

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

BRIDGET HOLTHUS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

February 6, 2017

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

The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB1215 – RELATING TO HOUSING**

Hearing: February 6, 2017, 3:05 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill to provide funding to address the State's homeless crisis that are similar to the Administration's requests identified in the Governor's Executive budget. DHS provides comments and defers to Hawaii Public Housing Authority on section 4 of the measure. DHS asks for the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive budget request.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funding for Housing First, Rapid Re-Housing, and the State Rent Supplement Program. DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO) is currently procuring Housing First and Rapid Re-Housing services statewide; the current procurements include expansion of Housing First services to neighbor islands. The response to homelessness requires long term solutions supported through predictable funding, HPO prefers that the Governor's executive budget be the vehicle to fund these worthy and successful programs.

DHS respectfully asks that the Legislature supports the Governor's executive budget to address homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 6, 2017

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

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

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

SUBJECT: SB 1215 – RELATING TO HOUSING
SB 1222 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Monday, February 6, 2017, 3:05 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of these bills, but expresses concern that the bills may adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. The Coordinator asks for the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive Budget request for homeless services, affordable housing development, and public housing renovations. The Executive Budget requests related to homelessness include appropriations to the Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Health (DOH), Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA), and Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC).

PURPOSE: The purposes of measures SB1215 and SB1223 are as follows:

- **SB1215:** To appropriate funds to DHS for the Housing First and Rapid Rehousing programs. The bill appropriates funds to HPHA for the State Rent Supplement program.
- **SB1222:** To authorize the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds to fund construction of affordable housing projects. The bill appropriates monies for homelessness mitigation and prevention efforts.

The State has adopted a comprehensive framework to address homelessness, which includes a focus on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. All three of these leverage points must be addressed simultaneously to continue forward momentum in addressing the complex issue of homelessness. Accordingly, the Governor’s Executive Budget request includes \$20.9 million for homeless services, as well as over \$150 million for the Rental Housing Revolving Fund, Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund, and HPHA. The Executive Budget specifically increases resources for homeless outreach, mental health, and substance use treatment. Further, it addresses housing costs and homeless mitigation through programs such as Housing First, Rapid Re-Housing, and the State Rent Supplement.

The Coordinator defers to the Department of Budget & Finance, DHS, DOH, HPHA, and HHFDC, respectively, with regard to contracting and implementation of provisions such as homeless and health care services, renovation of public housing or implementation of public housing programs, and affordable housing financing and development. While the Coordinator establishes and coordinates State policy to address homelessness, other Executive Branch agencies are responsible for the direct administration and implementation of homeless and housing programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these bills.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2017 9:28 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: MikeGoodman72@Outlook.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1215 on Feb 6, 2017 15:05PM*

SB1215

Submitted on: 2/4/2017

Testimony for HMS/HOU on Feb 6, 2017 15:05PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Goodman	Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1215: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair, Human Services; Senator Will Espero, Chair, Housing; and Members, Committees on Human Services and Housing
FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President & Chief Executive Officer
Hearing: **Monday, 2/6/17; 3:05 pm; CR 016**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony **in strong support** of SB 1215, making appropriations for multiple housing initiatives to rapidly move homeless people into permanent housing. I am Terry Walsh, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care.

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. CCH has programs serving elders, children, developmentally disabled, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Ending homelessness is a top priority for 2017.

Honolulu has reduced veteran's homelessness significantly in the past 2 years and is working on systems to reach functional zero and end homelessness for veterans by the end of 2017! How? By providing federal/other rent subsidies along with appropriate services. Rental subsidies work! They rapidly move homeless into permanent housing, as well as reducing the flow into homelessness. With the targeted approach in this bill, we can focus on chronically homeless as well as housing working families, seniors and disabled, many of whom have no needs other than a rental subsidy to fill the gap between their incomes and rental prices in their communities.

