effect on July 1, 2018.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

COMMENTS on HB 2753, HD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senator Will Espero, Chair, Senator Josh Green, Chair, and Members,
Committees on Housing and Human Services
FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer
Hearing: **Monday, March 19, 2018; 2:45 PM; CR 016**

Chair Espero, Chair Green, Members, Committees on Housing and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Comments on **HB 2753, HD1**, which would establish an Ohana Zones Pilot Program within the Department of Human Services, and set preliminary milestones. 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.

For the first time in years, Hawai'i's homelessness rate went down in 2017. Current programs are working to turn the tide and we have finally made a dent in homelessness. However, given the magnitude of the problem, we need to increase our investment in solutions. Even as the State seeks new solutions, we cannot neglect the proven programs that have been effective. We must also continue to invest in the most critical solution to homelessness—permanent affordable rental housing units. Catholic Charities Hawai'i advocated for the establishment of the Rental Housing Trust Fund (now the Rental Housing Revolving Fund) in the 1990's, which now is a major state resource for the creation of affordable rentals.

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

- **Impact on Current Services:** We are concerned that new solutions for homelessness not impact on funding for current ongoing services which are effectively moving people into housing.
- **Funding for 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.
- **Flexibility:** 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.
- **Housing Navigation/Supports:** We urge a strong focus on housing navigation and development of supports needed to obtain and maintain permanent housing.

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.





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

**TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 2753, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO
HOMELESSNESS**

**Senate Committee on Housing
Hon. Will Espero, Chair
Hon. Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair**

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

**Monday, March 19, 2018, 2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

Honorable Chair Espero, Chair Green, and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 400 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of House Bill 2753, HD 1, relating to homelessness.

According to the 2017 statewide *Point In Time Count* (PITC) report, 7,220 houseless persons were counted on a single night in January last year, down 9 percent overall from 2016. Yet, O’ahu experienced a 0.4 percent *increase* from the previous year, with 4,959 people counted, up from 4,940 the year before. Hawai’i island saw the largest decrease in its homeless population, which fell 32 percent, or 441 people. Maui County had a 22 percent drop, or 249 people, while Kaua’i saw a 7 percent drop, or 30 fewer homeless people. Notably, the size of the houseless population on O’ahu is up more than 25 percent from 2009, when 3,638 homeless people were counted. Additionally, Department of Education officials have estimated that between 3,500-4,000 public school students experience homelessness at some point during the school year—last year’s PITC captured just over half of them—and over 91,000 students are economically disadvantaged. We know, then, that our state’s homeless population is consistently larger than the statistics show. It remains the highest per-capita homeless population in the country, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Over 30 percent of juvenile arrests in Hawai’i are for running away from home, the highest proportion in the nation. Nationally, one in seven young people between the ages of 10 and 18 will

run away. Approximately 75 percent of runaways are female, while 46 percent of runaway and homeless youth report being physically abused, 38 percent report being emotionally abused, and 17 percent report being forced into unwanted sexual activity by a family or household member, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Roughly 30 percent of runaway children will be approached for sexual exploitation within 48 hours of being on the run, with over 80 percent being approached for the commercial sex trade during the course of their time on streets. A federal study found that an estimated 38,600 runaway youth have been sexually assaulted, in the company of someone known to be sexually abusive, or engaged in sexual activity in exchange for money, food, or shelter. Runaways are perceived as easy targets for sex traffickers because they lack stable shelter, a supportive environment, and financial resources, placing them at greater risk of forced prostitution and sexual servitude.

Traffickers exploit our limited number of available shelter beds to lure young people into exploitation. As the homeless childcare provider Covenant House observes, traffickers tell homeless youth that shelters are full and ask, “Where are you going to go? Why don’t you come with me? I’ll take care of you.” Coupled with threats of and actual physical and sexual violence against the victims or their families, these coercive techniques compel runaway youth to remain enslaved. LGBTQ youth, who comprise an estimated 40 percent of the runaway and homeless youth population in the United States, are exponentially more likely to fall prey to human traffickers because of discrimination, family and community trauma, and a longing for comfort and acceptance (an estimated 26 percent of LGBTQ adolescents are rejected by their families and put out of their homes simply for being open and honest about who they are). In providing care for victims of human trafficking, IMUAlliance has heard their stories hundreds of times.

We must find innovative ways to fund homeless services, especially human services, health care, outreach, and rapid rehousing to our state’s unsheltered and at-risk population, many of whom are gainfully employed and contributing our economy. Moreover, we must find a balance between rampant real estate speculation and meeting the needs of our state’s most economically vulnerable residents. Just as our homeless population has soared over the past few years, so, too, has our state’s cost of housing. The median price of condominiums on O’ahu increased 6 percent in the summer of 2017 to a record \$425,000, while the median price for single-family homes increased by 3 percent to \$795,000, according to the Honolulu Board of Realtors, a number that they expect to increase by at least another 5 percent in 2018. Average fair market rent for two-bedroom apartments in *outlying* communities in the City and County of Honolulu now exceeds \$2,000, with the cost of a four-bedroom home in urban Honolulu now exceeding \$1.1 million. At least 43 percent of residences in Hawai’i are owner unoccupied, according to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, meaning that nearly 50 percent—and by some estimates over half—of Hawai’i’s homes are likely investment properties.

Many of those properties, in turn, are owned by mainland and foreign buyers, whose real estate market speculation is a prime driver of Hawai’i’s highest-in-the-nation cost of housing.

According to a study released in May of 2016 by the Hawai'i Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, there are "clear distinctions" between the average price of homes bought by local residents, mainlanders, and foreigners. Analyzing purchases made between 2008 and 2015, DBEDT found: "The average sale price was highest among foreign buyers. The average sale price of the total of 5,775 homes sold to foreign buyers from 2008 to 2015 was \$786,186, 28.3 percent higher than the average sale price to the mainlanders (\$612,770) and 64.7 percent higher than the average sale price to local buyers (\$477,460)."

Researchers who authored the National Low Income Housing Coalition's *Out of Reach 2017* report found that a full-time worker would need to earn \$35.20/hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair market value in our state, with Honolulu experiencing a 67 percent increase in fair market rent between 2005 and 2015. Average rent for a two-bedroom unit surpassed \$2,000 in recent years, with minimum wage workers needed to log 116 hours per week at their jobs to afford a modest one-bedroom apartment at fair market value and 139 hours per week to afford a two-bedroom—a number that is equivalent to working 20 hours a day with no days off year-round. In the past three years alone, Honolulu rent has increased by more than 25 percent. While 43 percent of Hawai'i residents are renters (a number that does not include individuals and families renting outside of the regulated rental market), they earn an average wage of \$15.64/hour, scarcely enough to meet their basic needs. One out of every four households in Hawai'i report that they are "doubling up" or are three paychecks or less away from being homeless, per the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice. Additionally, 54 percent of households are cost-burdened, meaning that they pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing costs, a number that rises to 83 percent of extremely low-income households. Put simply, homelessness is directly tied to our state's exorbitant cost of living and penchant for catering to people who use the islands as their own private Monopoly board. We beseech you to seek innovative ways of making Hawai'i more affordable, while funding services that show aloha for our economically disadvantaged neighbors. The establishment of ohana zones for the homeless is a positive step, which will allow for the coordination of a centralized continuum of care (including social and medical services) and implementation of strategies to assist people in transitioning into more permanent shelter, while respecting homeless communities that have come together to help one another in a manner that is equivalent to the formation of a family.

When you fund housing, outreach, and human services for the homeless, you are helping to end slavery in Hawai'i. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance

HB-2753-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 6:38:33 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

To the Honorable Will Espero, Chair; the Honorable Breene Harimoto, ViceChair and the Members of the Senate Committee on Housing:

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

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB2753 HD1** relating to Ohana Zone Pilot Program; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB2753 HD1** and supports its passage.

HB2753 HD1 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it establishes the Ohana Zone Pilot Program; defines the intent of the pilot program, and sets preliminary milestones that shall be met by the Department of Human Services Office Homeless Programs Office in establishing the pilot program; and appropriates funds.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e 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 352358 (2016)).

Given that **HB2753 HD1** establishes the Ohana Zone Pilot Program; defines the intent of the pilot program, and sets preliminary milestones that shall be met by the Department of Human Services Office Homeless Programs Office in establishing the pilot program; and appropriates funds, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,
/s/ Melodie Aduja
Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee
Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Piikea Kalakau. I am a teacher at Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative because I believe it presents a viable option in addressing our extreme homeless problem here on O‘ahu. After watching the documentary *No Room in Paradise* a few years ago, I was heavily impacted by the many challenges faced by our houseless communities on island and became very concerned with the future of local citizens considering the affordable housing crisis we are currently facing.

In ancient Hawai‘i, the concept of *pu‘uhonua* meant forgiveness and rehabilitation for those who needed it. Ancient Hawaiians knew that this type of treatment was necessary in a sustainable and functioning society, and made access to a safe haven available to anyone without question and regardless of their status. *Pu‘uhonua* served as a place of refuge, forgiveness and starting clean for society’s most vulnerable individuals. It is no wonder that this practice is still alive in modern Hawai‘i such as at the camp “Pu‘uhonua o Wai‘anae”, where houseless individuals are accepted, cared for and held accountable for their actions within the community.

In addition, some people prefer to live simply or traditionally such as in a camp setting. This was expressed in the film *No Room in Paradise* by residents of Pu‘uhonua o Wai‘anae. Some people at that specific camp identify as native

Hawaiian and grew up camping and living off the land as children. On the Leeward coast, many people choose to live somewhat traditionally, hunting or fishing to provide for their families just as their ancestors did. These people have expressed a desire to live a simple, traditional lifestyle as they were raised in comparison to the modern lifestyle others might prefer.

Opponents to this bill may argue that houseless communities on O‘ahu should be eradicated or disbanded simply based off their economic status or the fact that we have a tourism-driven economy. The fact is, many of our homeless individuals have faced financial, mental and physical hardship as a result of our capitalist society that is relentless in its pursuit to drive out poor, lower-class, minorities and native communities.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe homelessness is an important issue, and would like to see this legislation pass because our houselessness crisis a humanitarian issue that has been mostly ignored or ineffectively addressed for far too long here in Hawai‘i.

Sincerely,

Piikea Kalakau
7th grade AVID English Teacher
Wai‘anae Intermediate School

March 14, 2018

To: Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
And members of the Senate Committee on Housing
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
And members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

RE: HB2753 HD 1, Relating to Homelessness– SUPPORT

Hearing Date and Time: March 19, 2018 at 2:45PM
Hearing Room: Conference Room 016

Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and members of the Senate Committees on Housing and Human Services, I am testifying in support of HB 2735 HD 1.

My name is Nicole Woolsey. I am a student in the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

As a social work student, I have learned about equality, human rights and oppression. I have learned about the effects of each and I've learned about ways in which social work can help to improve current situations. In the program, we learn how to work with and protect those that we work with.

I stand in strong support of this bill to do just that. The rate of homelessness seems to be on a steady incline and yet funds allocated towards this cause don't seem to match appropriately. With a lack of services, and safe places, those who are experiencing homelessness have less options to better their situations. The passing of this bill, will not only help provide shelter, food, and other necessary services to those in need, but it will also provide hope and support for those who may not currently feel supported.

Again, I stand in support of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Nicole Woolsey

woolsey2@hawaii.edu

HB-2753-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 3:21:25 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/19/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Goodman	Testifying for Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force	Support	No

Comments:

We support HB2753 and the Ohana Zone pilot program. Our primary interest is the passage of HB2014, "The Pu`uhonua Homeless Villages Act", because it is a completely comprehensive solution, that will end the homeless crisis. Because HB2014 mandates using low-cost, high-tech modular dwellings that cost 94% of traditional brick and mortar, we can afford to build 8000 units, which is enough to house everyone. However, we support Ohana Zones because they can provide interim relief to people who at this time, must choose between homeless shelters or the streets. We suggest however, modifying the Ohana Zone pilot program, so as to incorporate the strategies embodied in HB2014. Specifically, we should have people move onto designated home-sites within Ohana Zones. Then, gradually replace their tents or other structures with permanent, low-cost, high-tech modular dwellings. In other words, bring permanent housing to the residents instead of bringing residents to permanent housing. That way, funds spent on Ohana Zones, would actually be money spent on the first stage of constructing a permanent "Pu`uhonua Homeless Village".

