

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**TESTIMONY COMMENTING ON SB 2401 HD 1  
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: April 4, 2018

Room Number: 308

1 The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports SB 2401 HD 1, with a particular  
2 focus on Part IV.

- 3 1. In 2017, the DOH requested funding for two years (FY 18 and FY 19) for a pre-  
4 arrest diversion pilot known as Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD).  
5 The Legislature funded one year (FY 18) and the DOH commenced  
6 implementation of the pilot including the development of purchase of service  
7 contracts in coordination with the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, the  
8 Department of Public Safety, county law enforcement and the community. A  
9 contract for implementation was executed and the 2018 funds encumbered; which  
10 include a focus on both service provision and evaluation of the pilot. The  
11 evaluation will include, but is not limited to:
- 12 a. Whether LEAD participants reduced incidence of re-arrests or citations  
13 after enrollment (other jurisdictions and states have seen up to a 60%  
14 reduction in re-arrests);

- 1           b.     Whether LEAD participants who are homeless at referral are housed  
2                     (other jurisdictions and states have seen a 40% housing rate through  
3                     LEAD);
- 4           c.     Whether LEAD participants with substance use disorders engage in  
5                     substance abuse treatment (other jurisdictions and states have seen a 55%  
6                     increase in engagement in treatment services);
- 7           d.     Whether LEAD participants with mental health disorders engage in mental  
8                     health treatment (other jurisdictions and states have seen a 49% increase in  
9                     engagement in treatment services); and
- 10          e.     Whether LEAD participants have reduced incidence of using the  
11                     emergency room (ER) for non-urgent medical care (other jurisdictions and  
12                     states have seen a 55% decrease in non-urgent use of the ER for medical  
13                     care after enrollment).
- 14          2.     Additional funding for year two to continue and to sustain the pilot was included  
15                     in the Governor’s Executive Budget, but was not included in HB 1900 HD 1 on  
16                     the basis that this request was supported through other measures active in the  
17                     Legislature – including this measure and HB 2401 HD 1.
- 18          **3.     The DOH preference is that the funds requested in the Governors executive**  
19                     **budget be reinstated to HB 1900 HD 1, and added to the DOH base budget.**
- 20          4.     If it is not the will of the Legislature to include the requested funds in the  
21                     DOH base budget, the DOH supports the inclusion of \$400,000 in page 12, line  
22                     17 to fund two additional years of the current LEAD pilot. This is necessary to

1 effectively implement and evaluate the pilot and determine the feasibility of  
2 implementation to the rest of the State.

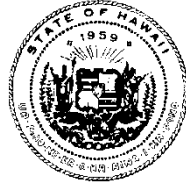
3 5. The current LEAD pilot has widespread support across multiple sectors of the  
4 community, which is apparent in the testimony in favor of the bills listed above.  
5 Without continued funding, the DOH will not be able to sustain the pilot and will  
6 not be able to develop plans for effective expansion based on the evaluation of the  
7 pilot.

8 6. DOH also supports the inclusion of \$1,000,000 in page 12, line 11. Of this  
9 amount, \$600,000 is necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the DOH to continue  
10 to administer homeless outreach, counseling, and diversion for unsheltered  
11 persons experiencing substance abuse, including through professional case  
12 managers who employ basic core competencies for substance abuse treatment  
13 (these services were part of the funds appropriated by the 2017 Legislature and  
14 were in the Governor's Executive Budget request for \$800,000 this session). The  
15 remaining \$400,000 is necessary to fund two additional years of the current  
16 LEAD pilot.

17 This measure provides support of the pre-arrest diversion efforts (LEAD) already under  
18 way and avoids duplication of effort by creating an additional pilot. Therefore, we strongly urge  
19 your Committee to pass this measure so that the efforts of the current pilot are supported and  
20 sustained.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to provide 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

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**Wednesday, April 4, 2018**  
**2:30 PM - Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of  
**SB 2401, SD2, HD1**  
**RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Honorable Chair Luke, and Members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 2401, SD2, HD1, relating to homelessness.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports the intent of SECTION 2 and SECTION 4 of this measure, so long as it does not adversely affect the Governor's supplemental budget, and offers the following comments.

SB 2401, SD2, HD1, proposes in SECTION 2 of the measure to establish a 3-year housing homeless children pilot program to assist families with minors experiencing, or at imminent risk of, homelessness due to domestic violence, and also proposes in SECTION 4 to appropriate funds to the HPHA for public housing improvements and renovations statewide.

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. This measure would allow the HPHA to administer a similar program.

In SECTION 4, these much needed funds will enable to the HPHA to continue to address the extensive capital needs of the HPHA's aging housing stock, and repair our low-income housing properties quicker, and move more needy families into low-income public housing.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the House Committee on Finance with the HPHA's testimony regarding SB 2401, SD2, HD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive  
Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of  
Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of  
West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action  
Network

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Moh

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Maui Youth and Family Services

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together  
(PACT)

Planned Parenthood of the  
Great Northwest and  
Hawaiian Islands

PHOCUSED

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community  
Center

The Catalyst Group

March 14, 2018

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Finance

## **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2301 SD 2 HD 1 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports SB2301 SD 2 HD 1 Relating to Youth Homelessness.

Homeless youth who are living on their own on the streets without support or guidance from their families are the most vulnerable segment of our homeless population. They are children who have not completed their education, lack employment experience, and have not yet learned the skills for adult living.

**Please ensure the funding for services to homeless youth is designated to the Office of Youth Services, the state agency responsible for preventing and ending youth homelessness.**

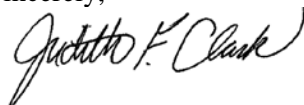
More than 40% Hawaii's homeless youth were forced to leave home by their families. Nine out of ten (90%) have slept outdoors in a park, beach, sidewalk or car. Two-fifths have been beaten or assaulted while on the streets. Of those trading sex for food, money, drugs or a place to sleep, 65% said that they were forced to do so.

Youth adults ages 18 – 24 face many housing challenges and could benefit from rapid rehousing and rent supplement programs. Typically, they work at low-wage jobs while trying to complete a GED, attend college, or participate in vocational training. Ensuring that these young adults have stable, safe housing during this critical period can provide the foundation that will enable them to be self-supporting for a lifetime.

By providing an array of services to meet the needs of different segments of our homeless population, we can greatly reduce homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD2 HD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair,  
and Members, Committee on Finance  
FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer  
Hearing: **Wednesday, 4/4/18; 2:30 PM; CR 308**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, Members, Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support of SB 2401 SD2 HD1**, which provides funds for a continuum of services to end homelessness. I am Terry Walsh, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care. This funding provides critical long range, proven solutions to homelessness.

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. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Ending homelessness is a top priority for 2018.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i strongly supports **putting funds for this network of proven programs into the base budget, and increasing funding by 25% over last year to increase the pace of ending homelessness.** This funding is vital to create ongoing pathways out of homelessness. This network of services addresses critical sub-populations and targets solutions to their diverse needs. They create the base on which additional new programs can collaborate, if that is the intent of the Legislature. These comprehensive solutions are proven effective. From rapidly repairing public housing units to Outreach that helps homeless people navigate into housing, to Housing First, to vital rental subsidies to fill the gap in affordability, to preventing substance abusers from overcrowding the criminal justice system, this bill provides effective solutions.

**Suggested Amendment:** to clarify funding, we suggest adding to Section 10, that the funding for Outreach to runaway/homeless youth **be designed to the Office of Youth Services, at the Department of Human Services.**

The **Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC)** is a good example of a new pathway that has had spectacular results moving homeless families off our streets and beaches. Operated by Catholic Charities Hawai'i, the FAC served 54 households last year, and placed 91% successfully into housing in an average of 81 days! 100% have remained housed. Its success is greatly due to extensive collaboration with the network of government benefits and other service providers to move families rapidly into housing. This network of support is critical to its success.

Another new pathway urgently needed is ongoing rental assistance to get homeless families with children into housing ASAP. Many children are homeless simply due to the family not having sufficient income to pay rent. Other children are at imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic violence. National research has found that 80% of homeless women with children had previously experienced domestic violence. A new **Housing Homeless Children** pilot program



at the Hawaii Public Housing Authority would significantly impact the lives of these already traumatized children.

We urge your support for these critical programs. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at [bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org), or 373-0356 for any questions.



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

April 4, 2018

**Board of Directors**

*John McComas, Chair  
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Gavin Thornton  
Trisha Kajimura  
Debbie Shimizu, Ex Officio  
Natalie Okeson, Exec. Dir.*

TO: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members, Committee On Finance

FROM: Pedro Haro, Advocacy Consultant

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of SB 2401, SD2, HD1 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: April 4, 2018 at 2:30 pm  
Conference Room 308

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Bill 2401, SD2, HD1. I am Pedro Haro, advocacy consultant for PHOCUSED.

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 Senate Bill 2401.

Our organization believes that although many strides have been made, Hawaii's ranking as the nation's leader in 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. What this bill will do is invest in what we know works and will continue to build momentum.

The Rapid Rehousing, Housing First, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, Public Housing, Outreach, and the Family Assessment Center are all pillars of what works to change the tide in the race to end homelessness in Hawaii. We strongly support the continued funding of these programs.

