

SB 2024

Measure Title:	RELATING TO HOUSING.
Report Title:	Housing Support Program; Hawaii Public Housing Authority; Rental Housing; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Establishes the housing support program to make payments to participating landlords on behalf of eligible persons and families. Establishes guidelines to determine eligibility for the program. Appropriates funds for housing support payments.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HOU, WAM
Introducer(s):	GREEN, ESPERO, GABBARD, GALUTERIA, Harimoto, Riviere, Taniguchi



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

January 30, 2018

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

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

SUBJECT: SB 2024 – RELATING TO HOUSING

Hearing: Tuesday, January 30, 2018, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this measure, and offers comments. The Coordinator defers to HPHA in regard to the implementation of the housing support program, and oversight of the housing support program special fund.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish a housing support program within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) to make payments to participating landlords on behalf of eligible persons and families, including participants in the State Housing First program. In addition, the bill establishes a housing support program special fund and appropriates an unspecified amount into this fund for housing support payments on behalf of eligible persons and families.

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

individuals statewide increased by 1,986 – an increase of 146%, more than doubling the supply of permanent beds.

The Coordinator appreciates the willingness of the Legislature to support the continued increase of housing programs for the homeless population, but is concerned about potential adverse impacts on priorities identified in the Executive Budget. The Governor's Executive Budget request includes over \$15 million for homeless services, including \$3 million for Housing First, \$3 million for Rapid Rehousing, and \$1.75 million for homeless outreach services. Collectively, the homeless programs administered by DHS and other State agencies represent an array of financial resources designed to provide one-time crisis assistance, as well as medium term (3-24 months) and longer-term support. This mix of short-, medium-, and long-term assistance is designed not only to transition at-risk and homeless individuals and families into stable housing, but also designed to prevent homelessness by assisting formerly homeless individuals in maintaining housing over time. Accordingly, the Coordinator respectfully asks for the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive Budget request.

In addition, the Coordinator notes that the Housing First program includes a combination of housing support and wraparound case management services. The wraparound service component is critical to assisting chronically homeless individuals in the Housing First program to maintain housing over time. The State Housing First program includes both assistance with rent and case management services, and has a nearly 97% housing retention rate that is significantly higher than the national average of 85% for other similar programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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 HOUSING

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

2:45 PM - Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

SB 2024

RELATING TO HOUSING

Honorable Chair Espero and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 2024, relating to housing.

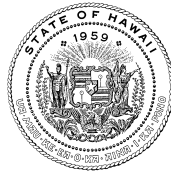
SB 2024 establishes the housing support program within the HPHA, and allows payments to participating landlords on behalf of eligible persons and families. The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **appreciates the intent** of this measure and offers the following comments.

During Governor Ige's Emergency Proclamation to provide emergency relief to address the homeless crisis, the HPHA was able to contract with Catholic Charities and assist a total of 87 homeless families. The rental supplement was \$1000 for the first 6 months, and then \$500 a month going forward.

In order to establish the housing support program, the HPHA would need 2 positions to process/recertify all of the participants that would be applying for this program, and additional funding to contract with service providers to apply wrap around services for all participants. Furthermore, if the intent is to start the housing support program right away, the HPHA would like to request the addition of the following amendments:

- "The Hawaii public housing authority shall develop interim rules without regards to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for assisting participants with the housing support program pursuant to section 3 of this Act."
- "The Hawaii public housing authority may procure case management and counseling services without regard to chapter 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for assisting participants with the housing support program pursuant to section 3 of this Act."

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Housing with the HPHA's testimony regarding SB 2024. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY LAUREL A. JOHNSTON
ACTING DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2024

**January 30, 2018
2:45 p.m.
Room 225**

RELATING TO HOUSING

Senate Bill No. 2024 establishes the Housing Support Program to make housing support payments to participating landlords on behalf of eligible persons and families; sets eligibility requirements for persons and families to qualify for housing support; sets maximum housing support payment rates; establishes a Housing Support Program Special Fund; and appropriates general funds and special funds in FY 19 to make housing support payments.

While the Department of Budget and Finance does not take any position on the establishment of a Housing Support Program, the department does not support the creation of special funds which do not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Special funds should: 1) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries of the program; 2) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 3) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. In regards to Senate Bill No. 2024, there does not appear to be any source of revenues to support the Housing Support Program Special Fund aside from appropriations from the general fund.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



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COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

TUESDAY, January 30, 2018, 2:45 PM, Conference Room 225
SB 2024, RELATING TO HOUSING

TESTIMONY

Nina Eejima, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Harimoto, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 2024 that establishes within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, a housing support program to make housing support payments to participating landlords on behalf of eligible persons and families, establishes guidelines to determine eligibility for the program. The measure further appropriates funds for such housing support payments out of the general revenues of the state and housing support program special fund.

As our state is experiencing the worst housing crisis in our history, providing housing support payments to eligible persons and families is a necessary action which serves to facilitate an increase in the availability and accessibility of affordable housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-2024

Submitted on: 1/26/2018 11:12:39 PM

Testimony for HOU on 1/30/2018 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

THE HAWAII STATE SENATE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

2:45 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 225

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2024, RELATING TO HOUSING

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

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. 2024, relating to a Housing Support Program ("Program") from which rent will be paid to the landlord directly through the Program on behalf of the eligible tenant. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. 2024 and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. 2024, is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), as it is designed to keep the units at the Front Street Apartments, Island of Maui, Hawaii, affordable. Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "Housing is a basic human need and we believe that adequate, accessible, affordable, and safe housing should be available to all residents on Hawai'i. Affordable housing that is fair in proportion to individual income is the basis of prosperity for our citizens and stability in our economy. Recent and past real estate bubbles have fueled disproportionate rent increases, a key contributor to homelessness. Therefore, we support efforts to promote truly affordable housing for all citizens who rent. . . We believe in the concept of "Housing First" to develop affordable, state housing and support services to break the cycle of homelessness for people with the fewest housing options." (Platform of DPH, P. 7, Lines 340-344, 352-353 (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. 2024 establishes a Housing Support Program from which payments to participating landlords on behalf of eligible persons and families are made, establishes guidelines to determine eligibility for the Program and appropriates funds for housing support payments, thereby reducing the risk of homelessness, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ **Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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