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Geshiel Malia Matas. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because safe zones doesn't do anything affective to help homeless residents. According to Hawaii Public Radio written by Wayne Yoshioka on February 7, Scott Morishige , the governor's coordinator on homelessness, says "...concern about tent cities and safe zones is that they do nothing to get people out of the situation of homelessness". As stated in the same article, Cynthia Rezentes, the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, "...locations recomended are all in the tsunami inundation zone area". My opinion is that safe zones wouldn't be any help to homelessness. There are some homeless residents who chose to live that life. If this initiative is forwarded, some homeless/houseless residents might not take the offer.

Supporters to this bill may argue that safe zones will be able to provide water, food, clothes and other supplies they will need. The government will be using money to build the safe zone. If this bill was to be forwarded to the next stage, my questions are, how big will the zone be? Will homeless need to pay to stay? How long will homeless residents stay? You might not be able to answer these questions. There is one solution and that is to stop the bill.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because there is no good it will do to the community or homeless individuals/residents.

Sincerely,

Geshiel Malia Matas

Wai‘anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai

My name is Kawena Kahoonei. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because in the bill text, it says that Ohana Zones should initially, be temporary. My thoughts about that is why are you going to put homeless into this Ohana Zone, get them happy and get their hopes up that they will have somewhere safe to stay if you aren't 100% sure that you will continue it or have more of them in the future. When you do that you're just killing their hopes about feeling safe and "normal" for the first time in a long time. The article also says "The availability of the private property as a possible location of an Ohana Zone". What I think about this statement is they should not be making the 'availability of private property' an option on where they can build these Ohana Zones because you are using someone else private land to build a sorta "shelter" for homeless.

Supporters to this bill may argue that Ohana Zones are a good idea because they can provide a home to homeless and they keep our streets empty and clean.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because it can also cause a bigger problem between the homeless because not everyone of the homeless will get along or like each other, and because when others think of it as a 'home' for the homeless, I think home is wherever your heart is or wherever you

feel you belong at so if you are trying to force the homeless into this so-called 'home', you are just forcing them into somewhere they feel like they don't belong and you are tearing them away from where they feel they belong at and where they feel accepted. Another thought I had about this is if this bill is actually successful, how will you tell the homeless about it? Will you just go around saying they should come by this place because you made it for them to live at? I think that is another reason they should not have this bill because the homeless may not believe you or they might be a little unsure at first and that will cause the bill to be unsuccessful.

Sincerely,

Kawena Kahoonei

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, and Wakai,

My name is Rece Edayan. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because all that’s going to do is put them back on the streets because they won’t be able to pay. Along with that is homeless sweeps because they will go back to the streets and put them further than they started and it’s just better off without homeless safe zones. Adding on to that, homeless sweeps are already a big enough problem to deal with so creating this would put them And us in a worst situation than we started.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because this would add on to the millions of things we still have to fix.

Sincerely,
Rece Edayan
Wai‘anae Intermediate School
Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai.

My name is Ezra Eser Jose Domingo. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because it's barely doing anything, some homeless people only take advantage of this program and the rest is just like that. My evidence backing up my claim is located in the 4th paragraph located in the article "Hawaii considers letting homeless to camp in specially designated safe zones" from Fox News, the following says "I think everyone's just trying to nibble away at the edge of this homeless issue, providing as many alternatives as possible," said Rep. Bob McDermott". I agree because not that much people is taking advantage of it (just like how i said in the beginning). My second piece of evidence comes from the passage "Homeless safe zones are catching on — everywhere but Oahu" From Hawaii news now, the following says "In the end this does not help the community at all and this does not serve the benefit of those experiencing homelessness, -Marc Alexander" I agree because it's useless with no contributor. In conclusion it's useless because people don't take full advantage of the program and it's a waste of money for the state.

Supporters to this bill may argue that it helps the homeless that actually participates, but i disagree because the money put into the project is worth to help 500+ homeless but the income of homeless that are apart of program isn't 500+ it's just a handful of people that want to get help, but why spend money on 500+ people if only 10%+ will take advantage, what about the other half? Think about it.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because it's not helping all homeless and not full effect on the community.

Sincerely,

Ezra Eser Jose Domingo

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators, “Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, & Wakai”

My name is Keona Chaves Keawe. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because homeless people may abuse this right and bring drugs into the safe zone. I believe that only people that are sober and did not do drugs should be allowed to live in these safe zones. I am against this objective because there are people who work hard to stay in their home and you are just going to give it to them. A area that could have been made for homes people will work for.

Supporters to this bill may argue that this plan may decrease the number of homeless on the streets. Yes but what happens when a family that works just stops? They will do that because the when they hear that to live in the safe zone has little or no cost. They will quit their job and move to the safe zone.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because we should not waste land that can be for other houses for other families who work.

Sincerely,
Keona Chaves Keawe
Wai‘anae Intermediate School
Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, and Wakai,

My name is Iris Gee Ty. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State Of Hawaii the sum of \$___ or so much thereof as may be necessary. We are not totally sure of how much it will cost the city and the state to support and develop these safe zones. We also do not know if the safe zones will be beneficial to the community or if they will make matters worse. There have been complaints that homeless people from the Pu'uuhonua O Waianae encampment have been dumping human waste into the nearby Pokai Bay. This encampment was a model for what safe zones could look like but it seems that, that is no longer the case. Even though it may only be some people within the encampment that do dump their waste into the ocean, it is very disrespecting to Hawaii's environment and resources. The safe zones will be supplied with essential needs but it is possible that people within the community can be able to abuse the resources. Also, since rent is raising in Hawaii people may just want to go to a safe zone to live because it is free and they won't have to pay. Home prices and rent will start to decline, once others hear that Hawaii's rent is so low they might the state may come and Hawaii will start to become overpopulated. Although, there is also another thing that can happen. Safe zones may fill with homeless and eventually Hawaii will no longer be paradise. Instead, it will no longer be like modern times. We won have a stable economy without tourist and Hawaii will run out of funds. Then what happens?

Although, supporters to this bill may argue that the 5 million that has been requested to be used for homeless sweeps should be used to cover some costs of the safe zones. The idea would work since sweeps only temporarily move most homeless. But however, without knowing complete costs we won't be able to determine if the 5 million will last long or be of much benefit. They may also argue that safe zones are only temporary. They may be temporary but when time comes when safe zones are shut down the number of homeless people can possible increase or possibly double in amount or worse. Which is why this initiative should be stopped. If not, Hawaii will be spending millions, and all of their natural resources will start to deplete. Hawaii will end up worse then when it started.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because It will effect Hawaii in more negative ways than positive. It is very much possible that once this initiative is taken Hawaii could go broke, homeless people amounts will raise. With all these setbacks it will be harder for Hawaii to bounce back from where it will be especially if it goes further back from where it is now. It will be affected financially and will be pushed away from modern times.

Sincerely,

Iris Gee Ty

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, and Wakai,

My name is Lexie-Marie Kia-Cox. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because, according to a Hawaii News Now article written by Holly Juscen in 2010, “It’s nice to talk about safe zones, however the reality of when you do start talking about them in the community there is going to be an opposition.” Safe Zones should not be established because when brought up to the people of our community there will be a riot against things such as, where the residents will go, what kinds of services will be needed? Will the tourism population decrease because of this? Will this even be effective? What will happen when the safe zones turn out the exact opposite? As said in a Hawaii News Now article by Holly Juscen written in 2010, “Tent cities do exist on the mainland, one in sacramento had to be closed down because of drugs and unrest.” If safe zones were to happen here in Hawaii, and the rules were broken, what kinds of penalties would there be for the rule breakers, what kinds of new rules would be enforced to prevent that from happening? After reading over the House Bill 2753 HD1, I found that “O’ahu, which has the highest number of individuals experiencing homelessness of any county in hawaii, has seen the number of unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness rise over the past 5 years,” Living here on O’ahu i’d like to see how these safe zones will actually decrease that population.

Supporters to this bill may argue that Safe Zones will get more people off of the dangerous streets and into a safe, communal “home”. But I go against this statement because, just a sweeps do, this Ohana Safe Zones will only prove that the city officials can move homeless residents off to another street in the already overpopulated city. According to the text of the House Bill 2753 HD1, “The legislature also finds that, while significant strides have been made, current attempts to address homelessness in Hawaii remain insufficient.” City and State officials are trying to address the homeless issue through the communities but their attempts still remain “insufficient”. I don't see Safe Zones proving that the city is able to address this issue anymore than the efforts that the city has made previously.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because I cant vision a better Hawaii with it. I also feel that by adding these safe zones, problems that have already been conjured up due to the homeless population will now be in addition to another one .

Sincerely,

Lexie-Marie Kia-Cox

Wai‘anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, and Wakai,

My name is kyzaiah Tafaovale. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because according to A Bill For An Act- No. HB 2753 HD 1 it states that “Oahu, which has the highest number of individuals experiencing homelessness of any county in hawaii, has seen the number of unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness rise over the past five years and the number of people in shelters decline during the same period, despite increased investments in shelters and enforcement”. The evidence above shows that hawaii is spending way too much money on improving safe and healthy shelters for individuals experiencing homelessness and how the homeless on the streets are not using and staying in the shelters provided for them. The evidence above also explains that the population of homelessness on the streets has increased, when it should be decreasing with the help and shelters already built and provided for the homeless to use and stay in.

Opponents to this bill may argue that not having the safe zones will not be helpful or safe for the homeless but if the homeless are not even using the shelters provided for them, why should hawaii waste money on making a safe zone.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation stop this bill because I think that hawaii is spending more than enough money on shelters, that the homeless do

not stay in and I feel that hawaii is wasting more money if they create safe zones for the homeless.

Sincerely,

Kyzaiah Tafaovale

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda and Wakai,

My name is Manuatele Futi. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because, According to Hawaii News Now article written by Allyson Blair a reporter in 2017 is that hawaii has the highest number of homeless out of the rest of the states, Oahu has the most homeless from the rest of the hawaiian island, shelters are a bust. Addressing homelessness requires trying something new. Oahu zones will supposedly help the homeless. Oahu zones will give homeless access to needed services. Oahu zones provides a welcoming to a safe haven and other family. Oahu zones might be temporary due to money. Oahu zones is supposed to help homeless with health and well-being. Oahu zones is a place that has a program to provide homeless with basic needs including food, shelter, bathroom, showers, hygiene needs, social health care services and transportation and housing that will most likely help the to find a cure and get them into affordable.

Supporters to this bill may argue that because they think that homelessness can try and go do there own thing to help them with their health and take care of themselves for example going to a shelter and try to get some help to make there life better if they want to. Also they may argue that other people can help the homelessness too, and that homelessness can get more help in the world.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation to be stopped because homelessness is a big deal to most of other island and to other people.

Sincerely,

Manuatele Futi

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero , Harimoto , Gree , Chang , Kahele , Nishihara , Tokuda , & Wakai ,

My name is Kimberly. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because according to Star Advertiser written by Dan Nakaso on February 26 2018 the safe zones will take a chunk of land in Hawaii. Hawaii is very tiny compared to the mainland so this “ safe zone “ can cause a big issue towards homeowner/landowners. Would you feel safe if the “ safe zone” was around the corner? I would not , I would always have to be watching my house and things. To stop homeless from wandering around your going to have to hire a security so that is going to cost money adding the cost of health , the land , and care this will drain state money when the focus should be on spending money to help homeless get into real homes and get jobs! Our goal of putting homeless in homes are yet to be reached and spending money on this “safe zone “ will make our goal farther to reach. Supporters to this bill may argue that the “safe zones” are going to be a good cause because instead of homeless going to the hospitals and getting care from them making them have to pay a whole lot they can get there care from the “safe zones “. However health and care in the “ safe zones “ will still cost money for the state of Hawaii. Taxes are going to rise up! A lot of families will be angry at that. Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stop because honestly we could think of a better thing to do instead of “safe zones” that does not cost a lot.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Ferreira Sparks

Wai‘anae Intermediate School Team 7-4

Senate Committee on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators,Espero,Harimoto,Green,Chang,Kahele,Nishihara,Tokuda & Waikai,

My name is Kiilani Ah Yo-Mendez. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against of this initiative, because a monthly timetable of milestones that the office expects to meet in establishing one or more ohana zones over the course of the three year pilot program;The evaluation criteria and process that the office intends to use each year when reviewing the success and sustainability of the ohana zones;and the monitoring and oversight controls that the office

Supporters of this bill may argue that oahu,

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue.