PHOCUSED is a membership and advocacy organization for health and human services in Hawaii, which works together with community stakeholders to collectively impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our state. Our commitment to the people is reflected in our name – Protecting Hawaii's 'Ohana, Children, Under-Served, Elderly, and Disabled. We are guided by the shared commitment of our members to protect the interests of Hawaii's people and the sector which seeks to provide them with quality programs and services.





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

***Board of Directors***

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*Debbie Shimizu, Ex Officio*  
*Natalie Okeson, Exec. Dir.*

PHOCUSED also strongly supports the creation of the shallow, long-term rental assistance pilot project. As you know, more than a quarter of the State's households fall into homelessness simply because they are short of money to pay for their rent but have no other underlying issues. This includes children whose families are simply too poor to retain housing. For these children and their families, small subsidies allow them to more rapidly secure housing and move out of shelters into permanent housing. This gap group will best be served through this pilot project, which will include financial case management by a United States Department of Housing and Urban Development certified financial counseling organization.

We support this bill for the multitude of reasons expressed above. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 2401, SD2, HD1.

PHOCUSED is a membership and advocacy organization for health and human services in Hawaii, which works together with community stakeholders to collectively impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our state. Our commitment to the people is reflected in our name – Protecting Hawaii's 'Ohana, Children, Under-Served, Elderly, and Disabled. We are guided by the shared commitment of our members to protect the interests of Hawaii's people and the sector which seeks to provide them with quality programs and services.



# 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 2401 SD2 Relating to Homelessness

TO: Committee on Finance  
FROM: Partners in Care (PIC)  
HEARING: **Wednesday, April 4, 2018; 2:30 PM; CR 308**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members, Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on **SB 2401 SD2 HD1**, which provides multiple pathways to move people out of homelessness. Partners in Care (PIC)—a coalition of more than 35 non-profit, homelessness providers—**strongly supports SB 2401 SD2 HD1**.

The Star Advertiser (1/10/18) reported on a study by Aloha United Way, which found that nearly half of isle households do not earn enough to cover basic needs, much less save anything for an emergency. Any crisis can put these families at great risk for long-term problems like loss of housing. The situation is dire and demands a great investment to prevent homelessness and quickly move those homeless back to stable housing. **Hawaii's proven programs are showing results: Statewide, the number of homeless is down and homeless families decreased by 19%.** (Point in Time count, 2017) We must continue these proven programs as the basic network on which other new programs can be added, if that is the intent of the legislature.

Hawaii needs programs that create a pathway out of homelessness and removes barriers, including one of the greatest barriers: the lack of affordable rental units. The package listed below addresses this by promoting **renovation of public housing** to open up more very low rent units. Enhanced **Outreach**, including for homeless **youth** and **diversion** of homeless from the criminal justice system, **rental subsidies** to house homeless children and children at imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic violence, along with proven interventions like **Housing First** and the **Oahu Family Assessment Center**, are effective but require an annual commitment by the State.

**PIC strongly supports the following funding, in the base budget, which will create a range of options to significantly reduce homelessness. We call for a 25% increase in the current funding, (reflected below) for most of these programs to increase the pace of ending homelessness in our state:**

- Funds for public housing improvements/renovations: \$35,000,000
- Funds for the Housing First Program: \$ 3,750,000
- Funds for Rapid Rehousing: \$ 3,750,000

Contact for (PIC) Advocacy Committee: Chair: Gavin Thornton, 808-369-2510, [picadvocacychair@gmail.com](mailto:picadvocacychair@gmail.com)

**PARTNERS IN CARE, c/o Aloha United Way**  
**200 North Vineyard • Suite 700 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 • [www.PartnersinCareOahu.org](http://www.PartnersinCareOahu.org)**



# 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.*

- Funds for a Housing Homeless Children pilot program at HPHA to quickly move homeless children into permanent housing \$ 800,000 (new)
  - Includes financial case management and administration
- Funds for homeless outreach: \$ 2,200,000
  - Includes \$375,000 for runaway/homeless youth outreach
  - Includes \$310,000 for civil legal services
- Funds for outreach and counseling services for homeless individuals and families with substance use disorders: \$ 1,000,000
  - Includes \$250,000 for the LEAD pilot project (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion)
- Funds for the Oahu Family Assessment Center \$ 680,000

**Suggested Amendment:** to clarify funding, we suggest adding to Section 10, that the funding for “Outreach to runaway and homeless youth” (unaccompanied youth) **be designed to the Office of Youth Services, at the Department of Human Services.**

**Repair of Public Housing:** This is a quick fix that enables homeless and very low income people from the community to move into rentals offering rents at 30% of their incomes. Repairing units is much quicker and less costly than building new affordable rental units.

**Housing First: Partners in Care urges that funding for Housing First and other homeless services be placed in the base budget of the appropriate departments.** For example, Housing First has successfully moved chronically homeless people into permanent housing. The cost savings is immense once these chronic homeless are stable—and over 90% remain in their housing, surpassing the national average. A study by the UH Center on the Family found a 43% drop in healthcare costs, resulting in savings of about \$4,590/person/month or **\$55,000/year per person.** For every 100 chronic homeless housed, the estimated savings is \$5.5 million/year.

**Rental Assistance: Rapid Rehousing** is effective to help secure and maintain housing for working people. More than 25% of households fall into homelessness simply because they cannot pay the rent. Many families need a financial shot in the arm—usually a one-time payment (or up to 3 months)—to get back on their feet and into housing. However, some homeless families need an ongoing rental subsidy and financial case management to stabilize their housing. Establishing **a new Housing Homeless Children Pilot Program within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority** with medium term rental subsidies would provide resources to move homeless children back into permanent housing. Studies have shown that as many as 57% of homelessness for women was caused by Domestic Violence. Including children facing imminent homelessness due to Domestic Violence is critical to prevent homelessness among this very vulnerable population. Financial case management by a HUD certified financial counseling agency is essential to help the families close the affordability gap and achieve self-sufficiency.

Contact for (PIC) Advocacy Committee: Chair: Gavin Thornton, 808-369-2510, [picadvocacychair@gmail.com](mailto:picadvocacychair@gmail.com)

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# 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.*

**Outreach:** Children living alone on the streets is a tragedy. **Outreach to unaccompanied homeless youth and runaways** is essential to help these often “hidden homeless” kids who are living in perilous and life threatening situations. A recent Street Youth Study found that 58% had attempted suicide. 38% had been beaten or physically attached while homeless. Enhanced **outreach for families and adults** connect people with critical services and help them to navigate into housing. **Civil legal services** are essential to remove barriers to entering housing. **Homeless with substance abuse disorders** require focused and specialized outreach. This includes funding for **Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)** to divert this population from the criminal justice system (which is being flooded with homeless cases) and into services.

**Oahu Family Assessment Center:** This new program has had spectacular successes in its first year of operation. Serving 194 persons, it placed 91% of the homeless families into permanent housing in less than 81 days! 100% have remained stably housed. 48% of the households had four or more members who are usually more difficult to place. Most importantly, it is part of the new Ohana Nui partnership with the Department of Human Services to break up silos and transform Hawaii's Human Services delivery system. The key to these partnerships is working both with government programs and other programs' services to quickly provide the supports needed to move families onto permanent housing.

This year it is critical to enhance pathways out of homelessness and build these systems/programs into the base budget of the state. The overall network is critical since “one size fits all” does not work with the homeless. Instead these programs address sub-populations in a comprehensive manner that enable solutions that meet the specific needs of these homeless. This new coordinated approach is having success. Hawaii's homeless numbers have gone down while many other cities on the US Mainland (Los Angeles, Seattle, etc) are seeing steady increases in their homeless populations. For these reasons, Partners In Care strongly supports SB 2401.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important bill.

Contact for (PIC) Advocacy Committee: Chair: Gavin Thornton, 808-369-2510, [picadvocacychair@gmail.com](mailto:picadvocacychair@gmail.com)

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**200 North Vineyard • Suite 700 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 • [www.PartnersinCareOahu.org](http://www.PartnersinCareOahu.org)**



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
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## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WEDNESDAY, April 4, 2018, 2:30 PM, Room 308  
SB 2401, SD2, HD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

### TESTIMONY

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

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports and offers comments on SB 2401, SD2, HD1** that aims to support efforts to reduce homelessness by: (1) Establishing a three-year housing homeless children pilot program to assist families with minors experiencing, or at imminent risk of, homelessness due to domestic violence with obtaining and maintaining permanent housing; and (2) Appropriating funds to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Department of Human Services, and Department of Health to support the agencies' homelessness initiatives.

We fully support continued funding support to homeless individuals and families through outreach, housing first, and rapid rehousing approaches. This measure reflects the progress that has been made in finding and pursuing innovative, sustainable, and integrated solutions to ending homelessness. We specifically support the proposed pilot program. Homeless youth are by definition the most vulnerable of the homeless community. Meaningful approaches must include strong funding support that can robustly support outreach to our homeless youth, together with the availability and provision of targeted services.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



# HAWAII APPLESEED

## CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

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Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
**Supporting SB 2401 SD2 HD1**, Relating to Homelessness  
House Committee on Finance  
Scheduled for Hearing Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 2:30 pm, Conference Room 308

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*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice Hawai'i Appleseed is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.*

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Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB 2401 SD2 HD1, which provides funding for proven homelessness programs that are critical to addressing our homelessness crisis.

