



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

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March 22, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair
House Committee on Housing

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

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

SUBJECT: **HCR 239 / HR 207 – URGING STAGE AGENCIES AND INTERESTED PARTIES TO
WORK TOGETHER TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO LIMIT HOMELESSNESS AND
ASSIST THE EXISTING HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS IN WINDWARD OAHU.**

Hearing: Thursday, March 22, 2018, 11:30 a.m.
Conference Room 423, State Capitol

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

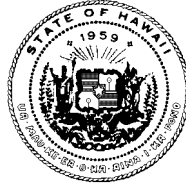
PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to urge the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, the Director of Human Services, the Kailua Neighborhood Board, the Kaneohe Neighborhood Board, the Waimanalo Neighborhood Board, the Ko'olaupia Neighborhood Board, the Kahuku Neighborhood Board, the Institute for Human Services, and appropriate non-profit organizations to work together to develop strategies to limit homelessness and assist the existing homeless individuals in Windward Oahu.

Homelessness remains one of the most pressing challenges facing Hawaii, and the State has adopted a comprehensive framework to address homelessness that focuses on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. In particular, the State has worked together with the Legislature and other stakeholders to increase resources for permanent housing programs, such as Housing First and Rapid Rehousing. Between 2015 and 2017, the number of permanent housing beds for homeless

individuals statewide increased by 1,986 – an increase of 146%, more than doubling the supply of permanent beds. As a result of the State’s coordinated efforts, Hawaii is making progress in reducing the number of homeless individuals statewide. In 2017, the statewide Point in Time (PIT) count found that the number of homeless people in Hawaii had decreased for the first time in eight years – a *decrease* of 701 people between 2016 and 2017.

The Coordinator acknowledges the need for a collaborative approach to address homelessness in Windward Oahu and all parts of the state. The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) has adopted a collaborative approach that includes representatives from the federal, state, and local governments; social service providers; faith-based representatives; and business-sector representatives. If this measure moves forward, the Coordinator suggests the measure be amended to include representatives from the local business community and agencies from the City and County of Honolulu, including the Mayor’s Office of Housing, Department of Community Services, and the Department of Land Management.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 22, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair
House Committee on Housing

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HCR 239 – URGING STAGE AGENCIES AND INTERESTED PARTIES TO WORK TOGETHER TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO LIMIT HOMELESSNESS AND ASSIST THE EXISTING HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS IN WINDWARD OAHU.**

Hearing: Thursday, March 22, 2018, 11:30 a.m.
Conference Room 432, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and offer comments. DHS currently participates on a number of councils and work groups addressing strategies to address homelessness, such as the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH), the Transit Oriented Development Council, and the Director is being added as a member of the Special Action Team on Affordable Rental Housing. Proponents of this resolution may want to consider attending and participating at the HICH meetings as this is the appropriate council and forum.

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.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the proposed resolution is urging state agencies and interested parties to work together to develop strategies to limit homelessness and assist the existing homeless individuals in Windward Oahu.

DHS acknowledges that homelessness in Hawaii is one of the major public issues of our time. Since 2010, when homeless programs were moved to DHS, the Homeless Programs Office has functioned primarily as a contracting agency. At the direction of the Legislature, in partnership with the community, the continua of care, the Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness, and the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homeless, DHS has played a major role in establishing a successful Housing First program from Chronically homeless who suffer from mental health and/or substance use disorders, or a chronic health condition. DHS contracts statewide shelter, outreach, rapid rehousing, homeless emergency grants, housing placement programs, and civil legal services. DHS also provides funding for the development and maintenance of the state’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), a system required by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

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

DHS agrees the best strategy to end homelessness is to find people safe and affordable housing. Housing First is an approach that emphasizes stable permanent housing as a strategy for ending homelessness. As noted by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Housing First is based on the theory that client choice is valuable in housing section and supportive service participation, and that exercising that choice is likely to make a client more

successful in remaining housed and improving their life. The focus on childhood support services and family engagement programs do not align with the Housing First approach.

Additionally, as required by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Hawaii has established a Coordinated Entry System (CES). Providers and community stakeholders from public and private sectors were invited to participate in the implementation and launching process. The CES is managed by the two Continua of Care (CoC) in Hawaii, Partners in Care on Oahu and Bridging the Gap on the Neighbor Island; the CoC coordinate services and maximize resources available to individuals and families.

Furthermore, DHS *'Ohana Nui* framework involves streamlining existing programs and funding to improve efficiencies and outcomes to achieve the greatest return on investment. Once programs are aligned through *'Ohana Nui* and the DHS Enterprise system is built, nearly all of DHS programs will be interoperable

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this resolution.

HCR-239

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 10:35:09 AM

Testimony for HSG on 3/22/2018 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

Testimony

Committee on Housing
Rep. Tom Brower

Committee on Health & Human Services
Rep. John Mizuno

March 22, 2018 at 11:30am
Conference Room 423

From: C. Malina Kaulukukui

Submitted on :March 21, 2018

RE: HCR 239

Position: Support

Aloha, Representatives Brower and Mizuno, and members of the committees. I am testifying as an individual, although I am a member of a Kailua citizens group organized under the auspices of the Kailua Neighborhood Board to address the growing issues of homelessness in the Windward area. Our group has researched the complex issues of homelessness and have taken some practical actions to address homelessness in our geographical area.

I was dismayed to read in today's Star Advertiser that the House has chosen to spend \$30 million for homeless encampments, which would decimate important homeless-related programs like Housing First and other resources that are proven to reduce homelessness. This resolution is a common sense approach to assuring that valuable funds are used judiciously and wisely. Thank you

LATE

HCR-239

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 8:37:56 PM
Testimony for HSG on 3/22/2018 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Levani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of House Concurrent Resolution 239. I am a member of the Kailua Neighborhood Board and co-chair the subcommittee on Homelessness in Kailua. I am testifying as an individual. I strongly support multiple stakeholders to problem-solve and address the issue of homelessness in our community. It will take all of us--the private sector, the public sector, nonprofit agencies, community members, community policing and service agencies to collaborate on a comprehensive plan to address this complex issue. Every member in our society is impacted by this issue and we need to work together to address it. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Levani Lipton

LATE

HCR-239

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 5:26:58 AM

Testimony for HSG on 3/22/2018 11:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HCR239 is true to the spirit of Aloha and the continuous, courageous efforts many people of Windward community governments have sustained for years. A larger, more comprehensive framework for all these organizations would be useful in creating a louder, more coherent voice for Windward homeless, as we strive to shelter everybody in permanent housing expeditiously.