Sincerely,
Kiilani Ah Yo-Mendez
Wai‘anae Intermediate School
Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, and Wakai,

My name is Rei Vasquez. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because despite it being a plan to get homeless to decrease its population, it still needs to be payed a great deal attention to how much this would cost. If this plan is to go through and fail then the millions or more dollars would have gone to waste. It could possibly lead to an unfortunate dept. According to Hawaii News Now, homeless will be provided sanitary facilities, but there will be a required fee to pay. There would also be a need for staff to operate the inside of the safe zone. Not to mention the cost of all electricity and running water and creating the actual safe zone. How much will be at risk in making this safe zone for homeless if it fails to come to expectations. If homeless were required to pay a fee for their stay at the shelter, would they be any more motivated to go as to being told to join a program to help them with their problems, addictions, etc. ?

Supporters to this bill may argue that this plan will decrease the homeless in Oahu, however there is no promising that this plan will succeed. The bill text says its an affordable housing for homeless. In argument,there is enough affordable housing around Oahu, the hourly wage needed to rent 2-bedroom apartment here is \$22.96 and the minimum wage- \$8.50. Yet if it's so affordable then why aren't there more homeless able to get a job and renting housing? The safe zone could possibly fail or the population of homelessness will stay at its current number.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because all in all,

according to the bill of text, 'while significant strides have been made, current attempts to address homelessness in Hawaii remain insufficient.' Meaning if other attempts to decrease homelessness have failed, the safe zone may not be of help either.

Sincerely,

Rei Vasquez

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, and Wakai,

My name is Jonathan Rivers. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because despite it helping homeless if a neighborhood is taken over by the Ohana Zone Pilot Program people have to move out of their homes so homeless can move in, and what will happen if it doesn't work? According to Hawaii News Now article "Federal, State and city homelessness officials have long been saying that safe zones don't work, but merely distract from helping the homeless by spending time trying to figure out who's neighborhood would be a safe zone."

Opponents to this bill may argue that the money isn't well spent because the homeless will just keep on coming back. According to Hawaii News Now article "Is that money well spent if they sweep them from kakaako and they come back a week or two later?" Homeless have basically taken over kakaako and they are comfortable the way they are. According to Hawaii News Now article "It was more common before, now they've built their own community. They're comfortable."

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation HB 2753 HD 1 be stopped because all the owners have to move out for homeless who didn't earn it or work

for it all the homeless would do is sit down and ask for money when they could be working. The owners or renters would be working day and night earning enough money to buy a house and pay the bills if homeless had this opportunity I think they would screw it up and go back to being homeless again. I don't want people to be homeless but we can't just replace the owners or renters of the houses with homeless there should be other creative ideas instead of replacing house owners or renters

Sincerely,

Jonathan Rivers

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committee on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators,

My name is Justice Galariada. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because I feel that homeless don't really treat anything with respect. According to Hawaii News Now Feb.12th 2018 city complaints have said a large homeless encampment has been throwing human waste into Pokai Bay. That's really unfortunate that homeless are doing that to an important place to Oahu's people including me. Also Hawaii News Now states that Mark, Alexander of the city's Housing Office, said that Seattle, which has had a safe zone program for years, saw it's homeless census increased 9 percent recently, and it also cost \$800 per person.

Supporters to this bill may argue that in the Bill Text it states that Oahu has the highest number of individuals experiencing homeless. Well, I say that homeless have voices, and if they really want to get off the streets they should spend their time in a shelter and getting help so they can really get off the streets. I mean we can't do everything for them, it's their own choice not ours.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because homeless don't treat things with respect and don't even do anything to avoid being homeless.

Sincerely,
Justice Galariada
Wai‘anae Intermediate School
Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Tayden-Marie Stewart. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because

“According to the Bill 2753 HD1 by the legislature of the state of hawaii” in the text it says homelessness rise over the past five years and the number of people in shelters decline during the same period despite increased investments in shelters and enforcement.” I feel like we should just stop wasting money on homeless shelters and housings and spend it on things like repaving roads and protecting the environment.

Supporters to this bill may argue that

The legislature finds that ohana zones have the potential to serve individuals experiencing homelessness in a way that existing programs are currently unavailable. This means that they will want to build the ohana zones and help the homeless families.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because whenever we build homeless shelters and housing, some or even rarely any homeless person will go into the shelter or housing and they won't like it there and they will decide to just go back on the streets.

Sincerely,
Tayden-Marie Stewart
Wai'anae Intermediate School
Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, & Wakai,

My name is Ariyana Sopi. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because when homeless is the topic a lot of people tend to have their doubts while and the other hand some have their hopes, there’s always a maybe being thrown around when dealing with homelessness and with this much money being put on the line for them, maybe just won’t cut it anymore. We need to know that homeless are willing to follow and abide by all their rules and regulations given, we need to know that even if it gets rough for them they stay in the ‘Safe Zones’, we need to know that they can stop with the drugs and alcohol, stop living their street life so they can better themselves as an individual and that they are willing to give ‘Safe Zones’ a shot!

In O’ahu, Hawai’i we have the highest percent of homelessness in the capita and our state knowing this they still don’t have the right solutions to this growing problem and with every sweep they do it doesn’t change or really affect our homeless because in a week or two they’ll go back to the same place they got swept from, that only hurts the people in the community, taxpayers to be exact. We spend all this money for nothing to change and if we bring out ‘Safe Zones’ will that help anything? We know for sure that it’ll hurt people's pockets and this island being so expensive I think we don’t need to give anymore money than what we have to already. Homeless may need this ‘Safe Zones’ but their not showing that

they want it! If they won't go into shelters what makes you think they'll go into a 'Safe Zone'?

Supporters to this bill may argue that by making 'Safe Zones' it gives homeless a chance for a fresh start but there has been shelters and other housing opportunities for them to have a fresh start and having a roof over your head isn't the only way to have a fresh start, it starts with their decision to better themselves it's all in them, not on where their living.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because it causes a lot of stress, it cost a lot of money for our state, and every single homeless won't be able to commit to everything and won't be able to follow their rules given daily.

Sincerely,

Ariyana Sopi

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,,

My name is Cadynce Nii. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because this program is going to take a very long time which would make it harder because there is going to be way more homeless by the time all of this is set up. This would also cost lots of money and land. You also would need supporters and helpers, and do you truly think that a lot of people are going to want to help. I mean, yes they would love to help but they might have a lot on their shoulders weather its a job a business or even family. I understand that you guys get a lot of evidence about why this safe zone idea is bad or good, but do you guys get a lot of reasons why this should be stopped or this should move on.

Supporters to this bill may argue that Safezones can allow homeless to feel like their apart of an ohana as Safe Zones would also allow the homeless to have needed services and provided supplies. With this very smart idea the homeless can know that there are people out there that actually care about them. We understand that this would cost lots of money but it's worth getting innocent people of the streets and back on their feets with their family or friends. This homeless problem could all be stopped from just one program where they are being helped every day at anytime. Weather or not they are homeless because of drugs or work or problems or even a rough childhood they deserve another chance.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because I honestly think there can be another way or an easier way to help out this homelessness problem. Don't make this where everyone is going to want to argue, just stop it now and make this easier for the homeless and yourself. I know I'm just a kid but I ask you to read this as I am an adult.

Sincerely,

Cadynce Nii

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators, Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishiara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Kekahu Hamili. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because homeless won't use these encampments 63% said sweeps had no effect on them so well be just wasting money on nothing. So what's the whole point in spending what 50,0000 on shelter for these people when they stay in the same position as they were already. Homeless don't like the rules to safe zones so what's the point in making them safe zones. And these encampments are costly when it comes to utilities camp kikikaha used \$254,484 we can't use all our money on just ohana zones when people don't use them. And when you build them you don't have any temporary housing for any of these people and we don't have lots of land on oahu because when i look out at downtown all i see is more big buildings being built. People who work and have families wouldn't like the homeless encampments near them they just feel unsafe next to homeless. According to a hawaii news now article written by mayor hannemann published 2010.

According to a debate about homeless written by allyson blair December 21 17

Supporters to this bill may argue that homeless zones keep people safe and move them into permanent housing but where would we get the housing from especially on oahu where it's always busy and crowded and we don't have lots of money to pay for all these houses we need to put in so these safe zones won't be helping us

they rack up bills for us to pay and people to still put into housing who don't want to get off the street so well be wasting money on nothing unless homeless agree to rules in shelters which many don't.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because you're money will be wasted and utility bills will be through the roof so there's no point in building zones if no one's gonna use them to get off the street.

Sincerely,

Kekahu Hamili

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, & Wakai,

My name is Kellianne Gonsalves. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because my opinion about The Ohana Zone Pilot Program is that hawaii could have thought about a bigger solution because I think that they aren't able to get every single homeless people into housings. I think that The Ohana Zone Pilot Program wouldn't be a great thing to do because if they put homeless into housings, the homeless people would still have to pay their rent and bills, which is probably putting stress on them and some homeless might feel like living on the streets was more better or free for them and then they are going to put themselves back on the streets. I also think that The Ohana Zone Pilot Program is a bad idea because all of the homeless might not be able to all get a housing and some homeless might feel bad for themselves and they would probably talk negative about themselves. According to the "HNN" article it states that " The legislator also finds that, while significant strides have been made, current attempts to address homelessness in hawaii remain insufficient." I agree that homelessness in hawaii remain "not enough." I also think that homeless people might feel like if they go into housing it might not be a good idea because it would make their life even harder/difficult. I think that homeless may stay at the place that they are at as long as they clean up after themselves and making sure that their area is clean. I also think that The Ohana Pilot Program is a bad idea because if homeless don't feel like living in that housing that they are living in, they are only going to go back living on the streets again because according to the video called "No room in Paradise" shows/states that some homeless got a house, but they felt more comfortable living back on the streets because it felt more like a home where they were living.

Supporters to this bill may argue that it could remove homeless off of the streets and that it would have more free space. They would also argue that it could decrease the amount of homeless on the streets and that removing them off the streets would also decrease the amount of domestic violations. Supporters might argue that it would be more safe for the homeless to be in a shelter instead of on the streets because that homeless person might have children and it might be safer for that person and their children.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because it's not the right solution for this big situation and I think that homeless may stay on the streets because they can't do anything if they can't afford a housing. I think that homeless may be a big problem, but they are just like every other person in this world but they just can't afford much like some people can. So I think that homeless should have the right to stay on the streets but they would have to clean their spot or place everyday.

Sincerely,

Kellianne.G

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harmimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihira, Tokuda, & Wakai,

My name is Andrew Nathaly Forro. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because they, are ineffective, are an eyesore and waste a lot of money that the government can use for much more to help with this issue. In Waianae the water bill at the boat harbor has risen from the extensive use of water from the homeless encampment. This money being used to pay of the usage of water from homeless is a waste of money that can be used to remove homeless from the area and put them into programs immediately. The boat harbor will soon enough not be able to afford the expenses of water usage from the homeless and water used by common comers of the boat harbor won't have the chance to use what the boat harbor was made for, it was not intentionally for homeless encampments to be set.

Supporters to this bill may argue that in the legislature it finds that some homelessness encampments in the islands are embodying the ethic of ohana to help the homeless reach for a better life for everyone. This is so irrelevant to the issue we have here. Yes, ohana is everything but that's not the goal for us here. We are here to find a comfortable happy life for for those who really deserve it. Despite of the effort they put into finding homeless a positive path to follow in life the attempts to do so aren't effective enough.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because as a student I feel that homeless safe zones shouldn't happen instead there are many other great solutions (eg. homeless programs, advised homing, other programs to get clean from drugs and alcohol) I'd also like to say that everyone including homeless should get a second chance at a better life and homeless encampments aren't the place to start. It isn't going to sweep away your issues but sweep away the chance of homeless ever finding their way back to a acceptable life.

Sincerely,
Andrew Nathaly Barde Forro
Wai‘anae Intermediate School Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Zhayden Kahue-Magsanide. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because, honestly it wouldn't really be effective. According to Hawaii News Now, an article that was written by Allyson Blair. It says that it would cost about twenty three thousand dollars a month, just for the camps to operate and function correctly. If you think about it, that's a lot of money to be using just so the homeless can be off the streets to stay in little camps. That's enough money to make a couple houses or even apartments for the homeless to stay at and live in permanently. According to Marc Alexander, the head of Mayor Kirk Caldwell's housing office, he says that "legal encampments often pose health and safety hazards. On top of that they're costly and take money away from solutions that work." Alexander is saying mostly that the homeless would make big messes and even might harm each other from the types of things they have like their dogs and other things they use to protect themselves. They might even make each other sick and maybe even deal drugs in the so called "safe zones."