For the first time in years, Hawai'i's homelessness rate went down in 2017. Hawai'i is turning the tide on the homelessness crisis by investing in proven programs such as Housing First and Rapid Rehousing, which are supported by SB 2401. Our non-profits have implemented a data-driven, collaborative process that matches those experiencing homelessness with the services they need to make more efficient use of available resources.

These efforts are working—we have finally put a dent in homelessness. But given the magnitude of the problem, we need to increase our investment in the solution, which SB 2401 will do. By making smart investments, and by continuing to improve our efficacy, we can solve what has become one of Hawai'i's most pressing problems.

SB 2401 supports the following critically important programs:

**Outreach:** Without outreach services, we could not connect people to the proven effective programs such as Housing First that bring them out of homelessness. Outreach teams connect those on the streets to all available housing options: Emergency Shelters, Transitional Shelters, Housing First, Rapid Rehousing with rent stipends, and/or treatment (i.e., substance use). For many chronically homeless mentally ill persons, it can take 50 or more individual outreach contacts spread out over several months or even years to build up trust and move them off the streets. Outreach teams may also do wound care, distribute hygiene kits or snacks, and offer to obtain identification documents.

**Rapid Rehousing:** Rapid rehousing is designed to help individuals and families exit homelessness quickly and return to permanent housing by providing assistance in finding housing, rental stipends, and case management services.

**Housing First:** Housing First targets chronically homeless individuals/families with disabling conditions (mental health, substance use, and physical disabilities). It provides subsidized housing, case management services, and other support services. State and City-funded Housing First programs served 231 clients, both individuals and families, in the year ending June 30, 2016, with 96.7% being stably housed as of that date. It has been estimated that Housing First saves the state approximately \$59,000 in health care costs per client per year; with program expenses factored in, the net savings has been \$28,000 per client per year.

**LEAD:** LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) is a pre-booking diversion program that grants police officers the discretionary authority to redirect low-level offenders – typically drug-involved and homeless - to case managers if they choose to do so. Twenty-eight percent of Hawaii’s unsheltered homeless individuals identify as having substance use disorders. A pilot project was funded by the Legislature this past year and has been awarded to the CHOW Project. This breaks the ineffective, destructive, and expensive revolving cycle of arrest, incarceration, release, and back to addiction and the streets.

**Repair of Public Housing:** This is a cost-effective fix that enables homeless and very low income people from the community to move into rentals offering rents at 30% of their incomes. Repairing units is much quicker and less costly than building new affordable housing.

**Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC):** The FAC had tremendous success in its first year, housing 91% or 54 of the homeless families it served within 81 days, with 100% of those families remaining housed. The much-needed capacity provided by the FAC in Kakaako is also needed on neighbor islands and in other areas of Oahu. With over 458 homeless families on Oahu alone as of the 2017 Point in Time Count, disregarding opportunities to fund proven programs and additional shelter capacity is not an option.

SB 2401’s package of interventions is a necessary and powerful means of addressing homelessness in Hawai‘i. For these reasons, Hawai‘i Appleseed strongly supports SB 2401 SD2 HD1. Thank you for your consideration of this very important issue.



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

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**TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 2401, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1,  
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

**House Committee on Finance  
Hon. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Hon. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 2:30 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

Honorable Chair Luke and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMU Alliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 400 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of Senate Bill 2401, SD 2, 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, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 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. Funding Housing First, rapid rehousing programming, rental assistance, comprehensive human services, and a coordinated continuum of care (including social and medical services) for homeless families—especially homeless youth—must remain one of our state’s top priorities, as we continue to seek innovative ways of showing aloha to our economically disadvantaged neighbors.

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

Aloha United Way  
200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 700  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817



Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair,  
Representative Ty J. K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance

SB 2401, SD2, HD1 Relating to Homelessness – **SUPPORT with Comments**  
April 4, 2018; Hearing Time 2:30 PM; Conference Room 308

Honorable Chairs, Vice Chairs & Committee Members:

Aloha United Way supports the intent of SB 2401, SD2, HD1 which appropriates funding to continue several important homeless programs. However, Aloha United Way believes that a comprehensive homeless program must include diversion elements to reduce the pipelines feeding our homeless population.

Recently, Aloha United Way released a report titled ALICE: A STUDY OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP IN HAWAI'I. ALICE® (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) are hardworking folks struggling financially from paycheck to paycheck and unable to accrue the assets to enable them to weather a temporary financial setback. The study identified 165,013 ALICE households in Hawaii – 37% of all households. These individuals and families have difficulty covering basic expenses like childcare, food, housing, healthcare and transportation. For ALICE, it takes just one crisis – loss of employment for a short period, an unexpected health emergency or car repair, an increase in monthly rent – to be at even greater risk of long-term problems like homelessness.

Forty-two percent of households in Hawaii are renters (fourth highest rate in the country) and 54% of these households pay 50% or more of their monthly income for housing (the second highest rate in the country). Further, 63% of households lack emergency savings to deal with an unexpected \$500 expense. These statistics highlight the need for a program that can help a family with a short-term financial crisis weather the setback without becoming homeless.

The Coordinated Statewide Homeless Initiative (CSHI) was an example of an effective diversion program. Initially intended to serve both the homeless and divert those at-risk of becoming homeless, 72% of the households served were at-risk as evidenced by an eviction notice. In 18 months of operation, CSHI assisted 1,610 households (4,944 individuals) by providing total rent assistance of \$3.7M. Significantly, on Oahu, CSHI experienced a 97% success rate. Of the 717 diverted households, only 22 (3%) eventually fell into homelessness. Per court records, total evictions on Oahu fell 25% during the CSHI program.

The key learning from the CSHI grant is that for every one homeless person served, there were three individuals in the eviction process. Aloha United Way believes that similar diversion programs must be included in any comprehensive plan to address our ALICE population

homeless issues. Legislation has been introduced to re-establish the diversion and landlord support portions of CSHI.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We urge your favorable consideration of SB 2401, SD2, HD1 and request favorable consideration of SB 2027, SD2 to complete a comprehensive homeless program that includes needed diversion elements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norm Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N".

Norm Baker  
COO

eliminating racism  
empowering women

**ywca**

O'ahu

**Fernhurst YWCA**  
1566 Wilder Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822  
808.941.2231

**Kokokahi YWCA**  
45-035 Kāne'ohe Bay Drive  
Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744  
808.247.2124

**Laniākea YWCA**  
1040 Richards Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
808.538.7061

ywcaoahu.org

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Finance

Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 1:30PM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 308

### **Position Statement Supporting Senate Bill 2401 SD2 HD1**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for Senate Bill 2401 SD2, which provides multiple pathways to move people out of homelessness. It is a tragedy that Hawaii has the highest rate of homeless per capita of all the states in the US. I ask your support for the wide range of programs below, which provide real solutions for homelessness.

First, we need affordable rentals units for our working families; for those that cannot pay more than 30 percent of their incomes on rent. Hawaii must increase its investment in proven programs that will reduce homelessness in our state. Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Outreach, including civil legal services and youth outreach, have already made a positive impact and need continued funding for continued success. We have seen the success of the Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC), and its critical role to reducing homelessness. We also need to continue to invest in outreach and diversion programs. It is critical to get people away from the criminal justice system and connect them with a program that will address their needs.

For many problems, funding is not the answer. But, for the problems Senate Bill 2401 is addressing, continued and increased funding is the answer. Without adequate resources will cannot hope to address the severe problems we see in our state. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Bill 2401.

Kathleen Algire  
Director, Public Policy and Advocacy

**YWCA IS ON A MISSION**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Housing Committee on Finance:

Aloha and mahalo nui loa for your serious effort to find solutions to Hawai'i's homelessness challenge. As a native of this land, born 57 years ago, I know that when we show our Aloha, one for the other, beautiful things happen.

As the President of Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club, a member of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, whose genealogy carries the legacy of our beloved Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole, I strongly support SB 2401 SD2 HD1, which proposes making meaningful investments to help people struggling with homelessness in Hawai'i Nei.

We all know that Hawai'i is a sacred and special place. And, we are all very blessed to call this our home. Here, Ke Akua provides skies so blue, water so pure, and oceans and lands so abundant. Yet, in the realm of man, we face many challenges of scarcity. Homelessness, for one, is the evidence.

We believe that Aloha is the best medicine for healing the root cause of homelessness, and this bill advances its spirit to our brothers and sisters, keiki to kupuna, who do not have a healthy, safe, or sustainable home to live in. Together with the numerous gifts which are made daily by individual residents, businesses, nonprofit organizations, schools, churches, neighbors and friends, the elements in this measure demonstrate that Hawai'i is still the land of Aloha.

Mahalo nui loa for your love for all of Hawai'i's people and for this opportunity to express our support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1.