Hawaii's homeless situation has reached crisis proportions. We are currently ranked as having the #1 rate of homelessness per capita in the nation. Besides having the highest housing costs in the nation (twice the national average), the cost of living in Hawaii is 60% higher than the national average. 54% of all renter households are cost burdened (paying more than 30% of income on rent), the second highest in the US. These renters may fall into homelessness with any unexpected expenses or loss of a job. This crisis requires a multi-faceted approach to housing Hawaii's residents experiencing homelessness. **Catholic Charities Hawaii supports:**

- **\$3 million for Housing First.** The State's current Housing First program on Oahu has shown tremendous success in housing some of Oahu's most visible, hardest to house, highest utilizers of public services, and long-term homeless individuals and families. Through a combination of on-going rental subsidies and wrap-around support services and case management, the State's program will serve over 230 homeless by the end of 2017. This program beats the national average of retaining the homeless in housing with a 98.1% retention rate (vs 85% nationwide for Housing First programs). Moreover, Housing First reduces public costs through accumulated healthcare savings. The UH Center on the Family found a 43% reduction in healthcare costs after just 6 months in the State Housing First program. Costs were reduced by approximately \$4,590/person/month. For the estimate 500 people to be served by State/City Housing First programs, this could result in **nearly \$2.3 million per month is public cost savings.**



- We strongly request that Housing First be part of the base budget of the Department of Human Services, as provided for in their budget request. This is essential to maintain this high risk population in housing.
- **\$2.5 million for rapid re-housing:** Short term rental help is a solution to homelessness. In December 2016, the Star Advertiser reported that court evictions had dropped 25%. Lawyers for both clients and landlords reported that they had seen a quick decrease after April 2016, when AYW partners began distributing funds for short-term rental payments. By December, 3,471 people had been helped to end or avoid homelessness, with the typical family needing a one-time payment of \$1,046 to stay in their homes. AYW data also found that by January 2017, AYW plus Continuum of Care (CoC) funds had assisted **4,326 individuals to rapidly find permanent housing** (\$736/individual served). This included 2,129 adults and 1,863 children (47%), in 1,465 households. 64% were at risk for homeless while 36% were already homeless. Rapid Rehousing funding is critical to stop the flow into homelessness as well as help move those already homeless into permanent housing.
- **\$9 million for the State Rent Supplement Program for households who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness:** Almost 20% of homeless families are working; seniors and disabled often have stable income, yet homeless like these are priced out of the housing market. They are ready to rent (without intensive services). Unlike the “deep” subsidy of the Section 8 program, this funding would provide a shallow subsidy to households that are closer to financial self-sufficiency, but still have an affordability gap to fill. The Rent Supplement program would provide an ongoing subsidy, enabling homeless households or those at imminent risk of homelessness to close the affordability gap, maintain housing and achieve self-sufficiency. Households would pay a minimum of 30% of their income for rent. The rental subsidy would be capped at \$500/month. We support this funding to maintain permanent housing and to cover housing stabilization services as well as administrative/ personnel costs to operate the program.

Once again, we strongly urge your support SB 1215 to work towards our goal of ending homelessness in Hawaii. Please contact me at terry.walsh@catholiccharitieshawaii.org; or Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org, or at 373-0356, if you have any questions.



PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu Continuum of Care

Partners in Care is a coalition of Oahu's homeless service providers, government representatives and community stakeholders working together in partnership to end homelessness.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1215: RELATING TO HOUSING

TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair, Human Services; Senator Will Espero, Chair, Housing; and Members, Committees on Human Services and Housing
FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President & Chief Executive Officer
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Once again, we strongly urge your support SB 1215 to work towards our goal of ending homelessness in Hawaii. Please contact me at terry.walsh@catholiccharitieshawaii.org; or Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org, or at 373-0356, if you have any questions.

February 6, 2017/3:05 p.m.

Conference Room 016

Senate Committee on Human Services

Senate Committee on Housing

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair (HMS)
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair (HMS)
Senator Will Espero, Chair (HOU)
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair (HOU)

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President – Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: SB 1215 – Testimony in Support

My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations and Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-governmental employer. Hawai'i Pacific Health is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

I am writing in support of SB 1215 which appropriates funds to Department of Human Services for the housing first and rapid re-housing programs as well as to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority for the state rent supplement program. These programs are to assist chronically homeless individuals, individuals who require financial assistance to avoid homelessness, and families at imminent risk of homelessness.

Housing instability proves to be a significant barrier to regular health care access and results in excessive use of expensive emergency department, crisis services, and inpatient treatment. The State could minimize the health care associated costs that homeless individuals incur over their lifetime by funding programs which enhance housing stability. It has been shown that stable housing is a factor that influences the extent of benefits that individuals' can experience after receiving health care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813

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COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Monday, February 6, 2017, Conference Room 016

SB 1215 RELATING TO HOUSING

TESTIMONY

Ann Sack Shaver, Ph.D., President, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chairs Espero and Green, Vice Chairs Harimoto and Chang; and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB1215.