Supporters to this bill may argue that it's just temporary housing just so the homeless can stay off the streets of Hawaii, but what would you rather do, stay at a place that's close to no cost, or pay for a house every month? If I were homeless I would want to stay in the cheaper area so I would be able to save money. It's just going to give the homeless a place to stay, instead of looking for permanent housing. When the homeless does do this method, then Hawaii will either need to

make more camps or have to kick out the homeless from the camps. But still if they do kick them out they'll still be on the streets, right?

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue that we wanted to discuss with you about, and I would like to see the legislation be stopped because if we do get these homeless encampment, the government would just be spending money for nothing, and I wouldn't want them to do that if they could be finishing up the railroads or work on other things to help out the islands, and it's wasting my parents hard earned money from tax all for nothing, they could get meals for our family or we could go on vacation.

Sincerely,

Zhayden Kahue-Magsanide

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Harimoto, Green, Espero, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Kaiama Lopes. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I disagree with the initiative on homeless safe zones.

Supporters to this bill may argue that they are good because it is easier or cheaper but, this is not always true. An article on civil beat by Natanya Friedheim said in October, 22 people lived in a camp that cost \$963 per person each month to run. This means the cost for 22 people can get up to \$21,000 every month. That's a lot of money and knowing that camps can hold a lot of people makes it more expensive.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because it can't force homeless to go in to camps. As an example Sand Island has a recreational camp that has the possibility to hold hundreds. Instead some will decide to stay on the streets. This shows their choices can't always be controlled. Even if it's for the good of themselves.

Sincerely,
Kaiama Lopes
Wai‘anae Intermediate School
Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators, Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Kayden Quon Kaleiopu. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am a strong opponent of Homeless safe zones, which means you senators shouldn't establish homeless safe zones.

I am against Homeless safe zones because “Oahu has the most homeless in any state in the nation”.(HB2753 HD1) so this means that safe zones isn't helping homeless, so the senators don't have to spend money for the safe zones and can use it on more important things like changing the park to a better place and etc. This also means that safe zones is bad because safe zones is probably the cause of homeless.

“The numbers of homeless is rising each year in Oahu”.(HB2753 HD1) This shows that safe zones isn't helping homeless find shelter or get to a homeless shelter. This also shows that safe zones is a bad effect for homelessness or homeless.

“Legislature found that safe zones have the potential to serve individuals experiencing homelessness”.(HB2753 HD) This means that safe zones is making more homeless which we don't want, we want to reduce or lower the homelessness each day, year, or month.

“People are concern for the natural resources and the natural environment because the homeless encampments and homeless safe zones is littering in our

environment".(www.usnews.com)This shows that homeless don't care about the environment and is a bad effect to our environment.

Supporters to this bill may argue that safe zones has a good effect on homeless because homeless can stay safe and get back on their feet and get going. However they can't stay to long before they get use to it and call it home. An example is in Waianae Boat Harbor they got to use to it and then at a point they destroyed Waianae Boat Harbor because of that safe zone or encampment. The homelessness made the water bill go up, they destroyed the bathroom that is why the construction workers had to fix it, and they litter a lot. Look at the waianae boat harbor park, it is a big gigantic mess. The homeless is so out of control that people is suggesting to get securitys over at the Waianae Boat Harbor before they destroy it more.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation make this bill pass so our ohana will be decent and better than before because we want what is right in our environment or our ohanas natural land.

Sincerely,

Kayden Quon Kaleiopu

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Kornelious Tabag-Taira. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because... Safe zone(s) in Hawaii, Oahu are pretty bad. I state that because if we make safe zone(s) we will be wasting a lot of money. I know this because in order to have safe zone(s) we need to spend money to get one. Safe zone(s) are also bad because it is not a guarantee that it can help the homeless. I say this because some of the other programs they tried only helped a few homeless. Programs/ things they tried to stop homelessness in Hawaii, Oahu was the homeless sweeps, homeless encampments, homeless shelters, and more. I got this information from "HB 2753 HD 1"

Supporters to this bill may argue that... Safe zone(s) are good. Although safe zone(s) cost a lot of money and they might not help, safe zone(s) can actually be effective. I say this because most of the programs Oahu has tried it mostly worked, not fully but enough to get like 20-30 homeless off the streets, and having 20-30 is way better than getting 0 homeless off the streets. Safe zone(s) in hawaii also can be effective by at least helping out the homeless. What I mean is safe zone(s) are able to try and teach them manners, how to be sanitary, and other things while also letting them have some fun. I got this information for "A BILL FOR AN ACT"

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because safe

zone(s) are too much money and we are already struggling, it might not work, might not go as planned, and it's just a waste of time because some homeless can't learn due to what they have been through.

Sincerely,

Kornelious Tabag-Taira

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committee on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Esperado, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai

My name is Diego Perreira. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because homeless safe zones are very costly and expensive and very few homeless people can afford it as it can be 800\$ monthly per person and they are even about \$23,000 to operate. I think that these homeless safe zones are way too costly for the homeless, and aren't we trying to get them off the streets? Why does helping a person in need have to be so expensive and costly? Safe zones don't seem to help with the homeless population because hawaii still has a large population of homelessness at about 7,220 homeless people in hawaii. I don't think these safe zones will help with the homelessness population decreasing. In the future, I really hope we can think of a better strategy of reducing and sheltering homelessness in hawaii so we can show how helpful and caring we are and put a statement on our name "Hawaii".

Supporters of this bill may argue that, Homeless safe zones do decrease the population of homelessness as it did decrease from 7,921 homeless people from 2016 to 7,220 homeless people in 2017. They also may argue that, there is about 3,400 homeless people sheltered statewide. Also, in all the other islands besides Oahu homelessness decreased in 2017 by an average of a 10% decrease. These may be true but, there are still 3,800 unsheltered homeless people in hawaii statewide and homelessness in oahu increased 0.4% in 2017. Although

homelessness is decreasing, it is also increasing and these safe zones aren't really helping with the problem.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because Homeless safe zones are very costly and expensive and is not helping decrease the homeless problem.

Sincerely,

Diego Perreira

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is DeeAn Moe. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because of the financial problems. In the article *Legislators, Push to Create More ‘Safe Zones’ for the Homeless* written by, *Natanya Friedheim* it says the campsite has 22 people and costs \$963 per person each month. Also the program cost is \$16,000 to \$17,000 per person annually. Another reason I disagree is we live on an island, there is only so many places you can go. Said by, *Hawaii Considers Letting Homeless to Camp in Specially Designated ‘Safe Zones’*.

Supporters to this bill may argue that the money should be going to homeless safe zones and they deserve the camp. They will also say that the money is being spent and used in the most effective way. Most of them will also say the homeless is going to have a safe home in the camp and won't need to worry but they should look into the money the city is paying and how they can do something more cheaper and effective.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because I think that the city should use the thousands of dollars and more to purchase a stable house for the homeless not a camp for more money and less people. I also think

that the government should look at the most effective way to help the homeless situation, and not the easiest way.

Sincerely,

DeeAn Moe

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Azil Russell. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because according to [Hawaii News Now](#) written by Allyson Blair on November 14th 2017 the price of operating homeless safe zones would cost \$23,000 a month which would take money away from creating more needed and important projects. There has been complaints that homeless have been dumping there human waste into Hawaii's beaches. The homeless have also denied to go into shelters because of how much rules there are, but in the safe zones the homeless would have to follow the rules or will not be able to live there.

Supporters to this bill may argue that the safe zones will give the homeless a temporary place to live where they can get off the streets and into affordable housing. However they have denied to stay in shelter because of the rules and if they deny shelter rules what would stop them from denying the safe zones rules.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because it would take thousands of dollars away from the state of Hawaii and the homeless would make the area a waste ridden encampment.

Sincerely,

Azil Russell

Wai‘anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Kyla Asinsin. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative, because hawaii continues to have the highest number of individuals experiencing homelessness per capita of any state in the nation. I am also against this initiative, because some people say that places are too expensive but when my family was in struggles we were able to find a place right then and there. Now, we are in a place where we feel comfortable. The reason why I am against this is because we could use the money to make places where people can be able to live in somewhere where they feel comfortable to relax. Don't feel sorry for the people who live on the streets. The video on "no room in paradise" They said they live on the streets because sometimes you don't have enough money to support your family, or you don't want to take loans cause you don't have enough to pay back. This is why I am against of this initiative.

Supporters to this bill may argue that, in the article "Hanabusa backs up homeless safe zones written by Audrey McAuooy on Jan. 09,2018" it says that she launched a campaign that the state should established safe zones for homeless people. This example represents that she was trying to make safe zones where homeless would live but, referring back to what I said they said they on the streets because they like to live there they chose to be there.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because homeless people would care less if we make places for them to live because in that video “no room in paradise” the lady named thelma went to the shelter than not even a day later moved back on the streets she said it’s more comfortable. Why waste the money on homeless when they can use the money for other things because they don’t want it.

Sincerely,

Kyla Keolalani Asinsin

Wai‘anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Hannah Bernice Abreu. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because according to the Bill, Oahu, which has the highest number of individuals experiencing homelessness of Hawaii has seen individuals experiencing homelessness rise over the past five years and the number of people in shelters decline during the same period despite increased investment in shelters and enforcements. According to Hawaii News Now, homeless safe zones are catching on everywhere but Oahu. The idea of safe zones or legal encampments for the homeless is catching on the Neighbor Islands. But Caldwell administration is still against the concept on Oahu. And according to Hawaii News Now, city officials have received complaints that homeless people from a large encampment are dumping **human waste** into Pokai Bay. Councilwoman Kymberly Pine says the safe zones officials want “have **sanitary conditions**, roofs, over people’s heads, security, and **an environment that does not destroy**” **natural resources**. In conclusion, homeless safe zones are ineffective or bad because of bad sanitary and not making progress on fixing the homelessness in Hawaii.

Supporters to this bill may argue that homeless safe zones are good or effective because they make homeless people feel safe and encouraging them to try something new but I think their health is important that they need to live somewhere fresh, but when they keep dumping human waste in to Pokai Bay isn’t

that unsanitary? Especially homeless safe zones wants them to live in a sanitary place.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped. Ohana zones are not that bad but I think it doesn't make a difference. Oahu is still the highest number of individual experiencing homelessness. Ignore the problem if you still don't have a real solution.

Sincerely,

Hannah Bernice Abreu

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,,

My name is Tiffany K. Irvine-Halama. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am against this initiative because (<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com> lawmakers warms homeless safe zones, but city says there a bad idea) theses homeless safe zones that accur to be happening its said to be causing a lot of hazards around the state of Hawaii, these large safe zones is just another place of a dumping waste for these homeless people which just makes our land dirty. If more of these "safe zones" are made more waste is released, where wind can come and spread all there rubbish they have caused right into our streets and oceans and turns our land a complete dump to the point where no one would want to stay here.

(<https://humanservices.hawaii.gov>) Theses safe zones as well only have a limited of weeks/couple months for these homeless people can stay and its back on the streets again, and thats just more money that were wasted due to the cause its \$800 per person to stay in that safe zones the state has to pay for and as well such as for there food, any speacilist for homeless, for secerity watch, and two porta potties that has to get clean 2x a week And theres so much work put in like oversights to identify there address or identity. Which is about \$21,207 the goverment is paying monthly.

Supporters to this bill may argue it helps people to try to get off of there feet and it keeps them safe from any dangerous conditions or harm. That homeless people do have to pay its a sutible price they can do in order to stay and there goals is to help

the homeless people by making more homeless safe zones, well although that is true they can also be abusing the systems that no one really thinks about it and as well some homeless that can be fine uses there health problem to help with more from these safe zones but really there health problem is not as badly worst as others which is not doing a good thing and its lieing.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation stop supporting this act they have chosen because homeless safe zones is just another places homelessness can count on to avoid moving around and it makes it so easy for them, which makes them think "i dont need to get a house, here they have everything i need." which is a bad idea cause thats more money to put in for these people who feel they can rest back and relax.