Aloha nui loa,

Kehaulani Lum



## **SB2401 SD2 HD2 Homeless Housing & Rent, LEAD and Outreach**

### **COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

- Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair; Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
- Wednesday, April 4, 2018: 2:30 pm
- Conference Room 308

### **Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC) Supports SB2401:**

*GOOD MORNING CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization of almost 40 non-profit alcohol and drug treatment and prevention agencies.*

HSAC supports low income rental units, Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Outreach, including civil legal services and youth outreach. HSAC especially supports Outreach and Counseling for homeless with substance abuse disorders as well as the LEAD pilot project. HSAC also supports the Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC) and a pilot program for families.

### **LEAD**

For years, providers and policy makers have concluded that we can't solve our drug problems unless the community, government, and healthcare providers join together. Here is such a program that brings us together with the hope that this effort will lead to even more collaborations.

- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) is a new innovative pilot program that was developed in collaboration with the community to divert low-level drug and prostitution offenders into community-based treatment and support services – including housing, healthcare, job training, treatment and mental health support -- instead of processing them through traditional criminal justice system avenues.

### **Case Management for Substance Abuse**

We recommend professional case management workers who have experience working in a substance use disorder treatment environment to address outreach and counseling services for homeless individuals and families with substance use disorders. Such experts would be better able to motivate people with chronic conditions of addiction.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.

FIN-Jo

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From: Connie Mitchell <conniem@ihshawaii.org>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:01 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2401 SD2 HD1

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House Committee on Finance

HEARING: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 2:30 pm, Conference Room 308

FROM: Connie Mitchell  
Executive Director  
IHS, The Institute for Human Services, Inc.

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Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Housing Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my strong support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1. Key to reducing the visible homeless on our streets and unsheltered otherwise are investments to programs that permanently house them and triage them off the streets.

Truly affordable rentals for low-income people are a must. \$35 million to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for improvements and renovations of public housing units will keep many in service and bring more back into the inventory of affordable rentals.

There are so many people who have been assessed through our Coordinated Entry System who need Permanent supportive housing. These are the folks who cannot make it on their own, (many of them seniors) and need help to both get them off the street and to be maintained in housing with wrap around service. Please increase funding for both Housing first and Rapid Rehousing by 25% to the Department of Human Services for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Outreach, including civil legal services and youth outreach. I also ask your support to also increase funding by 25% for Outreach and Counseling for homeless with substance abuse disorders, including the LEAD pilot project. We must divert this population away from the criminal justice system and into services.

Finally, the bill will create a pilot program that will assist 100 homeless families with minor children or families imminently facing homelessness due to domestic violence. A rental subsidy (up to \$500/mo) along with financial case management can help us end family homelessness and stabilize them in a permanent rental unit.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1.



From: Annie Valentin <annie@projectvisionhawaii.org>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:54 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2401 SD2 HD1

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House Committee on Finance

HEARING: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 2:30 pm, Conference Room 308

FROM: Annie Valentin  
Executive Director  
Project Vision Hawaii

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Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Housing Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my strong support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1, which proposes making critical investments to help people struggling with homelessness in Hawaii. Hawaii cannot afford to lose these programs, which have proven their effectiveness in addressing homelessness. In fact, we need to increase our investment these core homelessness programs to quicken the pace at which we are addressing this difficult problem.

I am disturbed by the number and sad condition of so many of our residents living on the streets. It is affecting our neighborhoods, beaches, and the future of our great state. I ask your support for the specific programs below, which provide real solutions for homelessness.

First, we need rentals units that are truly affordable for low-income people. \$35 million to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for improvements and renovations of public housing units will bring rental units back into service.

Hawaii must increase its investment in proven programs that will reduce homelessness in our state. I ask for your support to increase the current funding by 25% to the Department of Human Services for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Outreach, including civil legal services and youth outreach. I also ask your support to also increase funding by 25% for Outreach and Counseling for homeless with substance abuse disorders, including the LEAD pilot project. We must divert this population away from the criminal justice system and into services.

The bill also will support the Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC), which successfully housed 91% of the homeless families it served last year, in under 3 months. Finally, the bill will create a pilot program that will assist 100 homeless families with minor children or families imminently facing homelessness due to domestic violence. A rental subsidy (up to \$500/mo) along with financial case management can bring these families out of homelessness and stabilize them in a permanent rental unit.

These actions will have a lasting effect on our State and provide a future for our struggling families and individuals who so easily can fall into homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1.

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Housing Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my strong support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1, which proposes making critical investments to help people struggling with homelessness in Hawaii. Hawaii cannot afford to lose these programs, which have proven their effectiveness in addressing homelessness. I am Maude Cumming, Executive Director of Family Life Center, Inc. on the island of Maui.

Hawaii must increase its investment in proven programs that will reduce homelessness in our state. I ask for your support to increase the current funding by 25% to the Department of Human Services for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Outreach, including civil legal services and youth outreach population away from the criminal justice system and into services.

Of particular concern is the Housing First Program. As the contracted service provider for the Housing First Program in the County of Maui we have taken 41 individuals directly off the streets with placement into permanent housing, many with long periods of homelessness. One 56 year old male reported "this is the first rental contract I have had in my life." FLC would not have agreed to enter into the Housing First contract if there was not a reasonable expectancy that this evidence based program which ends a person's homelessness would not continue to be funded. It would be a great disservice to the participants as well as the landlords that have been willing to engage in housing this challenging population of individuals.

Please reconsider the budget so that these programs will not be lost. These actions will have a lasting effect on our State and provide a future for our struggling families and individuals who so easily can fall into homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1

**Action with Aloha LLC**  
**Consultation, Assessment, Counseling**

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*98-1256 Kaahumanu Street Suite E301 Pearl City, HI 96782*

*Phone: 484-4489*

*Email admin@actionwithaloha.com*

Action with Aloha LLC Supports SB2401:

GOOD MORNING CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Julianna Moefu-Kaleopa. I am the Executive Director/Owner for Action with Aloha, a behavioral mental health service provider. Our agency provides outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment Program services and counseling.

Action with Aloha supports low income rental units, Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Outreach, including civil legal services and youth outreach. Action with Aloha especially supports Outreach and Counseling for homeless with substance abuse disorders as well as the LEAD pilot project. Action with Aloha also supports the Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC) and a pilot program for families.

#### LEAD

For years, providers and policy makers have concluded that we can't solve our drug problems unless the community, government, and healthcare providers join together. Here is such a program that brings us together with the hope that this effort will lead to even more collaborations.

- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) is a new innovative pilot program that was developed in collaboration with the community to divert low-level drug and prostitution offenders into community-based treatment and support services – including housing, healthcare, job training, treatment and mental health support -- instead of processing them through traditional criminal justice system avenues.

#### Case Management for Substance Abuse

We recommend professional case management workers who have experience working in a substance use disorder treatment environment to address outreach and counseling services for homeless individuals and families with substance use disorders. Such experts would be better able to motivate people with chronic conditions of addiction.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.

Julianna Moefu-Kaleopa, MSW CSAC

Executive Director/Owner

**SB-2401-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 7:52:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mona Bomgaars	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair and Members of the Finance Committee

Please pass this Omnibus Homelessness Bill. The 25% increased funding over the Governors bill is essential as well as the sections of the bill that support the assessment center, the new pilor program for children, etc. The more approaches we take to address this seemingly intractable problem the better and the more intense efforts towards each of the various categories causing houselessness increases the possibility of making a dent in the numbers. While working towards that end, we must also consider each person humanely and will respect. This bill should encourage those working towards social justice in our beloved state.

Thank you for passing this bill.

From: Jeannine Souki <jeannine808@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 8:45 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2401 SD2 HD1

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House Committee on Finance

HEARING: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 2:30 pm, Conference Room 308

FROM: Jeannine Souki

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Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee on Finance:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my strong support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1, which proposes making critical investments to help people struggling with access to affordable housing and homelessness in Hawaii. These programs help provide a critical safety net to get individuals and families back on their feet and help to build economic success for our state. We cannot afford to lose these programs that are addressing homelessness. In fact, we need to increase our investment and provide wrap around services to address this difficult and persistent problem.

I am disturbed by the number and sad condition of so many of our residents, especially families with children, and teens living on the streets. It is affecting our neighborhoods, beaches, and the economic future of our great state. I ask your support for the specific programs below, which provide real solutions for homelessness:

- \* \$35 million to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for improvements and renovations of public housing units will bring rental units back into service. These rentals units that are truly affordable for low-income people and we simply need more of them.
- \* Increase the current funding by 25% to the Department of Human Services for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Outreach, including civil legal services and youth outreach.
- \* Increase funding by 25% for Outreach and Counseling for homeless with substance abuse disorders, including the LEAD pilot project. We must divert this population away from the criminal justice system and into services.
- \* Support the Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC), which successfully housed 91% of the homeless families it served last year, in under 3 months.
- \* Create a pilot program that will assist 100 homeless families with minor children or families imminently facing homelessness due to domestic violence. A rental subsidy (up to \$500/mo) along with financial case management can bring these families out of homelessness and stabilize them in a permanent rental unit.

We must also consider other programs that help the homeless prepare and improve their skills for the workforce such as Adult English Language programs for migrants, particularly from the Freely Associated States; programs that teach basic computer skills and job coaching programs to help individuals prepare for and maintain employment.

