



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 10, 2017

TO: The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

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

SUBJECT: **HB 391 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2017, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 391, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure and offers comments. The Coordinator asks the Legislature to support the on-going work to improve the data systems for homeless services to enhance the existing homeless services data hub Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and the Department of Health's (DOH), Hawaii Pathways Project, effort and work with the Corporation for Supportive Housing that is looking at potential integration of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and other systems that contain information related to homeless individuals.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to study the impact and feasibility of creating an integrated database of certain information related to homeless individuals for providers of homeless services.

The Coordinator notes that efforts are currently underway to address issues related to integration of data related to homelessness. In particular, DOH receives federal grant funding from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for the Hawaii Pathways Project, and through that program contracts the Corporation for Supportive Housing for work that includes looking at data integration between the HMIS and other systems.

The HMIS is the primary database for homeless service utilization, and data entry into the system is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and urban Development (HUD) for

certain federally-funded homeless service programs. In 2015, Hawaii's HMIS transitioned from a legacy system to a new platform. In the most recent series of DHS contracts, DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO) requires state-funded service providers to enter data into the HMIS. HPO also allocated \$325,000 for provider training, system development, and data analysis of the HMIS. The HMIS is owned and administered by the Continua of Care (CoCs), which represent homeless service providers statewide, and HPO works closely with the CoCs to build a more robust data collection and reporting system.

In addition, HPO contracts the University Of Hawaii Center on the Family for homeless data analysis and reporting, which includes preparing the annual Homeless Service Utilization Report. The utilization report provides an analysis of federally and state-funded homeless service programs that input data into the HMIS. The utilization report typically focuses on data captured within a state fiscal year. A copy of the most recent utilization report is available online at: <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/2015-HomelessServiceUtilization2015.pdf>

See also the report submitted to the legislature as required by Section 20.1, of Act 124, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016, on Homeless Services. The report addressed the status of the current number of homeless individuals and families statewide, the level of services currently provided, and available information on service outcomes. A copy of the report is available online at: https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Section-20.1-Act-124-SLH-2016-Homeless-Services-Report_11-7-16-FINAL.pdf

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
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February 10, 2017

TO: The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair
House Committee on Housing

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB391 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: February 10, 2017, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) acknowledges the effort of the Legislature to address the issue of homelessness and provide comments, as a homeless services data system already exists as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to appropriate \$250,000 to conduct a study on the impact and feasibility of creating an integrated database for providers of homeless services that provide access to certain information about homeless individuals served, including police, medical, social services, and mental health records, to improve tracking services provided and optimize costs.

DHS, the HMIS statewide data committee, and homeless service providers are currently working to improve the state's HMIS data collection, reporting and analyses features. Information from HMIS is used to track services, optimize costs and identify needed resources. Detailed data rich homeless services utilization reports from HMIS data are regularly published

by the UH Center on the Family. A link to the website is provided:

<http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/projects/homeless/publications.aspx>.

HMIS does collect client level information of individuals who access the homeless services system in a Continuum of Care (CoC); Hawaii has two CoC, Partners in Care on Oahu and Bridging the Gap serves neighbor island counties. HMIS is able to integrate and unduplicate data from all homeless assistance and homelessness prevention programs within the CoCs. Aggregate HMIS data can be used to understand the size, characteristics, and needs of the homeless population at the local, state, and national levels. HMIS enables organizations that operate homeless assistance and homelessness prevention programs to improve case management by collecting information about client needs, goals, and service outcomes. HMIS helps to improve access to timely resource and referral information and to better manage operations. HUD has supported the development of local Homeless Management Information Systems by: 1) providing technical support and funding to CoCs to develop local HMIS; and 2) undertaking a research effort to collect and analyze HMIS data from a representative sample of communities in order to understand the nature and extent of homelessness nationally.

The State and homeless service providers have been using the HMIS system since 2001. DHS service providers are contractually required to input all data into HMIS within 72 hours. DHS also contracts an organization to be the system administrator for HMIS. The system administrator maintains the system, conducts training on the use of the system, and provides other administrative functions. Through the system administrator, HMIS has had an increase in data quality and timeliness of data input.

However, the HMIS does not store an individual's "records" as described in the bill. Each type of record identified in the measure, law enforcement, medical, mental health and social services records, are each governed by a host of different confidentiality, privacy, security, and use laws.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on this measure.



HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

HB391 HOMELESS INTEGRATED DATA BASE: Appropriates funds to the department of human services to study the impact and feasibility of creating an integrated database of certain information related to homeless individuals for providers of homeless services.

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES: Representative Morikawa, Chair; Representative Todd, Vice Chair;
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING: Representative Brower, Chair; Representative Nakamura, Vice Chair

- Friday, Feb. 10, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.
- Conference Room 329

HSAC Supports HB391 with recommendations:

Aloha Chairs Morikawa, Brower; Vice Chairs Todd, Nakamura; And Distinguished Committee Members. My name is Alan Johnson, Chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, an organization of more than 30 treatment and prevention agencies across the State.

HSAC supports this bill and emphasizes that:

- **Section 2 Include substance use disorder records because this information is often over looked when gathering data despite being the most prevalent "illness" impacting chronic homelessness.**

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the department of human services to conduct a study on the impact and feasibility of creating an integrated database for providers of homeless services that provides access to certain information about homeless individuals served, including police, medical, social services, **substance use disorders** and mental health records, to improve tracking services provided and optimize costs.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify and are available for questions.

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 9:01 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: lcook@kualoha.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB391 on Feb 10, 2017 09:30AM

HB391

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 10, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Cook	Ku Aloha Ola Mau	Support	No

Comments: Ku Aloha Ola Mau SUPPORTS HB 391 as it will provide valuable information which will subsequently result in better understanding the scope and specific needs of the homeless for better targeted intervention planning and service delivery. The problems which are hidden now may be significant in addressing the core issues preventing better successes in the creation of short and long term solutions. Respectfully Submitted: Lisa Cook, Executive Director.

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todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 12:03 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: dabitbol@chowproject.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB391 on Feb 10, 2017 09:30AM

HB391

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 10, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Lusk	CHOW Project	Support	No

Comments: Recommend adding substance use disorder records because substance abuse is the most prevalent illness of all when helping chronic homelessness.

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todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 3:49 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB391 on Feb 10, 2017 09:30AM*

HB391

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 10, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 7:38 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB391 on Feb 10, 2017 09:30AM*

HB391

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 10, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 9:05 AM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: victor.ramos@mpd.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB391 on Feb 10, 2017 09:30AM*

HB391

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 10, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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