Sincerely,

Tiffany K. Irvine-Halama

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Camryn Stevens-Langford. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because homeless rates are rising and creating safe zones could house many. “Oahu, which has the highest number of individuals experiencing homelessness of any county in Hawaii, has seen the number of unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness rise over the past five years and the number of people in shelters decline during the same period despite increased investments in shelters and enforcement.” This came from the bill “HB2753 HD1”. The rates of homelessness have been rising for a few years, and probably will keep rising until we do something. Also “At the very least, Sand Island today has recreational camping that at full capacity will hold 400 people.” Will Espero, a chairman of the Senate Housing Committee, told Fox News. He also said, “You could have 400 people there tomorrow. But instead they’re living in parks.”(Fox news, Feb 09, 2017). If we allow safe zones in open, unused lots, we could house many homeless.

Opponents to this bill may argue that safe zones are unsanitary. “ City officials have received complaints that homeless people from a large encampment are dumping human waste into Pokai Bay, among other issues, and one official warns the camp may be shut down unless changes are made.” (U.S. News, Feb. 12, 2018). But that problem can be fixed. Everyone can change, even these people. Which is why I think homeless safe zones should be allowed.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because the rate of homelessness is rising and it could house many.

Sincerely,

Camryn Stevens-Langford.

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, and Wakai,

My name is Jayna Slawon. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because house less people need this extra boost. Also, it connects people together, like old enemies come together when they're in the same financial situation. According to the the legislation, "The use of the term ohana is not meant to suggest that the use of an ohana zone is limited to nuclear families or people related by blood, but rather that an ohana zone provides a welcoming, safe haven where both individuals experiencing homelessness and those who serve them treat each other as an extended family."

It can do so much more if this legislation can be approved. After a while, there is only one safe zone. I got this information Hawaii News Now and I quote unquote, "Right now, there's only one safe zone- or legal homeless encampment- in the state, Camp Kikaha in Kona." So, having this legislation granted will be great and give the house less people their hope back and having faith.

Opponents to this bill may argue that it is just giving them a free pass and living there for the rest of their lives, but that can't happen. The information proved in the legislation it said that, "Because it is unclear what costs and benefits will accrue using the new model of an ohana zone, the legislature finds that these costs and benefits should be carefully studied, and that ohana zones should, at least initially, be temporary." All of this is just temporary. To just give them a boost, not to win the race for them.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because I have some family members that are house less/ homeless and I know homeless safe zones will help them a lot. I know this because we, people that was never homeless, but try to help them, doesn't know what it is like to be them. Homeless safe zones is a great idea and should pass. Thank you again for considering my point of view of the legislation.

Sincerely,

Jayna Slawson

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishiara, Tokuda and Wakai,

My name is Haylee Silva. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because according to bill HB 2753 written by the house of representatives on February 28, 2018, it states, "The legislature finds that some homeless encampments in the island embody this ethic of ohana and have the capacity to improve the lives of people experiencing homelessness." This statement is very true. Homeless 'safe zones' could provide a huge effect on the homeless people and the homeless crisis. The encampments could show the homeless what a real ohana is and might be inspired to improve their life style and life choices.

Another reason is because according to .U.S News on September 8, 2017, it states, "I think it just goes to show if there is a safe place for people where they can keep their things, get a good night's sleep, get meals provided when necessary, have shower facilities, that they will utilize it," said Linda Vandervoort" Homelessness is becoming a huge crisis, everyone knows that especially the homeless themselves. When homeless individuals witness everything that can be provided to them from the safe zones, they might come to their senses of changing their life and turning it completely around.

Opponents to this bill may argue that safe zones are completely useless. For example, according to Hawaii News Now by Rick Daysog on January 9, 2017, it states, "We know safe zones are very costly, they're ineffective. They do not move people into permanent housing," Alexander said." Safe zones may be costly. But it

is actually doing something to help this serious problem. Sweeps for example, that is completely useless, after a couple of days homeless individuals go right back to where they were sent away. The amount of money wasted on sweeps eventually adds up to the money that has actually been put to good use for the homeless safe zones, which actually helps this homeless predicament.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because not only does it help the homeless individuals but it also shows them how to care and love for one another which is the key to embody ohana and that can affect future generations in a conclusive and positive manner.

Sincerely,

Haylee Silva

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, and Wakai,

My name is Xavier Quismondo. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because Oahu has the highest numbers of individuals experiencing homelessness. Also, I’m in support of this initiative because the “Ohana Zone” is a welcoming safe haven where both individuals experiencing homelessness and those who serve them treat them as extended family.

Opponents to this bill may argue that homeless populations have risen over the past five years and that populations of homeless people in shelters has declined over the past five years.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass through because the “Ohana Zone” is a place where has basic needs like food, shelters, bathrooms, showers, and other hygiene needs and where wrap-around services, social health care services, transportation services, and other similar services.

Sincerely,
Xavier Quismondo
Wai‘anae Intermediate School
Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, and Wakai,

My name is Jaevin Pacheco. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because the homeless safe zone can or might decrease the individuals.'Oahu has the most individuals homeless recording for the past five years'.Also I think that this island should have the homeless safe zone because they can improve the health and wellbeing of the individual experience of homeless. They also want a natural resources and a roof over the homeless people head.No matter if you are not blood or you are different you are still welcome to the safe zone and that means all the homeless can come but it is their choice to come.

The people that does not want this bill may argue that we should not have any safe zones because some homeless people are putting trash in the ocean.They can take evanege of that things that they got and can do many bad things.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because many of the homeless people need help out there so they can survive and they can there life back on the boat and live there life safe and happy like everyone else.Everyone deserves a good life if you make the good choices.

Sincerely,

Jaevin Pacheco

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai.

My name is Naydan Kaukani-Nathasingh. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative because it will provide everything for basic needs of a human showers, bathrooms, shelter and food but at a costly price for the state at \$800 per person. Other reasons I support this initiative is because I know what it is like to be on the streets when I was a child I lived in a van for 2 months and those 2 months was one of the worst times of my life and I was only not housed for 2 months there are people who has been homeless for over 10 years and I give them props because when I was in that van I could not stand it and I was only there for 2 months and that life is very hard. Also, it is very isolated and away from everything so you won't see trash loaded on the beaches or human waste in the ocean or random homeless encampments in random areas and pitched up tents spread throughout the whole islands or even smell the stench that come off of some homeless that don't take care of themselves

Opponents to this bill may argue that it will cause more homelessness because people with ghetto housing situations will go to the safe zones because you will get free food and water, shelter, you don't need to pay anything and it is tax free or they could argue that the encampments could harm the land and the states money.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation more considered because

homeless in need have nothing and some have smart children that can't get education or families that can't afford to get food. The homeless situation here makes "Paradise" look not like a paradise but a junk place to live.

Sincerely,

Naydan Kaukani-Nathasingh

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, and Wakai,

My name is John Delin. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because i learned that everybody is family in Hawaii. We all may be family by blood but even if we are not related by blood we are still related otherwise. Being family means to help each other and love one another not leave behind and forget about them. Another reason why i am in strong support is because Hawaii may be known as the most homeless encampments, but Hawaii is also known as a loving and caring city.

Opponents to this bill may argue that being blood related and sharing with homeless residents is less important than just not helping one another. But being family blood related or not doesn't mean that you should leave others behind and not care, you should always care about one another and not forget that everyone is family.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because Ohana means family and family means nobody gets left behind.

Sincerely,
John Delin

Wai‘anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators,Espero,Harimoto,Green,Chang,Kahele,Nishihara,Tokuda and
Wakai,

My name is Ayden Ah Sam. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because Ohana zone or zones means a place that has a program to provide individuals experiencing homelessness with basic needs including, food,shelter,bathrooms,and other hygiene needs and where wrap-around service,social health care services,transportation and other services., are offered the goals of alleviating interogation poverty and transitioning individuals experiencing homeless into affordable housing.

Also, the legislature finds that some homelessness encampments in the islands embody this ethic of ohana and have the capacity to improve people’s lives

People against this bill may argue that the bill should be stopped but it should be continued because ohana zones provide a safe haven where both individuals experiencing homelessness and those who serve them treat each other as an extended family.Another thing, the legislature found is that ohana zones have the potential to serve individuals experiencing homelessness in a way that existing programs are currently unable.Ohana zones will have the goal of improving the health and well-being of individuals.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because if you were to be

homeless I would work my way up to affordable housing and stay in a safe zone so my belongings and hard work wouldn't be taken away.

Sincerely,

Ayden Ah Sam

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, and Wakai,

My name is Douglas Adric. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because i do think that the homeless safe zones should be established and so because people don't like to see them on the street this would make it easier to get them off the streets if they do not want to go to the homeless shelter and listen to them so they would rather listen to someone who sees from there point of view.

Opponents/Supporters to this bill may argue that maybe some of the homeless don't want to go to the safe zone but that is there problem because it's better than the streets and a homeless shelter also it cost more if the homeless are on the streets and less if they are inside an encampment because it cost \$40,000per person every year and it cost \$253,000 each year for an encampment.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/hawaii/articles/2018-02-12/oahu-homeless-safe-zone-turns-to-waste-ridden-encampment>

<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2012/mar/12/shaun-donovan/hud-secretary-says-homeless-person-costs-taxpayers/>

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation passed because i think that the safe zones are good.

Sincerely,

Douglas Adric

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4 :)

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, and Wakai,

My name is Shaylee Ader. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because it helps out homeless. According to Bill 2753 HD 1 “Ohana zones will have the goal of improving the health and well-being of individuals experiencing homelessness and providing access to needed services.” with this being said, those who are homeless can go to these “Ohana Zones” and go through procedures that will help them in the future. With the option of Ohana zones, there could be a decrease of homelessness in the future. According to a Hawaii News Now article written by Holly Juscen “ there needs to be rules and a staff to enforce them, not the Honolulu Police Department. No drugs or alcohol would be allowed. There would have to be access to sanitary facilities, and the homeless may have to pay a fee to cover cost. Also the ‘safe zone’ would have to be operated by the private entity , not the city or state. The city knows that not everyone would comply.” with this in mind, these are very specific rules that many homeless are against but these rules can help homeless in a good way.

Opponents to this bill may argue that these ohana zones will create waste. Although this may be true, According to Bill HB 2753 HD 1 “a place that has a program to provide individuals experiencing homelessness with basic needs including food, shelter, bathrooms, showers, and other hygiene needs and where wraparound services, social health care services, transportation” with this being said, these Ohana zones provide a clean environment with clean supplies for

homeless to use. Ohana zones aren't the same as a group of tents filled with homeless, these zones are suppose to help them and not bring them back to where they started. Many will say that some of these homeless would rather stay on the streets where they can have the option of alcohol than go into a “safe zone”. According to Star Advertiser, “create a plot program that would refer alleged homeless criminals with mental health or substance abuse issues to appropriate help rather than arrest them” with this in mind, if they have the option of a safe zone they can get better.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass.

Sincerely,
Shaylee Ader
Wai‘anae Intermediate School
Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Joshua Waid. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative. According to the bill text, Oahu has the highest amount of homeless individuals. This means that Oahu should be a place that has homeless safe zones fast, Or else the problem will be too big to fix. I think that we should have this fixed because almost everywhere i go, i see homeless. Also according to the bill text, the safe zones will have people with ohana and they will treat the homeless with respect. Imagine all the things that these people are going through. At least when they are at a place that would help them, They will be treated with respect, If they werent treated with respect they might not go to the safe zones and it would be a big waste of money..

Opponents to this bill may argue that it will cost a lot of money to build and operate these safe zones, According to a Hawaii news now article by Allyson Blair, On the big island it costs 23,000 dollars a month to operate a safe zone. But on the other hand it will cost even more to keep on doing the homeless sweeps, And according to the Hawaii news now article by Allyson Blair, it costs 2.1 million to do one homeless sweep. If we build these safe zones then we might be able to stop the sweeps and it will be cheaper.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, And would like to see the legislation pass because it will be cheaper for safe zones than sweeps and we might fix part of the homeless problem.