These actions will have a lasting effect on our State and provide a future for our struggling families and individuals who so easily can fall into homelessness.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Jeannine Souki

**SB-2401-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 9:20:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alika Campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Homelessness is a complex, multifaceted issue and there is no "silver bullet" and experience has shown that there is no one single solution that will "solve the problem." What might work for one individual or subpopulation may not be the right fit for another. This is why it is vital to have as full a continuum of services as possible. I believe it is vital to fund a spectrum of services and urge you to support this bill which provides resources for several parts of the service continuum.

From: Debra de Luis <ddeluis@hawaiiantel.net>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:07 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2401 SD2 HD1

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House Committee on Finance

HEARING: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 2:30 pm, Conference Room 308

FROM: Debra de Luis

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Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Housing Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to express my strong support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1, which proposes making critical investments to help people struggling with homelessness in Hawaii. I work on the front lines, look into the eyes of homeless individuals every day, and I assure you that Hawaii needs these evidence-based programs to save lives. Rather than replacing effective programs, we need to increase our investment to these core homelessness programs to quicken the pace at which we are addressing this difficult problem.

As I enter this information, I look over my shoulder and can see a group of homeless consumers on the lawn in the park across the street. Every day I am distressed by the number and sad condition of so many of our residents living on the streets. Homelessness impacts low-income families whose lives leave them on the edge of homelessness daily, costs more in resources than the high cost of housing, and shortens lives. Our sick, our kupuna, our youth, our families deserve access to the programs mentioned below, which provide real solutions for homelessness. Please support the following.

1. Truly affordable housing is needed for low-income people. \$35 million to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for improvements and renovations of public housing units will bring rental units back into service.
2. Programs with proven records will reduce homelessness in our state. I ask for your support to increase the current funding by 25% to the Department of Human Services for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Outreach, and civil legal services.
3. I also ask your support to also increase funding by 25% for Outreach and Counseling for homeless with substance abuse disorders, including the LEAD pilot project. We must divert this population away from the criminal justice system and into services.
4. The bill also will support the Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC), which successfully housed 91% of the homeless families it served last year, in under 3 months. We need more programs like this statewide!



5. Finally, the bill will create a pilot program that will assist 100 homeless families with minor children or families imminently facing homelessness due to domestic violence. A rental subsidy (up to \$500/mo) along with financial case management can bring these families out of homelessness and stabilize them in a permanent rental unit.

These actions will have a lasting effect on our State and provide a future for our struggling families and individuals who so easily can fall into homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1.

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

As a student studying social work at Hawaii Pacific University in addition to being a constituent in senate district 13 (Chinatown, Nu'uau) and house district 25 (Makiki, Punchbowl), I am writing in strong support of SB2401 SD2 HD1. The state of Hawaii has upward of 7,000 people that are not housed due to a multitude of reasons. Last semester I took a class conducted by Professor Bill Hummel who has been working with the homeless population here in a Hawaii for quite some time. What I learned from this class is that there are many facets to the homeless situation and that to approach an effective and sustainable solution the problem would need to be addressed from multiple angles.

This bill adopts this approach, and it would allow for funds to be appropriated to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Department of Human Services, and Department of Health to support the State's most effective programs to end homelessness: public housing, housing first, rapid rehousing, outreach services programs to homeless persons, including outreach services to run away and homeless youth and civil legal services, Oahu's family assessment center, and the LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) program.

I am especially interested in the funding of the LEAD pilot program. The original LEAD program has been in effect in Belltown WA since October of 2011, and has resulted in reduced recidivism rates of up to 60% for the poor, chronically homeless, low-level drug dealers and abusers as well as prostituted people it was implemented to assist. As Hawaii moves away from viewing drug misuse and abuse through a criminal justice lens and starts to address these situations as the public health issues that they are, continuing to fund LEAD would be a strong step in the right direction.

It is essential for the state to fund LEAD because if it does not receive continued funding the most vulnerable of your constituents will be funneled in to a costly and overcrowded State funded prison system which will be more costly and less effective than treatment. As reported by the National Institute on Drug abuse, "Drug abuse treatment is cost effective in reducing drug use and bringing about related savings in health care. Treatment also consistently has been shown to reduce the costs associated with lost productivity, crime, and incarceration across various settings and populations. The largest economic benefit of treatment is seen in avoided costs of crime."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I appreciate your time and careful attention to detail regarding this matter.

Destiny Brown

Student, BSW (Hawaii Pacific University)  
Constituent - (House District 25, Senate District 13)  
Intern – (Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii)

From: Erin Rutherford <erinrutherford815@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 10:22 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2401 SD2 HD1

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House Committee on Finance

HEARING: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 2:30 pm, Conference Room 308

FROM: Erin Rutherford

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Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Housing Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my strong support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1, which proposes making critical investments to help people struggling with homelessness in Hawaii. I graduated from University of Hawaii's School of Social Work in 2010. I began my practicum as a student in 2009 working with homeless families at Family Promise homeless shelter. I then got a job in the homeless service field after graduation. I have been working with Hawaii's homeless families for nearly a decade. I have seen the homeless situation get worse, but I have also seen many improvements. One thing I can say with absolute certainty though is that you MUST continue to invest in the services and programs that are currently available. Decreases in any funding has a ripple effect that is hard to recover from and means that more families will suffer and people will continue to die on the streets. I can also say with certainty that keeping funding at it's current level will do nothing more than maintain the status quo. you MUST increase your funding in the core homeless services if you want to continue to see improvements.

I am disturbed by the number and sad condition of so many of our residents living on the streets. It is affecting our neighborhoods, beaches, and the future of our great state. I ask your support for the specific programs below, which provide real solutions for homelessness.

First, we need rentals units that are truly affordable for low-income people. \$35 million to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for improvements and renovations of public housing units will bring rental units back into service.

Hawaii must increase its investment in proven programs that will reduce homelessness in our state. I ask for your support to increase the current funding by 25% to the Department of Human Services for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Outreach, including civil legal services and youth outreach. I also ask your support to also increase funding by 25% for Outreach and Counseling for homeless with substance abuse disorders, including the LEAD pilot project. We must divert this population away from the criminal justice system and into services.

The bill also will support the Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC), which successfully housed 91% of the homeless families it served last year, in under 3 months. Finally, the bill will create a pilot program that will assist 100 homeless families with minor children or families imminently facing homelessness due to domestic violence. A rental subsidy (up

to \$500/mo) along with financial case management can bring these families out of homelessness and stabilize them in a permanent rental unit.

These actions will have a lasting effect on our State and provide a future for our struggling families and individuals who so easily can fall into homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1.

From: Marya Grambs <Mgrambs@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 10:16 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2401 SD2 HD1

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House Committee on Finance

HEARING: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 2:30 pm, Conference Room 308

FROM: Marya Grambs  
VOLUNTEER  
Partners in Care and PHOCUSED

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Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Housing Committee on Finance:

The programs in this bill SB 2401 SD2 HD1, have proven their effectiveness - and ROI - in addressing homelessness. In fact, they are critical to the success of Safe Zones (if these are funded), because they enable people to move into permanent homes from the Zones.

IN ORDER TO STOP THE FLOW OF OVER 5,000 PEOPLE FALLING INTO HOMELESSNESS EACH YEAR, we need rentals units that are truly affordable for low-income people. \$35 million to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for improvements and renovations of public housing units will bring rental units back into service.

I also ask for your support to increase the current funding by 25% to the Department of Human Services for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Outreach, including civil legal services and youth outreach. I also ask your support to also increase funding by 25% for Outreach and Counseling for homeless with substance abuse disorders, including the LEAD pilot project. We must divert this population away from the criminal justice system and into services.

The bill also will support the Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC), which successfully housed 91% of the homeless families it served last year, in under 3 months. Finally, the bill will create a pilot program that will assist 100 homeless families with minor children or families imminently facing homelessness due to domestic violence. A rental subsidy (up to \$500/mo) along with financial case management can bring these families out of homelessness and stabilize them in a permanent rental unit.

These actions will have a lasting effect on our State and provide a future for our struggling families and individuals who so easily can fall into homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1.

From: Nicole Velasco <nicole@nicolevelasco.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 10:06 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2401 SD2 HD1

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House Committee on Finance

HEARING: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 2:30 pm, Conference Room 308

FROM: Nicole Velasco

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Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Housing Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my strong support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1, which proposes making critical investments to help people struggling with homelessness in Hawaii. Hawaii cannot afford to lose these programs, which have proven their effectiveness in addressing homelessness. In fact, we need to increase our investment these core homelessness programs to quicken the pace at which we are addressing this difficult problem.

I am disturbed by the number and sad condition of so many of our residents living on the streets. It is affecting our neighborhoods, beaches, and the future of our great state. I ask your support for the specific programs below, which provide real solutions for homelessness.

First, we need rentals units that are truly affordable for low-income people. \$35 million to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for improvements and renovations of public housing units will bring rental units back into service.

Hawaii must increase its investment in proven programs that will reduce homelessness in our state. I ask for your support to increase the current funding by 25% to the Department of Human Services for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Outreach, including civil legal services and youth outreach. I also ask your support to also increase funding by 25% for Outreach and Counseling for homeless with substance abuse disorders, including the LEAD pilot project. We must divert this population away from the criminal justice system and into services.