Experience throughout the nation has shown that the Housing-First model is successful in addressing homelessness and reducing recidivism. Appropriating up to \$3,000,000 in 2017-2018 and an additional amount in 2018-2019 is cost effective.

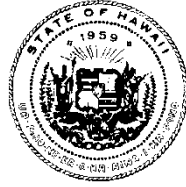
Likewise, the rapid re-housing has also shown its worth, so \$2,500,000 for 2018-2019 and an additional amount for 2018-2019 in a good investment.

For the state rent supplement program, we do support a \$7,000,000 appropriation for 2017-2018 and an additional amount for 2018-2019. rapid re-housing and up to \$7,000,000 is a wise use of general revenues.

Continuation of these programs will benefit not only the direct recipients of these services but also improve the quality of life for all residents and visitors to our State. Certainly, it is pono. Although it would be difficult to measure, it would also likely end up boosting tourist revenues as encountering homeless is a growing complaint among visitors.

We urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

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

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

**Monday, February 6, 2017
3:05PM
Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of
SB 1215
RELATING TO HOUSING

Honorable Chair Green, Honorable Chair Espero, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Senate Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 1215, relating to housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) appreciates the intent of SB 1215 to appropriate funds to DHS for the housing first and rapid re-housing program to assist chronically homeless individuals; and appropriates funds to HPHA for the state rent supplement program to assist homeless individuals or families and those at imminent risk of homelessness. We respectfully defer to the Director of the Department of Human Services on Section 2 and Section 3 of the bill.

To best achieve the objectives of SB1215 (section 4), we would recommend the proposed \$7M be incrementally applied over the next two fiscal years, with a reduction in funding by \$5M in the first year. However, we would still need the 7.0 FTE positions in this year's appropriation in order to have time to establish the positions, put the positions in recruitment, and hire and train capable staff. Additionally, in order to hire staff to expeditiously implement this much needed housing assistance program, we would respectfully request that the committees consider flexibilities in the hiring process, such as hiring above the minimum and a temporary exemption from civil service.

The HPHA is in the final stages of finalizing an amendment to the Hawaii Administrative Rules, to cap rental subsidies at \$500 and are still analyzing current tenant income and available rental units to determine the need to increase that amount over the next year or two.

During the last fiscal year, the HPHA was able to successfully partner with non-profit organizations to establish a Special Rent Supplement Program targeted to homeless families and individuals. Under that program, homeless families were able to receive up to \$1,000 in rent supplement assistance for six months followed by a reduction to \$500 after the initial six-month period. We believe the increase to \$500 was essential to meet the needs of not only the homeless community, but also working families who are still at or below the poverty line. We are pleased to inform the committees that the HPHA, in partnership with Catholic Charities, has been able to implement the Special Rent Supplement Program on a statewide basis. As of January 31, 2017, HPHA has leased up 155 families under the regular program and 64 families under the Special Rent Supplement Program for the Homeless and are working with an additional 100 families currently searching for housing.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committees on Human Services and Housing with the HPHA's comments regarding SB 1215. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.



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

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 1215, RELATING TO HOUSING

Senate Committee on Human Services

Hon. Josh Green, Chair

Hon. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Housing

Hon. Will Espero, Chair

Hon. Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

Monday, February 6, 2017, 3:05 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Honorable Chair Green, Chair Espero, and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 350 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of Senate Bill 1215, relating to housing.

According to the 2016 statewide *Point In Time Count* (PITC) report, 7,921 houseless persons were counted on a single night in January last year, up 4 percent from 2015. More than half of these persons were unsheltered. O’ahu accounted for 62 percent of the total (4,940 people), up 1 percent from the previous year. Kaua’i saw a 30 percent increase in the homeless population living on its shores (442 people), while the Big Island saw an increase of 12 percent (1,394 people). Overall, our state saw a 12 percent increase in the number of unsheltered homeless individuals and families and, concurrently, a 4.5 percent decrease in the number of sheltered individuals and families. Notably, the size of the houseless population on O’ahu is up 25 percent from 2009, when 3,638 homeless people were counted. Additionally, Department of Education officials said, last January, that 3,576 public school students are homeless. Last year's PITC captured just over half of them. We know, then, that our state’s homeless population is not only larger than the statistics show, but growing.