Sincerely,

Joshua waid

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espro, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Payton Tom. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because we don't want people on our streets we want them to be in a house or in a shelter. According to the bill text on February, 28, 2018 said "Ohana Zones will have the goal of improving the health and well-being of individuals experiencing homelessness and providing access to need services." This example shows the we want the Ohana Zones so they can make goals to help people health and have a different life style and if anybody needs help they're there to help the homeless with what you need. Another example from the bill on February, 28, 2018 says that, "The legislature finds that ohana zones have the potential to serve individuals experiencing homelessness in a way that existing programs are currently unable." This example shows that when we have Ohana Zones our chance of success with getting homeless of the streets will grow.

Opponents to this bill may argue that it cost to much or people aren't going into shelters. It maybe true but we want this to work so people will change there mind and start helping the homeless let the homeless to get better health and have a happy life.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because we all would

want some way to help the homeless more and this is the way for us to help them.
With these Ohana Zones we can do more to help the homeless.

Sincerely,

Payton Tom

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai

My name is Faith Thomas. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because homeless are in the street and they need to be safe and off the street. I think it will be best to get homeless off the streets and it is best for our environment. They can be placed in affordable homes to live in. There can be a campons that has homeless and were they can stay, we can proved only one camp for homeless. But if they want to live in a camp for homeless there has the be rules. Having one campons for homeless can be great they will be off the streets. Having safe zones is safe for all people, any person that is in that place. We should pay the bill so we can have a safe and healthy committees.

Supporters to this bill safe zones are good for this committees and I hope this bill can be payed. Homeless and people will be safe with this bill. Hopley we can pay this bill so it can be good for our committees.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because it will be safe for all people. Making our local environment safer is good. We should say that you should pay the bill. It safe for all different reasons and that reasons is us people that wants to be safe

Sincerely,
Faith Thomas
Wai'anae Intermediate School
Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Jaedhan Spencer. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because, I understand that the state of Hawaii continues to have the highest number of individuals experiencing homelessness of any state in the nation, and I strongly believe that "Ohana Zones" can decrease those numbers dramatically. I think this because, the "Ohana Zones" as are described in the bill text is an, effective, alternative way for them to get the supplies needed for a healthy well-being, and lifestyle. Being in a safe environment where they can receive food, shelter, bathrooms, and other hygiene needs is very important and having these may help them get a job and buy their own house in the near future. This safe zones/places can help get individuals out of a specific situation, whether it's poverty, abuse, and even substance abuse.

Opponents to this bill may argue that, they can do whatever they want and they could be doing illegal acts, such as, assault, drugs and even attempted murder, breaking major important laws of safety. But according to the bill text, they will have monitoring and oversight controls that the office will have over the ohana zones, which will only be used to identify, address, and prevent possible fraud, waste, and abuse. This will also ensure compliance with local, state, and federal laws. Opponents may also argue that, if it's on public property more people will

take advantage of these “Ohana Zones”, whether they have permission or not. But the bill text also states, that office shall consider locations that are on private property and shall be authorized to work with private property land owners. They will make sure that everyone there is allowed to be there.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass, because it can have a big positive effect on those experiencing homelessness and worst situations. Overall, these Ohana Zones can essentially lower the numbers of those individuals experiencing homelessness on the state of Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Jaedhan Spencer
Wai‘anae Intermediate School
Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai, and the Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services,

My name is Arryawna Oberle. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because safe zones help give the homeless in Hawaii another chance to live their life. According to a Star Advertiser article written by Nanea Kalani on October 13, 2017, the safe zones will help the homeless people. The safe zones is a place where they can get assistance and resources. I feel that the homeless sweeps should stop because the homeless sweeps cost \$500,000 and all that money could be used to support the homeless and build more affordable apartments.

In addition the money they use for the sweeps are basically going to waste. In my opinion the homeless are just going to keep going to another place they're not supposed to be, because they have nowhere to go. According to the Bill Text in section two the ohana zones is a place to help homeless and they "include food, shelter, bathrooms, and other hygiene needs. As well as the hygiene support they also include social health care services, transportation, etc." Most importantly, the ohana zones also help transition the family/homeless into affordable housing. In other words the safe zones will support the homeless and help them get back on their feet.

Opponents to this bill may argue that the safe zones aren't cost-effective and they divert resources from providers of services to the homeless ,but, with the safe zones it will provide the resources and services the homeless need. Opponents also argue that the "current attempts to addressing the homeless remain insufficient" but, the office shall establish a ohana/safe zone by June 30, 2019. They can also dispute that it will cost a lot of money but with the stop of the homeless sweeps and safe zones being built. Although the safe zones will cost a lot of money it will be much more effective than the homeless sweeps. For instance the homeless sweeps wouldn't be needed because the homeless is either already going to be living in an affordable house/apartment or in a getting help from a safe/ohana zone.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because it will help the homeless. It will also get them off the streets and give them a home to live in. Therefore the safe zones are needed and they should be built and this will benefit the community.

Sincerely,
Arryawna Oberle
Wai'ananae Intermediate School
Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Xylar Newman-Matutino. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because we don't know what their going threw if i was in their shoes i would want someone to help with getting a place where all homeless can come and get basic needs like food, shelters, bathrooms, showers, and other hygiene needs.

Opponents to this bill may argue that safe zones for homeless should not be made because the homeless might just do the same thing their doing now vandalizing and making trash all over the place and they might not take care of the environment.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because it really could help a lot of people get their life back together.

Sincerely,
Xylar Newman-Matutino
Wai‘anae Intermediate School
Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, and Wakai,

My name is Mariah Nahoopii-Kaiwi. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative because homelessness on Oahu are expanding rapidly. According to the Bill Text, oahu has the highest number of individuals experiencing homelessness. In the Bill Text it states “ ohana zone “ or “ohana zones” means a place that has a program to help each homeless individual provide their needs such as food, water, shelter, etc. According to a Hawaii News Now article it says safe zone officials want “ have sanitary conditions, roofs over people's head, security and an environment that does not destroy natural resources “. Ohana zones are trying to seek help for each individuals involved in homelessness.

Opponents to this bill may argue that it may not work. Some say that it cost too much to make a safe zone. But they don't see the good these ohana zones will do. Ohana zone, ohana zones, or safe zone are trying to help out the problem of individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation be stopped because i think the homelessness problem can be solved.Homelessness has become Hawaii's biggest

worry and problem. There may be some downfalls to this , but it's always worth a try.

Sincerely,

Mariah Nahoopii-Kaiwi

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai.

My name is Jerzie Liana. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative because according to the bill text hawaii has the highest number of homelessness it has been rising over the pass five years. The ohana zones are a good idea because it gives them food, bathroom, shelters, showers and they also have lots of services that can help them get back on their feet. For me I think it will be a good thing to bring on this new bill because homelessness is a big issue everywhere especially Hawaii.

Safe zones will be a good addition to Oahu's homeless situation because according to hawaiinewsnow.com written by Allyson Blair on November 14,2017 homeless safe zones are catching on with the neighbor island except oahu and it is working out for them. So why can't they not be a safe zone on oahu because in my eyes I think we really need it.

Why has safe zones or encampments not been working because according to washingtontimes.com written by Cathy Bussewitz on February 8,2017 said that A handful of cities have tried setting up safe zones or encampments but the state wouldn't do it. The state probably thought it wasn't a big problem but it is starting to be and it is going to rise over years if we don't do something about it.

Opponents to this bill may argue that they are against the bill. I understand because according to hawaiinewsnow written by Allyson Blair on November 14,2017 that the safe zones would on a estimate cost \$23,000 due to hiring security and other people to take care of the safe zones and help the homelessness get back on their feet. Although the safe zones are going to cost a lot of money when the homeless people are in the safe zones they ain't on the streets destroying the place and when that happens that is money coming out of people's wallets to fix what they broke. There is some reasons on why people disagree with the bill but for me and many others that support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass the bill because for me we need to find a way to get homeless off the streets and into permanent housing and safe zones will be a good start.

Sincerely,
Jerzie Liana
Wai'anae Intermediate School
Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Bea Hurtado. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because we are helping the homeless get a shelter and putting homeless in safe zones can also help cleans up different places in Oahu. According to the bill text, the "Ohana zone" provides the homeless a shelter to help the homeless meet new people so that they can call each other family and give the homeless resources that they need.

The Ohana Zone is working on improving health for homeless that have mental health or a genetic disorder. This is a good reason because improving the health of homeless and getting them a family should happen so the homeless feel that there are others who care about them. The Ohana Zone give resources like shelter, food and water. Gives the homeless resources they would most likely need in-order to survive.

Making these safe zones clean up different places in Hawaii. Relating to Hawaii News Now article written by Holly Juscen, Lawmakers say safe zones help clean up streets, parks and beaches. I would help encourage the homeless to be in safe zones so they don't have to live on the streets getting judged.

Opponents to this bill may argue that Safe zones are bad because the homeless might have to pay for it. According to Hawaii News Now article by

Holly Juscen, the homeless would have to pay a fee to cover the cost and some homeless wouldn't follow the rules. This has an affect on many homeless who get their Id's taken away. Taking away their Id's give them a hard time getting back on their feet. They need their Id's so they can get a job. Going back to Safe zones being good, we should come up with different ideas on how we can make the homeless stay and get back up on their own two feet.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because helping the homeless can be a big improvement to Oahu. It gives the homeless respect and alot more confidence than staying on the streets getting judge by other people that don't know what the homeless are going through or what happened to them in the past.

Sincerely,

Bea Hurtado

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai

My name is Kaien Gasper. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because according to the bill text it says that Ohana Zone Pilot Program will have the goal of improving the health and wellbeing of individual experiencing homeless and providing access to needed services. The Ohana Zone Pilot Program is providing homeless with food, shelter, bathrooms, showers, and other hygiene needs where wraparounds services, social health care services, transportation, and helping individuals get into affordable housing. The Ohana Zone Pilot Program prevents fraud, waste, and abuse. The Ohana Zone Pilot Program is about setting preliminary milestones that shall be met by the department of human services office homeless programs office in establishing the pilot program. I support this initiative because I think we should help other people if they need help.

Opponents to this bill may argue that it doesn't help because some people may not want live in Ohana Zone Pilot Program because maybe they feel uncomfortable there. Maybe some homeless want to live on the streets because that how they choose to live and don't want help from anybody . I still think that people should still be helped and put into houses they can afford so they don't have to live on the streets.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because I think we need to take care of people no matter what if there not our blood.

Sincerely,

Kaien Gasper

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Alia. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because homeless sweeps have been going on for many years, and yet nothing has changed. We can make a difference by making safe zone encampment sites. According to a Star Advertiser article written by Nanea Kalani on October 13, initializing safe zone homeless encampment sites, it can help them and us. We can provide an alternative for nearly five-thousand homeless. By getting them into safe zones, they will have fewer restrictions and go into small structures. By being in safe zones it can help them personally that can encourage them to move into housings. Safe zones can help us reduce the amount of homeless on streets and help them move into housings. According to the Bill Text, we have the highest number of individuals per capita in any state in the nation. Many homeless haven't been sheltered for the last five years and that has started to take effect. Every year, more and more people are becoming homeless and it is a statewide problem that is occurring here. We can provide safe zones that will include more access to needed services, food, shelter, bathrooms, showers, hygiene products, and transportation. To check upon, we can monitor and oversight there personal identifications and actions.

Opponents to this bill may argue that when homeless sweeps occur, we can provide safe zones. But some people have said that it can cause us to lose lots of money. According to Hawaii News Now, it cost at least \$23,000 a month to operate and

build a safe zone. To support the homeless in these safe zones, will cost them \$800 per person. Safe zones are also hospitals to lose money daily. Many people have to work more each day to support these safe zones. Both the people and other resources are losing money each day.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass.

Sincerely,

Alia Tolentino-Filimona

Wai‘anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Elena Belen, I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because According to the bill of act it shows that the ohana zones gives needed services, security, hygiene and they will try to improve it so they are sure that the homelessness will be comfortable.

Opponents to this bill may argue that these ohana zones should not exist because they cost way to much to pay and there are chances to the pilot program to not be able to pay things such as the bills, hygiene for everyone, check for the securities and many more and because of this they are only temporary meaning the homeless can't stay at the safe zone forever.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because it's a way to keep homeless on their feet and be happy and although some might refuse not to go into a house, the safe zone is sort of like a camp but maybe even better because they'll provide all the materials you'll need so even if they choose to be outdoors rather than indoors then they are able to be outdoors and feel like themselves and be able to be comfortable with everyone in the camp, you are also able to get service and homeless are also welcome to enter the safe zone and they also have security for better care.