The bill also will support the Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC), which successfully housed 91% of the homeless families it served last year, in under 3 months. Finally, the bill will create a pilot program that will assist 100 homeless families with minor children or families imminently facing homelessness due to domestic violence. A rental subsidy (up to \$500/mo) along with financial case management can bring these families out of homelessness and stabilize them in a permanent rental unit.

These actions will have a lasting effect on our State and provide a future for our struggling families and individuals who so easily can fall into homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1.

From: Carla Houser <chouser@rysehawaii.org>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 10:56 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2401 SD2 HD1

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House Committee on Finance

HEARING: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 2:30 pm, Conference Room 308

FROM: Carla Houser  
Executive Director  
Residential Youth Services and Empowerment (RYSE)

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Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Housing Committee on Finance:

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide strong support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1, which will make crucial strides to assist people struggling with homelessness in Hawaii. Our agency works with homeless, transition aged youth ages 18-24 and we cannot afford to lose these programs, which have proven their effectiveness in addressing homelessness. Across the nation, youth and families are the fastest growing subpopulation of homelessness. Given the complexities of a homeless experience for a child or young person, I would hope we continue to take a multidimensional approach to move our youth and families into housing quickly.

As a homeless youth service provider, I have watched a growing numbers of youth take care of themselves on the street at a very young age for far too long. It is time we step up our efforts to deal with the problem and capitalize on the strengths and resiliency of our young people. The idea is to intervene early, with services targeted toward the particular needs of young people — before homelessness becomes chronic, and it's much harder to move them off the street. First, we need rentals units that are truly affordable for low-income people. \$35 million to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for improvements and renovations of public housing units will bring rental units back into service.

Hawaii must increase its investment in proven programs that will reduce homelessness in our state. I ask for your support to increase the current funding by 25% to the Department of Human Services for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Outreach, including civil legal services and youth outreach. I also ask your support to also increase funding by 25% for Outreach and Counseling for homeless with substance abuse disorders, including the LEAD pilot project. We must divert this population away from the criminal justice system and into services.

The bill also will support the Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC), which successfully housed 91% of the homeless families it served last year, in under 3 months. Finally, the bill will create a pilot program that will assist 100 homeless families with minor children or families imminently facing homelessness due to domestic violence. A rental subsidy (up to \$500/mo) along with financial case management can bring these families out of homelessness and stabilize them in a permanent rental unit.

These actions will have a lasting effect on our State and provide a future for our struggling families, youth and individuals who so easily can fall into homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1.



From: Rose Aranita <rra8665@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 11:49 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2401 SD2 HD1

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House Committee on Finance

HEARING: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 2:30 pm, Conference Room 308

FROM: Rose Aranita

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Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Housing Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my strong support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1, which proposes making critical investments to help people struggling with homelessness in Hawaii. The Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet in Hawaii strongly support this bill to continue important services and housing for our homeless people! Hawaii cannot afford to lose these programs, which have proven their effectiveness in addressing homelessness. In fact, we need to increase our investment these core homelessness programs to quicken the pace at which we are addressing this difficult problem.

I am disturbed by the number and sad condition of so many of our residents living on the streets. It is affecting our neighborhoods, beaches, and the future of our great state. I ask your support for the specific programs below, which provide real solutions for homelessness.

First, we need rentals units that are truly affordable for low-income people. \$35 million to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for improvements and renovations of public housing units will bring rental units back into service.

Hawaii must increase its investment in proven programs that will reduce homelessness in our state. I ask for your support to increase the current funding by 25% to the Department of Human Services for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Outreach, including civil legal services and youth outreach. I also ask your support to also increase funding by 25% for Outreach and Counseling for homeless with substance abuse disorders, including the LEAD pilot project. We must divert this population away from the criminal justice system and into services.

The bill also will support the Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC), which successfully housed 91% of the homeless families it served last year, in under 3 months. Finally, the bill will create a pilot program that will assist 100 homeless families with minor children or families imminently facing homelessness due to domestic violence. A rental subsidy (up to \$500/mo) along with financial case management can bring these families out of homelessness and stabilize them in a permanent rental unit.

These actions will have a lasting effect on our State and provide a future for our struggling families and individuals who so easily can fall into homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1.

From: Anna Stone <annabelle.stone@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 11:35 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2401 SD2 HD1

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House Committee on Finance

HEARING: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 2:30 pm, Conference Room 308

FROM: Anna Stone

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Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Housing Committee on Finance:

The issue of homelessness is alarming and of great importance to all in Hawaii, whether we are housed or not. This is the reason I want to thank you for this opportunity to provide my strong support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1, which proposes making critical investments to help people struggling with homelessness in Hawaii. Hawaii cannot afford to lose programs that will provide shelter to those in need. We have to move forward, even to the point of intensifying our investments in ending homelessness in our State.

We cannot turn away and ignore. It is disturbing to see the numbers. The condition is sad for many living on the streets. It is affecting our neighborhoods, beaches, and the future of our great state. I ask your support for the specific programs below, which provide real solutions for homelessness.

First, we need rentals units that are truly affordable for low-income people. \$35 million to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for improvements and renovations of public housing units will bring rental units back into service.

Hawaii must increase its investment in proven programs that will reduce homelessness in our state. I ask for your support to increase the current funding by 25% to the Department of Human Services for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Outreach, including civil legal services and youth outreach. I also ask your support to also increase funding by 25% for Outreach and Counseling for homeless with substance abuse disorders, including the LEAD pilot project. We must divert this population away from the criminal justice system and into services.

The bill also will support the Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC), which successfully housed 91% of the homeless families it served last year, in under 3 months. Finally, the bill will create a pilot program that will assist 100 homeless families with minor children or families imminently facing homelessness due to domestic violence. A rental subsidy (up to \$500/mo) along with financial case management can bring these families out of homelessness and stabilize them in a permanent rental unit.

These actions will have a lasting effect on our State and provide a future for our struggling families and individuals who so easily can fall into homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1.

From: Eric Englin <eric.englin@phocused-hawaii.org>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 1:01 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2401 SD2 HD1

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House Committee on Finance

HEARING: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 2:30 pm, Conference Room 308

FROM: Eric Englin

---

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Housing Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my strong support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1, which proposes making critical investments to help people struggling with homelessness in Hawaii. Hawaii cannot afford to lose these programs, which have proven their effectiveness in addressing homelessness. In fact, we need to increase our investment these core homelessness programs to quicken the pace at which we are addressing this difficult problem.

As the administrator for the family coordinated entry system, I have seen just how apparent it is that we have a diverse set of resources for our many families that fall into homelessness. Any reduction to these resources will allow us to house fewer families total and, additionally, it will keep families homeless longer. Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing are our major housing resources for our unsheltered families. Shelters and outreach teams are another important aspect of our system as they help us identify families falling into homelessness and work with those families to get them back into housing as soon as possible. Together, these resources form the core of our services for literally homeless families, and they should be maintained and expanded to better serve our community.

I am disturbed by the number and sad condition of so many of our residents living on the streets. It is affecting our neighborhoods, beaches, and the future of our great state. I ask your support for the specific programs below, which provide real solutions for homelessness.

First, we need rentals units that are truly affordable for low-income people. \$35 million to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for improvements and renovations of public housing units will bring rental units back into service.

Hawaii must increase its investment in proven programs that will reduce homelessness in our state. I ask for your support to increase the current funding by 25% to the Department of Human Services for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Outreach, including civil legal services and youth outreach. I also ask your support to also increase funding by 25% for Outreach and Counseling for homeless with substance abuse disorders, including the LEAD pilot project. We must divert this population away from the criminal justice system and into services.

The bill also will support the Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC), which successfully housed 91% of the homeless families it served last year, in under 3 months. Finally, the bill will create a pilot program that will assist 100 homeless

families with minor children or families imminently facing homelessness due to domestic violence. A rental subsidy (up to \$500/mo) along with financial case management can bring these families out of homelessness and stabilize them in a permanent rental unit.

These actions will have a lasting effect on our State and provide a future for our struggling families and individuals who so easily can fall into homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1.

From: Lawrence Chun <lawmoc@aol.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 12:02 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2401 SD2 HD1

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House Committee on Finance

HEARING: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 2:30 pm, Conference Room 308

FROM: Lawrence Chun

---

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Housing Committee on Finance:

I support SB 2401, SD2, HD1 fully. I'm most concerned with the Homeless situation on Oahu and the Neighbor Islands. We need to all strive to mitigate, possibly eliminate, this societal scourge as people of good will. Compassion, though very foolish to many, is an absolute "must." I believe we will all be judged when our time as mortals on earth is over. LC Thank you for this opportunity to provide my strong support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1, which proposes making critical investments to help people struggling with homelessness in Hawaii. Hawaii cannot afford to lose these programs, which have proven their effectiveness in addressing homelessness. In fact, we need to increase our investment these core homelessness programs to quicken the pace at which we are addressing this difficult problem.

I am disturbed by the number and sad condition of so many of our residents living on the streets. It is affecting our neighborhoods, beaches, and the future of our great state. I ask your support for the specific programs below, which provide real solutions for homelessness.

First, we need rentals units that are truly affordable for low-income people. \$35 million to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for improvements and renovations of public housing units will bring rental units back into service.