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 runaway children will be approached for commercial sexual exploitation within 48 hours of being on the run, with over 80 percent being approached for the 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 enacted 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 fund homeless services, including Housing First and rapid rehousing programs for chronically homeless individuals and people on the cusp of homelessness. 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 8.3 percent in 2016 to \$390,000, while the median price for single-family homes increased by 6.5 percent to \$735,000, according to the Honolulu Board of Realtors. Average rent for a 900-square foot apartment in Honolulu now exceeds \$2,200, with the cost of a four-bedroom home in urban Honolulu now exceeding \$1.1 million. At least 44 percent of residences in Hawai’i are owner unoccupied, according to the University of Hawai’i Economic Research Organization, meaning that nearly 50 percent—and by some estimates over half—of Hawai’i’s homes are 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 2016* report found that a full-time worker would need to earn \$34.22/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 \$2,100 in 2015, with average rent for a 900-square-foot exceeding \$2,200 in 2016. In the past three years alone, Honolulu rent has increased 23.5 percent. While 47 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 \$14.49/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. 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 the services necessary to show aloha for our economically disadvantaged neighbors.

When you fund housing programs 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



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

February 06, 2017

TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Human Services

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Housing

FROM: Natalie Okeson, Interim Executive Director

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of SB1215, RELATING TO HOUSING

Hearing: February 06, 2017 at 3:05pm
Conference Room 016

PHOCUSED is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to increasing the safety for, visibility of, and investment in the children and adults in Hawaii who are marginalized, impoverished, and under-served. Our organization has been a leading voice in advocating for our homeless populations since our formation, as the membership of PHOCUSED and our Board of Directors represent many of the major providers of human services across our state. In addition, as a member of Partners in Care, PHOCUSED is proud to strongly support SB1215.

The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, Scott Morishige, provided leadership on this critical issue as a former Executive Director of PHOCUSED, and our organization continues to believe that, although strides have been made, Hawaii's ranking as the nation's leader of

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www.phocused-hawaii.org ☉ admin@phocused-hawaii.org



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

per capita homelessness demands major investment, as well as action on the part of all community members. This bill is a crucial piece of the aforementioned investment, targeting funds to specific programs aimed at addressing the needs of specific populations.

SB 1215 appropriates \$3 million for Housing First, \$2.5 million for Rapid Rehousing, and \$9 million for the State Rent Supplement Program.

Housing First programs have been demonstrated to be effective in addressing the needs of those individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, especially those that find themselves unsheltered due to mental illness or addiction. Housing First is also *cost* effective in that providing housing and services to these individuals greatly decreases their use of emergency medical services. Given Hawaii's rank as first in the nation in per capita chronic homelessness, the need for this appropriation is immense.

Rapid Rehousing is proven to meet targeted needs for those individuals and families who have become homeless due to a financial stressor or inadequate wages rather than an underlying issue. Rapid Rehousing can provide a short-term, minimal intervention that can completely reverse the course of a household's financial trajectory. With 54% of Hawaii's renting households paying more than 30% of their income toward rent, too many of our community members are just one unforeseen expense away from homelessness.

Unlike the deep subsidy of Section 8, the Rent Supplement Program is a shallow subsidy for those individuals and families that need help addressing the gap between their income and the cost of housing. These ongoing subsidies provide the necessary on-going financial coverage these community members need to avoid homelessness.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

PHOCUSED encourages the passage of this bill as each of these programs is a crucial component of a multi-pronged approach to ending homelessness in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1215.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 10:23 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: erinrutherford815@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1215 on Feb 6, 2017 15:05PM*

SB1215

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for HMS/HOU on Feb 6, 2017 15:05PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Rutherford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB1215

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for HMS/HOU on Feb 6, 2017 15:05PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane S. Martinson	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support the appropriation of funds for the Housing First, Rapid Re-housing, and State Rent Supplement programs. They are effective and needed in assisting the chronically homeless into housing and keeping individuals and families housed.

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SB1215

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for HMS/HOU on Feb 6, 2017 15:05PM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments:

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