Sincerely,

Elena Belen

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, & Wakai,

My name is Kiara, I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because my family and I were homeless before and we knew how it felt having to live by the rules of no sleeping at parks or by certain beaches. Hearing about the homeless encampment at the Waianae Boat Harbor sounded safe even though my family and I were already in a house. I heard in the encampment they live by the rules and treat each other with respect and they live together as a family. According to the bill text, it explains that the “ohana zones”, is what they’re mentioned as, the goal is to improve the needs for their health and well-being and access to needed services. I believe this is stating that because they take good care of each other, but they’ll need to improve their resources and medical equipment so they can continue this. The ohana zones also help homeless in ways that other programs can’t.

Opponents to this bill may argue that safe zone’s or ohana zone’s main problem is that it costs lots and lots of money. For example, according to Lawmakers Warm To Homeless Safe Zones, But City Says They’re A Bad Idea, it explains the safe zone on the Big Island can house 30 people and costs \$23,000 a month. Although, safe zones may cost a lot, in my perspective, the money isn’t going anywhere besides to the companies creating more buildings and homes that millions of homeless can’t afford. In fact, back to the bill text, it mentions, “While significant strides have been made, current attempts to address homelessness in Hawaii remain

insufficient.” In a brief statement, it’s stating while ohana/safe zones are taking good care of other homeless, there’s been many failures of trying to shelter these homeless. Overall, the purpose of ohana zones is a positive because of these failures. Ohana zones succeed in taking care of the homeless when the state has failed to address them.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because ohana zones are a way like a bridge that can help these homeless until they are addressed.

Sincerely,

Kiara

Wai‘anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, and Wakai,

My name is Edmond Paulino Jr. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because it could provide a much safer and cleaner way for homeless to camp out, it also provides a controlled and legal area instead of out there in the street getting constantly moved. According to the bill the office is also taking in the ideas homeless people on where they would want these ohana zones to be. These ohana zones also provide basic needs that the living on the street would provide like food, bathrooms, showers, and other hygiene related things. So these zones provide basic needs and the freedom to camp out in a legal area.

Opponents to this bill may argue that three years to run the program is too short of a time since this alternative idea is still new and not much people know it. Increasing the chance that homeless might not go to it, or trust it. Some people could also argue where the money to fund this program will come from.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because its a safer and more productive way to deal with homeless. Personally I prefer this idea than the sweeps because during the sweeps personal items get taken away and most of them only go back on the street to live. So having a designated area for them to stay in

would be pretty much the same as leaving on the street but without having to be bothered 24/7.

Sincerely,

Edmond S. Paulino Jr.

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, and Wakai,

My name is Alaura Kauila. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because according to the bill text, It said that an ohana zone is a place that you can go if you are homeless
And it’s a place you can have an ohana even if you are not blood related. I think that this is a good program because if I was alone with no family I would want a family too even if we are not blood related. Ohana zones have potential of serving other people that are experiencing homelessness.

Opponents to this bill may argue that the homeless people are causing harm to the environment and is making it dirty. Though they might say that, where will the homeless go because some may not even have a place to go if they get kicked out. And that’s why I support the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because the Ohana Zone Pilot Program is a good thing to be around if you are homeless and it is good for the community.

Sincerely,

Alaura Kauila

Wai‘anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, and Wakai,

My name is Curtis Jackson. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because if we let this bill happen it will limit or lessen the amount of homeless we have on this island. I know this because according to “ A bill text written by House of Representatives,” it says that “Hawaii continues to have the highest number of individuals experiencing homelessness per Capita of any state in the nation.” If we all agree to let this bill happen we can all help people without homes to get shelter and to be able to care for their own families.

Opponents to this bill may argue that if we let this bill happen that homeless will not even decide to go to the shelter and just let it go to waste. Although that could be true there are also a lot of good things that could happen with this bill, like homeless will go to the shelter and get the help that they need, they will be taken care of, and finally they could care for their family and then they could get back on their feet and maybe get a house of their own.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because I want to change the numbers, and what I mean by that is I want Oahu to be the island with the least amount of individuals experiencing homelessness per Capita of any state in the nation.

Sincerely,

Curtis Jackson

Wai‘anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, and Wakai,

My name is Shakirah Gordon. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because I know this bill can help out the many homeless people here, on O‘ahu. I have a feeling this bill can help out many homeless because, according to the bill text “The legislature also finds that, while significant strides have been made, current attempts to address homelessness in Hawaii remain insufficient.” I believe that with this new bill that it’ll make a difference with the homelessness issues of O‘ahu, Hawaii. Also, according to the Hawaii News now article, “Neighbor Islands say safe zones are only part of the solution” And I agree. According to the bill text “Oahu, which has the highest number of individuals experiencing homelessness of any county in Hawaii, has seen the number of unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness rise over the past five years and the number of people in shelters decline during the same period despite increased investment in shelters and enforcement.” I think that, with this bill, it can help with giving some leverage to the homelessness population. Even though we are trying, none of what we’re doing is really helping, from what I’ve seen while reading this bill. Let’s have the courage to try something new, something different. You never know, with this bill, it can help many people! Not only is this safe zone a safe zone, it’s also a ohana zone. Not only is Ohana being blood, but it’s when people feel welcomed, like it’s a “safe haven”. This Ohana zone has a “potential of serving individuals experiencing homelessness in a way that existing programs are unable” to do. According to the bill text. With this bill,

we can achieve a goal of “improving health and the well-being of individuals experiencing homelessness and providing **needed** services” According to the bill. This Ohana zone can give homeless people what they're missing. For example “Food, shelter, bathrooms, showers and other hygiene needs” (According to the bill). Not only is there that, according to the bill text, there are also “Wrap-around services” like “Social health care services, transportation” and much more! I know there are goals for this bill, like “Alleviating intergenerational poverty and transitioning individuals into affordable housing”. We can help those who are, according to the bill, “Elderly, victims of domestic violence” Basically the “**entire** homeless population”. We can do “Monitoring” and “Oversight, to identify, address and prevent possible fraud, waste and abuse.” We can “Ensure compliance with local, state and federal laws” if anything. The Ohana zone, a place where people can feel welcomed and safe.(From the bill text) “Ohana, whether closely or distantly related. Ohana, where people share everything, from land to food to responsibility for taking care of children and elders. Ohana, whether related by blood or not, treat each other as extended family and share generously with each other”. I believe, with all my heart, that this bill will make a difference for many.

Opponents to this bill may argue that it can “Pose health and safety hazards and it’s costly. It may take money away from solutions that work” (According to a Hawaii News Now article). Most might even say “This does not serve the benefit of those experiencing homelessness” (According to a Hawaii News Now article). But I disagree, we can find ways to make sure the communities are safe, for those homeless and those living around in the area. According to the bill text “Some homeless encampments in the islands embody this ethic of Ohana and have the capacity to improve the lives of people experiencing homelessness”. With this Ohana zone, it shows that each person can take care of each other as though they are a Ohana.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass this bill because I believe this bill can help those in need, can help those who need help and want to have a better life for themselves and their family.

Sincerely,

Shakirah Gordon

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators,

My name is Kiana Eli. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because many homeless deserve to get the proper tools, help and services needed, feel welcomed, and feel as if they have a home or a place they feel accepted. Approving this bill will not only help homeless but it will also provide a place where homeless are allowed to be instead of living on the streets where they could be kicked off or have themselves and their belongings disrespecting. According to the bill text “Ohana zones means a place that has a program to provide individuals experiencing homelessness with basic need including food, shelter, bathrooms, showers, and other hygiene need and where wraparound services, social health care services, transportation, and other similar services are offered with the goals of alleviating intergeneration poverty and transitioning individuals experiencing homeless into affordable housing.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass.

Sincerely,
Kiana Eli
Wai‘anae Intermediate School
Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai

My name is Gxxr K. Young. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because, The homes are targeting the main homeless that need lots of help and have to get cleared. Like in Kaka’ako or Ala Moana. Also in the shelters, people treat you with equal respect. You are so called “Hanai” or adapted at this point. Another thing is that some people think this should be only temporary so the homeless can actually get back into homes or in a Drug program. Lastly, the people that are contributing are also paying for social health or care service. That is very cool to have that much support and care from people that you do not even know. And that's how you know they support you all the way. Overall, the shelters are very helpful and I hope you make sure the homeless shelters stay in business, but, other people critique on the homeless shelters.

Opponents to this bill may argue that homeless shelters are a huge amount of money wasted. According to hawaii news now, for one person in the shelter it costs \$800. And homeless are still out there. There are lots of homeless still out there and with the homeless are in that we have in the shelters, the Gov. is struggling to sustain these people. Some people say that homeless shelters are a bust and should just stick to alternate shelters. Such as the Family Assessment Center or the Mauiola Shelter. I find that true. But, in the shelters, they encourage

and respect the homeless to get back up. The shelter is like any other homeless shelter in hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation passed because the homeless shelters are surely a one of a kind and so far, this homeless shelter is the only shelter that really cares for the homeless and will make the homeless a citizen of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Gxxr K. Young

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Hamimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda and Wakai,

My name is Sophia Ulu. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, i highly recommomend a safe zone because according to the house bill 2753 HDI, it states that the safe zone provides resources including water, food, bathroom, showers, and other hygienes. This example shows that, homelessness can have a home of their own with resources they can use. Another example is, that the safe zone also has rules. This shows that homelessness can be safe and can be cared for. One last example, is their will be less homelessness on the streets because if we had a safe zone, homelessness would have their own land, so, homelessness won't be roaming around the streets. Overall i support the safe zone for the homelessness because it helps start a new healthy life, without getting swept place to place.

To this bill, may argue that the safe zones may have rules that homelessness have to follow. All though there are a lot of rules, its rules to keep them safe so that they don't end up on the streets again. Also others might think that the safe zone cost a lot of money, but for this, if we don't have a safe zone, then there will be a lot of problems in our community, and also, homelessness will be swept place to place all their lives.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation homeless getting swept place to place because they have nowhere to go, for example homelessness cant settle in several places,this can be stopped because i really think safe zones are very helpful in our community, there can be less homelessness on the streets.

Sincerely,

Sophia Ulu

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators, Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai

My name is Vanicah Rojasimer. currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because there's people out there that needs help and there's people out there that cant get the help they need. The ohana safe zone pilot program will help in a way they will need , the homeless need homes and a place to sleep and shower , and if ohana safe zone pilot program can provide that , it would be helpful for all the people in need of help. Homeless needs the help because who knows , there may be children that lives on the streets with them and they may be hungry. Ohana safe zone pilot program is help for homeless and it helps individuals or families in need , this program will provide you with the help you need , but you have to make sure you can take the things you can and can't do over there at the ohana safe zone pilot program , you will have to follow the rules they say and you have to do what you have to do in order for them to help you.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because everyone doesn't like seeing homeless be homeless , everyone wants to be successful in life , everyone set goals to be in a place they wanna be in , some goals don't always work but people find ways to make it work or they work on another goal they had set for themselves , goals in life would get keep your motivation to do what you wanna do , get your goal together and do what you gotta do to succeed your goal.

Sincerely,
Vanicah Rojosimer
Wai‘anae Intermediate School
Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Nicole Puaoi. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because i believe this could be a huge step up for the homeless in hawaii. The ohana zones will include food, shelter, and hygiene products like showers and bathrooms. Many homeless will appreciate this and so will the public. For example according to a Star Advertiser article written by Nanea Kalani on October 13 “We need safe zones so that these individuals have a place to go that is safe, where they are not hassled, and most importantly where they can get assistance and resources.” Also the ohana safe zone project could give homeless a chance to realize they could have a real home if they tried. For example according to a Star Advertiser article written by Nanea Kalani on October 13 “seventeen people were placed in shelters or long-term housing within two weeks, while 23 others moved to camp Kikaha, where covered cots, portable toilets and showers are available, Lance Niimi, executive assistance to Hawaii island Mayor Harry Kim, said by phone during the working group meeting. Niimi said the county is spending \$21,207 a month to operate camp.” These reasons are why hawaii should have ohana safe ones as it could help clear streets with homeless, as well as give people a chance to walk in the morning instead of driving which creates less population for hawaii. These are reasons why i am in strong support for this initiative.