Hawaii must increase its investment in proven programs that will reduce homelessness in our state. I ask for your support to increase the current funding by 25% to the Department of Human Services for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Outreach, including civil legal services and youth outreach. I also ask your support to also increase funding by 25% for Outreach and Counseling for homeless with substance abuse disorders, including the LEAD pilot project. We must divert this population away from the criminal justice system and into services.

The bill also will support the Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC), which successfully housed 91% of the homeless families it served last year, in under 3 months. Finally, the bill will create a pilot program that will assist 100 homeless families with minor children or families imminently facing homelessness due to domestic violence. A rental subsidy (up to \$500/mo) along with financial case management can bring these families out of homelessness and stabilize them in a permanent rental unit.

These actions will have a lasting effect on our State and provide a future for our struggling families and individuals who so easily can fall into homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN  
ADMINISTRATOR  
MARA SMITH  
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

P.O. Box 119  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119  
Tel: (808) 586-0554  
email: [state.procurement.office@hawaii.gov](mailto:state.procurement.office@hawaii.gov)  
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>  
Twitter: [@hawaiispo](https://twitter.com/hawaiispo)



TESTIMONY  
OF  
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON  
FINANCE

April 4, 2018 at 2:30 PM

SENATE BILL 2401 SD2 HD1  
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Chair Luke Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2401 SD2 HD1.

The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports the intent of this bill and has comments about the exemption language on page 9, Part 2, Section 2, lines 17 to 20.

The SPO appreciates that pilot programs of a period of 3 years or less should be authorized an exemption to the procurement code for the purpose of actuating the mission within that period. However, in order to prevent the department from procuring exempt contracts for a period of performance beyond the pilot, the SPO recommends the following verbiage be added to Section (e):

“(e) The Hawaii public housing authority may procure case management and counseling services without regard to chapter 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for assisting 20 participants in the housing homeless children pilot program, provided the period of performance of these procurements does not exceed the term of the pilot project.”

Thank you.

**LATE**

**SB-2401-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 2:17:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

To the Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair; the Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

Good afternoon, 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 **SB2401 SD2 HD1**, relating to Homelessness; Housing; Rapid Rehousing; State Rental Assistance; Housing First; Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SB2401 SD2 HD1** and supports its passage.

**SB2401 SD2 HD1**, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it establishes and appropriates funds for a three-year housing homeless children pilot program to assist families with minors experiencing, or at imminent risk of, homelessness due to domestic violence, to obtain and maintain permanent housing; appropriates funds for public housing improvements and renovations and to support Department of Health and Department of Human Services programs to end homelessness; and provides that the Hawaii Public Housing Authority may procure case management and counseling services for the housing homeless children pilot program without adhering to the State Procurement Code.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "[h]ousing is a basic human need and we believe that adequate, accessible, affordable, and safe housing should be available to all residents of 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 also need economically affordable home ownership. To this end, we support policies which re-think the current formula to determine “affordability” as this formula puts both rentals and sales out of the reach of most working families in Hawai’i.

. . .

We believe in the concept of “Housing First” to develop affordable, table 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 340-348, 352-358 (2016)).

Given that **SB2401 SD2 HD1** establishes and appropriates funds for a three-year housing homeless children pilot program to assist families with minors experiencing, or at imminent risk of, homelessness due to domestic violence, to obtain and maintain permanent housing; appropriates funds for public housing improvements and renovations and to support Department of Health and Department of Human Services programs to end homelessness; and provides that the Hawaii Public Housing Authority may procure case management and counseling services for the housing homeless children pilot program without adhering to the State Procurement Code, 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



**LATE**

TO: Chair Luke  
Vice Chair Cullen  
Members of the Committee on Finance

FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2401 SD2, Relating to Homelessness

We offer this testimony in support of SB 2401, SD2.

There has been far too little attention paid to the correlation between domestic violence and houselessness. The community discourse, media attention and strategies for intervention have overlooked the specific challenges and unique circumstances facing victims of domestic violence.

In October 2017, the Domestic Violence Action Center convened, with funding support from Hawaii Community Foundation, a Summit, True Nexus: Domestic Violence is a Cause of Houselessness. The multi-sector participation highlighted the lack of a shared vocabulary and collaboration highlighted the importance of focusing greater attention and more resources to families suffering the harm of abuse.

At any given time, there are multiple clients of DVAC who are couch-surfing or living in their cars. Better options must be made available.

Thank you for your support of an approach that can keep island families safe and housed.

## HAWAII KAI HOMELESS TASK FORCE

Mike Goodman, Director

Cell: (808) 428-9779

Fax: (949) 229-1953

Email: MikeGoodman@HawaiiKaiHomelessTaskForce.org

**LATE**



### **RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2401 - FOR THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE HEARING ON APRIL 4, 12:30 PM IN RM 308**

Aloha Chair Luke, and all Committee Members. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of SB2401.

Homelessness is a massively complex problem, that can only be resolved with a multifaceted approach. **I urge you to vote for SB2401, because this bill provides critical services which are essential in order to end homelessness.**

I suggest however that the second paragraph in the “findings section” be amended to encourage, but not mandate, the increased use of ultra-low-cost modular dwellings as part of Housing First, Rapid Re-housing, and other programs which acquire or subsidize housing.

There are roughly 7200 homeless people in the State. We need to build seven to eight thousand units in order to house everyone and end homelessness. This would cost a minimum of \$2 billion with the construction methods used by existing programs. So unless we change the way we build housing, things will continue as they are, with some exiting to permanent housing, while the majority “sleeps rough”. We must avail ourselves of materials, designs and technology, that enable us to build exponentially more housing at an exponentially lower cost.

There are many high-tech modular dwellings manufactured by a variety of companies that cost less than 94% of brick and mortar housing. There are also new technologies that can sometimes circumvent the need for infrastructure. Moreover, construction would take less than 2 years, instead of the 8 to 10 years it takes for traditional housing. For under \$200 million, we could house every homeless person in the State. **That’s less than we’re already spending on unsheltered homelessness for emergency medical care, law enforcement, property damage and homeless sweeps.**

Decades of research and real-world experience, shows that permanent housing, with wrap-around supportive services under a “housing first” paradigm, is the most effective way to end homelessness. **However, there is nothing in the reams of data, studies and evidenced-based practices showing that dwellings must be made from brick & mortar, metal, wood, or any other material in order for “Housing First” to be effective.**

Mahalo!



Mike Goodman  
Director, H.K. Homeless Task Force

**LATE**

**SB-2401-HD-1**

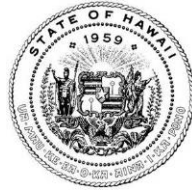
Submitted on: 4/3/2018 6:35:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/4/2018 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
George M Clifford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

A key measure of a society's greatness, justice, and capacity to endure the tests of time is how that society treats its most vulnerable members. SB2401, by taking positive and often proven steps to house children and the homeless will not only save the state government money by reducing crime and the demand for expensive social services but also improve the quality of life in Hawaii and demonstrate that we are truly the Aloha state.



**LATE**

**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

April 4, 2018

**TO:** The Honorable Representative Sylvia J. Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

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

**SUBJECT: SB 2401 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 2:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this bill provided that the measure's passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Governor's Supplemental Budget request. The Coordinator asks the Legislature to support the Governor's Supplemental Budget request for homeless services, which includes appropriations to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) for the Rent Supplement program; appropriations to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, homeless outreach services, and the Family Assessment Center; and appropriations to the Department of Health (DOH) for homeless outreach, counseling and diversion services for unsheltered persons experiencing substance abuse. The Coordinator also asks the Legislature to support a request in the Supplemental Budget for HPHA to provide public housing improvements and renovations statewide.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to make appropriations to HPHA, DHS, and DOH for various programs to address homelessness, as well as capital improvements for public housing facilities. The bill also establishes a three-year housing homeless children pilot program to assist families with minor children who are either homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic violence.

The Coordinator notes that the three-year housing homeless children pilot program in Part II of this measure appears to be similar in nature to the state rent supplement program, which is included in the Governor's Supplemental Budget request. However, HB1900 HD1 blanks out the requested appropriation for \$1,551,577 for the state rent supplement program, and transfers \$1,069,494 from Program ID HMS 222 (HPHA – Rental Assistance Services) to Program ID HMS 211 (DHS – Benefits, Employment, & Support Services Division Cash Support for Families – Self-Sufficiency). DHS does not currently have the adequate staffing, procedures, administrative rules, or eligibility and payment system necessary to administer the state rent supplement program or similar programs. For these reasons, the Coordinator requests that the language in this measure place the housing homeless children pilot program in HPHA, which has the experience and necessary eligibility and payment system to support this type of program.

Alternatively, DHS will require additional time, appropriation, and human resources to obtain the requisite expertise to administer the housing homeless children pilot program.

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 Supplemental Budget. The Governor's Supplemental Budget request includes funding for homeless services, including Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, and 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 Supplemental Budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Finance

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

Date: April 4, 2018

Hrg: House Committee on Finance Hearing; Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 2:30 PM in Room  
308

Re: SB 2401, SD2, HD1, Relating to Homelessness

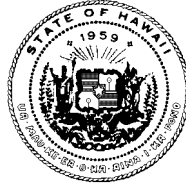
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My name is Paula Yoshioka and I am the Vice President for Government Relations and External Affairs for The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's). I appreciate the opportunity to provide support for the intent of SB 2401, SD2, HD1, Relating to Homelessness. Queen's believes any additional resources to increase capacity, improve coordination of services, and leverage current programs in the community for individuals experiencing homelessness will be beneficial for the state.