Opponents to this bill may argue that the program will take too much money from the government, but to me the government would have saved lots of more money and time if they haven't started the rail system. I say this because I believe the rail is just a waste of money as if the biggest problem like homeless get solved first, then you can worry about traffic and other projects. Also the safe zones does take space, but will clean up space as homeless take up so much themselves. This will also clean up the sidewalks which gives those who like to walk or run in the morning a chance without being cautious of homeless. Cleaning up the sidewalk so people can walk leads to less pollution from cars and less traffic, as well as more healthy and happy people in Oahu.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because the safe zones is a great way to keep homeless off the streets and safe from harm and sickness.

Sincerely,

Nicole Puaoi

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Jamal Plunkett. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because every homeless dzevad athorter chances to turn there life around. And need somewhere to live. I think the ohana zones going to be go because it has “provide individuals experiencing homelessness with basic needs including food, shelter, bathrooms, showers, and other hygiene needs and where wrap-around services, social health care services, transportation, and other similar services are offered with the goals of alleviating intergeneration poverty and transitioning individuals experiencing homelessness into affordable housing. r

Hawaii will be a pretty place if you put the ohana zones in the hawaii because it will bring a lot of tresied and lot of other people and when the tresied come hawaii get money and some of that money can go to the ohana zones. Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because I know it will change people life and change and they take care of them self of kids..

Sincerely,
Jamal Plunkett
Wai‘anae Intermediate School
Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators, Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai

My name is Trenton Phillips. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because one of the main problems we have is homeless problems which is why we should build a safe zone. From what Hawaii news now says it helps them have a temporary home that helps provides them with things they need such as “food, shelter, bathrooms, shower, and other hygienes”. This also stops them from vandalising/destroying stuffs such as buildings, bathrooms, and other things to keep healthy and safe. This is important because if they break things such as a street light then we can’t see the road at night or the bathrooms at the beach when they break the toilet/sink then we can’t wash our hands or use the bathrooms. And at last many tourists say there's a lot of homeless people laying on the street. But if we put them in safe zones this helps bring many tourists back so Hawaii can make a better growth but also help homelessness take a bigger step into their life. Overall I believe a safe zone would help make Hawaii a better, cleaner place, and safer place.

Opponents to this bill may argue that the ohana safe zone has a high cost (800 dollars) and it is a waste of time, money. Also argue that no matter what we are still going to have a high percent of capita in the nation but it is still good because it helps them get help and get in to a temporary home then find their way into a permanent home

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because overall this helps Hawaii be a more representable place and not be look down on and just be another island. I believe that it should also pass because this helps many homeless take a step further in life and not be look down as a waste of space because there still humans.

Sincerely,

Trenton Phillips

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, and Wakai,

My name is Rania Nuuanu. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because according to “HB 2753 HD 1”, in Hawaii/Oahu, we have the highest number of individuals experiencing homelessness, and I personally think that that makes it look like Hawaii/Oahu don’t care about our island and that we don’t care about our people either. The goal of the Ohana Safe Zones is to improve health and wellbeing of individuals experiencing homelessness and providing access to needed service and I think that’s a really great goal to try and accomplish because according to “*Hawaii News Now* article written by Allyson Blair on November 14, 2017”, The idea of safe zones for the homeless is catching on to the Neighbor Islands and I think we should catch on to that idea too because the purpose of this program, according to “HB 2753 HD 1”, is to provide individuals experiencing homelessness with basic needs such as food, shelter bathrooms, showers, and other hygiene needs and they also give health care services, transportation, and other similar services, and that could be our solution to solving homelessness because if all homeless go into the safe zones, they can get help to get into permanent housing.

Opponents to this bill may argue that we shouldn’t have safe zones. I think they wouldn’t like the idea of safe zones because it might attract more people into

becoming homeless, because they get provided with all this free care, food, and other services and who wouldn't want free stuff? But I have to argue that I don't think that the people running the safe zones would just allow someone who throws on raggy clothes and pretends to be homeless. I think the people running it would have a sat with them and talk about their issues and see what they can help them on. I also think that opponents may argue that the safe zone is bad because the people who are homeless would just want to stay homeless to get an easy life style with all this free help. I do see what they are getting at but, some of that help, helps them get into permanent housing and out of homelessness. I can see what our opponents are saying but I have to disagree.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because homeless having safe zones could really help out with our homeless problems and that could be really good for Hawaii/Oahu.

Sincerely,

Rania Nuuanu

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,

My name is Gavin S. Kodo. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because I feel like Ohana Zones **will have** the goal to provide success for the homelessness. Ohana Zones **have** the goal of improvements for the health and a well-beings of an individuals experiencing homelessness. It'll also provide access to needed services. Ohana Zones **will** provide food, shelters, bathrooms, showers, and other hygiene needs. As well as, wrap-around services, social health care services, transportation, and other similar services that are offered with the goal of alleviating intergenerational poverty and transitioning individuals homeless into affordable housing. Also, Ohana Zones **will** have the opportunity to help the homelessness with their drug/alcohol problems, which is the cause of mental illness. Ohana Zones **will** have **clear, specific rules/guidelines** that they **have** to follow. Which one of the rules **will** definitely will have no tolerance over of having drugs or alcohol in the Ohana Zone's facility.

Opponents to this bill may argue, "For how long will Social workers provide for the Ohana Zone"?, "How can the Ohana Zones affect our economy for the Islands of Hawai'i"? Well, I can say that if we put all of our effort as a community and money into Ohana Zones across the Islands of Hawaii, it'll be worth the money and effort for the homeless to live a better life off the streets and maybe into affordable housing.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass, because I would like to see the homeless get off the streets into shelters or affordable housing so the homeless do not make the increase of criminal activity on the streets, usage of drugs, and maybe hurting themselves or hurting a innocent victim.

Sincerely,

Gavin S. Kodo

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero,Harimoto,Green,Chang,Kahele,Nishihara,Tokuda & Wakai

My name is Branston Kaluna. I currently attend Wai'anāe Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because these safe zones can get homeless out of the streets and somewhere where tourist can't see them. I want tourist to think Hawaii(Oahu) is clean. I also support safe zones because it stops homeless from ruining our parks, beaches, bus stops etc. These homeless can go to their safe zones and run their safe zones, but to ruin public places where people go to play is messed up. These safe zones can get homeless used to being in shelters/houses and that will persuade them to get a job and get their own houses. This can improve homeless health and when they get healthy, they can get back on their feet.

According to Hawaii News Now article there saying they should make safe zones because if they don't their gonna keep sweeping homeless and that's a waste of money because the homeless are gonna come back in a week or two.

Opponents to this bill may argue that because they may think this is gonna waste the state's money. They have a lot going on like the monorail their building in Oahu and now their trying to add something that will take up more of their money. According to a Hawaii news now article they said that in seattle they have been with the safe zones program for a long time and they have seen a 9 percent increase in homeless, we do not want the homeless population to increase when we put out homeless safe zones. Some people said it's very cost effective or very expensive and that won't help homeless get into permanent housing.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because this can make tourists think Hawaii/Oahu is clean and stop homeless people from ruining our public places and many more. There are little kids that live in this world, and the homeless dogs can hurt the little kids.

Sincerely,

Branston Kaluna

Wai'anae Intermediate School Avid Student

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,,

My name is Hunter Ulep. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because we need to keep the homeless safe and live better with their families. Supporters to this bill may argue that If we have more safe zones we can start to get homeless off the streets and so they can be safe and get a home and a job

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because we need to have homeless up and going and having a good future and having a heither life.

Sincerely,
Hunter Ulep
Wai‘anae Intermediate School
Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda & Wakai,,

My name is Micah Ka'apana. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I strongly agree with this initiative because the people you see on the side of the road is going thru tough times with there life and by going to the ohana zones they have people who care for them and they can get the help they need to be able to live a natural life healthy and being able to live happy and enjoyable. Also if the homeless go to these ohana zones it will leave them of the streets and into a home that they can live in and it will leave space for the city and government to build homes for the people who might become homeless or experiencing homelessness. Finally when the homeless get the help they need and get into these ogana homes this makes the job easier and affordable for the government and will help the homeless get back on there feet and live how they used to before they was homeless.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation continue because the ohana zones are a safe place for the homeless to stay and they can get what they need to get off drugs they may be on or just needing comfort by someone who will love them so I think that the ohana zones should exist because it will always help they people in need.

Sincerely,

Micah Ka'apana

Wai'anae Intermediate School

Team 7-4

Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, and Wakai,

My name is Kilinahe Kahoonei. I currently attend Wai'anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because the Ohana Zone provides a safe and clean zone for the homeless to sleep at. The Ohana Zone would be very helpful to Oahu due to the extremely large amounts of homeless on the streets and in the parks, leaving it messy and cluttered. Hawaii has the highest # of homeless encampments in the nation. Another reason why these Ohana/Safe Zones would be helpful is because the homeless wouldn't keep getting kicked outta the parks or off the streets, in the Safe Zones, they can stay their and not get kicked out. A few more reasons why these Ohana Zones are effective is because...

- the homeless are not scattered all over the place, which that leaves are streets and Oahu looking way more clean and like Paradise
- this keeps the homeless safe and clean - provide the homeless with food, bathrooms, showers, transportation...etc.
- they won't get chased away (if they stay in their designated, private property area that has been approved for them to use)

and last...

- they help/support you to stop your drug addiction or alcohol "problem"

The Ohana Zone is like the shelter for the homeless, just not indoors. These are the reasons why i am in support of Ohana Zones and want you guys to approve/pass this legislation.

Opponents to this bill may argue that the Ohana Zones are ineffective and wouldn't make a change to the homeless. They might say this because the homeless might sneak out of the Ohana Zones in the middle of the night and go right back to the streets or parks, causing the state to shut down all Ohana Zones because a homeless snuck out. Whoevers against Ohana Zones might also say that because they think the homeless wouldn't wanna stop their drug/alcohol addiction. Another reason why they may be against Ohana Zones is because they say you can use the area the Ohana Zones at for a better purpose, rather than "housing" the homeless. Last reason I think they're against Ohana Zones is because they want the homeless to go to "actual" shelter (shelter with a roof and is in indoor). But, as a supporter, I think that the Ohana Zones would be very helpful in Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because we can keep the homeless safe and clean, our parks clean, our streets clean and less cluttered and lastly, we can just make Oahu look like a better, nicer, and cleaner place rather than making it look like a trashy, dirty place where homeless just sleep on the streets and in the parks.

Sincerely,
Kilinahe Kahoonei
Wai'anae Intermediate School
Team 7-4

Senate Committee on Housing & Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Senate Committees on Housing & Human Services

Dear Senators Espero, Harimoto, Green, Chang, Kahele, Nishihara, Tokuda, & Wakai,

My name is Logan Vanlo. I currently attend Wai‘anae Intermediate School and have recently learned about House Bill 2753 HD1, an initiative to establish the Ohana Zone Pilot Program.

I am in strong support of this initiative, because it will greatly benefit the homeless population. Despite Hawaii’s previous attempts at trying to help get the homeless off the streets, it still remains to be the state with the highest number of homeless individuals in the nation. With low-paying jobs and high costs for housing, homeless people are increasing in the islands. Despite this, ‘Ohana zones’ could manage to help the homeless. Instead of letting them roam around the streets, it gives them a place to be able to stay. According to a Fox News article, three-hundred homeless people living in a Honolulu park supported the idea of living in an ohana zone. There are large isolated areas of land that are being identified for potential safe zone sites. In the H.B2753 HD1 bill, it promises that safe zones would be able to provide the homeless access to necessary resources, such as food, water, bathrooms, healthcare, transportation, etc. Things that homeless people otherwise wouldn’t have access to. Ohana zones promise homeless people a friendly environment where they can be treated like equals and can be nearly as close as family.

Opponents to this bill may argue that the safe zones would be too expensive or that it may not work. Just because other solutions in the past have not worked, it doesn’t necessarily mean that trying something new, like safe zones, would fail. Not to mention, leftover money from homeless sweeps could possibly be used to help support homeless safe zones. Others can also argue that there’s not enough space. Yet, according to an article by Allyson Blair on Hawaii News Now, there were nine possible safe zones being identified. These areas of land were largely isolated, meaning that homeless people could be able to stay in that place.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation pass because it would at least provide the homeless a temporary place to stay. It’s difficult to get a home in Hawai’i. But with Ohana zones, the homeless at least have a place to stay with food and water instead of roaming around the streets.

Sincerely,
Logan Vanlo
Wai‘anae Intermediate School
Team 7-4