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 the homeless. Hawaii has the highest per capita rate of homelessness in the nation, with roughly 5,000 homeless individuals heavily distributed on Oahu and concentrated in Honolulu and on the Waianae Coast. Queen's provides the majority of medical care to our homeless population in Hawai'i. In 2015, Queen's had 10,126 homeless encounters, up from 6,958 in 2013. This represents over 65% of the state's homeless hospital encounters.

The costs to the entire continuum of care—from hospitals to long-term care facilities to home-based services—of 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.

*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.*



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

**LATE**

April 3, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2401 SD2 HD1– RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 2:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure and provides comment. To continue the momentum of 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. DHS asks the Legislature to support \$29 million in the Executive Budget for HPHA to provide public housing improvements and renovations statewide.

Regarding amendments of the House Committees on Housing and Health and Human Services, DHS offers further caution to the legislature in creating similar or duplicate case management and counseling services that are not part of the coordinated homeless services system; further this new program will require creation of similar administrative processes and somewhat thwarts the legislature's demands for performance based measurements and improved data collection.

Also, this committee in HB 1900 Related to the State Budget, transferred-in funds for the State Rent Supplement Program from Hawaii Public Housing Authority Rental Assistance Services (HMS222/RA) (SEQ 1000-01) to an account within DHS that is dedicated to benefits for families with young children. DHS requests the Legislature clarify its intention, that if the transfer is the Legislature's intent, due consideration be given to the families currently receiving the rental assistance from the HPHA to avoid missed subsidy and avoid unnecessary evictions. DHS request that it and HPHA be given sufficient amount of time and resources to transfer the program, for DHS to modify its IT resources, establish administrative rules, and implement the program.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill establishes and appropriates funds for a three-year housing homeless children pilot program to assist families with minors experiencing, or at imminent risk of, homelessness due to domestic violence, to obtain and maintain permanent housing. Appropriates funds for public housing improvements and renovations and to support Department of Health and Department of Human Services programs to end homelessness. Provides that the Hawaii Public Housing Authority may procure case management and counseling services for the housing homeless children pilot program without adhering to the State Procurement Code. (SB2401 HD1)

The State's coordinated effort to end homelessness is moving forward with positive results. In 2017, the Point in Time (PIT) count found that the number of homeless people in Hawaii decreased for the first time in eight years. DHS has worked together with the Legislature and other stakeholders to increase resources for permanent housing programs, such as Housing First and Rapid Rehousing.

In State Fiscal Year 2017, the State's Housing First program on Oahu enrolled 100 veteran and non-veteran households. A total of 131 unduplicated individuals were served, (including 10 unduplicated families with children). The retention rate of 96.7% reflects the percentage of the participating chronically homeless individuals and families who sustained placement in permanent housing with the assistance of rental subsidies and supportive services.

DHS recently expanded its Housing First program services statewide. From May to December 2017, Housing First served a total of 181 unduplicated households and 241

unduplicated individuals: 87 unduplicated households and 125 unduplicated participants on Oahu; 75 unduplicated households and 88 unduplicated participants on Hawaii Island; 6 unduplicated households and 7 unduplicated participants on Kauai; and 13 unduplicated households and 21 unduplicated participants on Maui.

The State's Rapid Rehousing program provides flexibility that supports those who are homeless or those who are imminently at risk of homelessness. The Rapid Rehousing program allows households to maintain their homes or quickly divert them from utilizing existing homeless programs. These programs are accessible to those who are the most vulnerable and have higher service needs. In 2017, the Rapid Rehousing program provided financial assistance as of the average amount of potential expenses. This illustrates how families may use Rapid Rehousing assistance to remain in housing and avoid homelessness: assistance to 232 households with 588 individuals. The following is a preliminary list of the average amount of potential expenses. This illustrates how families may use Rapid Rehousing assistance to remain in housing and avoid homelessness:

- Rent = \$657.30;
- Security Deposit = \$742.74;
- Utilities Deposit = \$257.88;
- Rent Arrears = \$950.25; and
- Move in Expense = \$600.00.

Also, the Family Assessment Center (FAC) in Kaka'ako utilizes 'Housing First' principles to quickly move families with minor children off the streets and into permanent housing. FAC opened in September 2016 and served 184 people and placed 35 out of 38 families entering the facility into housing in the first year. The housing placement rate for the center in its first year was 92% (35 out of 38), and families were housed in an average of 82 days.

In addition to quickly moving families with minor children out of homelessness and into permanent housing in its first year, FAC also increased the income for 59% of families through linkages to public benefits, employment, and other critical resources during their stay at the facility.

Incorporating the 'Ohana Nui strategy of service integration, FAC addresses the social determinants of health and provides increased housing stability for families with minor children. FAC can accommodate 12-14 families (up to 50 people) at any one time and needs additional funding to continue critical services beyond SFY 18.

Additionally, DHS supports creation of more affordable housing for low-income households as the best strategy to end homelessness is to link households to housing. The increase in affordable housing will further support placement of households who are experiencing a housing crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**LATE**

*Dedicated to safe, responsible, humane and effective drug policies since 1993*

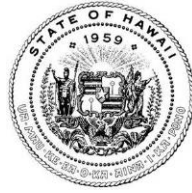
TO: House Committee on Finance  
FROM: Carl Bergquist, Executive Director  
HEARING DATE: 4 April 2018, 2:30PM  
RE: SB2401 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, Committee Members:

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i (DPFHI) **strongly supports** this bill's effort to deal with homelessness in a multiplicity of ways. In particular, we believe that the diversion program funded herein is essential. Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) sends the appropriate signal that vulnerable individuals from our communities who have substance use issues should be afforded an opportunity at treatment or services rather being funneled into the criminal justice system. While we would like to see this funding reinserted into the Governor's budget as originally proposed, funding LEAD via this measure will allow the pilot, and all the hard work put into it, continue uninterrupted.

This is particularly true as the state continues its shift towards viewing drug use as a public health issue, informed by the fact that addiction is an illness, not a choice. Moreover, many of the individuals encountered by police also have mental health issues, and also need appropriate treatment for these conditions. Acknowledging and dealing with these issues up front will increase the chances of smoother transitions into housing, removing the unnecessarily early and counterproductive involvement of the criminal justice system. Finally, given the overcrowding in our prisons, an approach like LEAD is not just sound, innovative policy but the humane approach to take.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



**LATE**

**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

April 4, 2018

**TO:** The Honorable Representative Sylvia J. Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

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

**SUBJECT: SB 2401 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 2:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this bill provided that the measure's passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Governor's Supplemental Budget request. The Coordinator asks the Legislature to support the Governor's Supplemental Budget request for homeless services, which includes appropriations to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) for the Rent Supplement program; appropriations to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, homeless outreach services, and the Family Assessment Center; and appropriations to the Department of Health (DOH) for homeless outreach, counseling and diversion services for unsheltered persons experiencing substance abuse. The Coordinator also asks the Legislature to support a request in the Supplemental Budget for HPHA to provide public housing improvements and renovations statewide.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to make appropriations to HPHA, DHS, and DOH for various programs to address homelessness, as well as capital improvements for public housing facilities. The bill also establishes a three-year housing homeless children pilot program to assist families with minor children who are either homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic violence.



The Coordinator notes that the three-year housing homeless children pilot program in Part II of this measure appears to be similar in nature to the state rent supplement program, which is included in the Governor's Supplemental Budget request. However, HB1900 HD1 blanks out the requested appropriation for \$1,551,577 for the state rent supplement program, and transfers \$1,069,494 from Program ID HMS 222 (HPHA – Rental Assistance Services) to Program ID HMS 211 (DHS – Benefits, Employment, & Support Services Division Cash Support for Families – Self-Sufficiency). DHS does not currently have the adequate staffing, procedures, administrative rules, or eligibility and payment system necessary to administer the state rent supplement program or similar programs. For these reasons, the Coordinator requests that the language in this measure place the housing homeless children pilot program in HPHA, which has the experience and necessary eligibility and payment system to support this type of program.

Alternatively, DHS will require additional time, appropriation, and human resources to obtain the requisite expertise to administer the housing homeless children pilot program.

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 Supplemental Budget. The Governor's Supplemental Budget request includes funding for homeless services, including Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, and 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 Supplemental Budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Finance

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

Date: April 4, 2018

Hrg: House Committee on Finance Hearing; Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 2:30 PM in Room  
308

Re: SB 2401, SD2, HD1, Relating to Homelessness

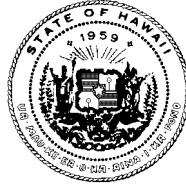
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My name is Paula Yoshioka and I am the Vice President for Government Relations and External Affairs for The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's). I appreciate the opportunity to provide support for the intent of SB 2401, SD2, HD1, Relating to Homelessness. Queen's believes any additional resources to increase capacity, improve coordination of services, and leverage current programs in the community for individuals experiencing homelessness will be beneficial for the state.

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The costs to the entire continuum of care—from hospitals to long-term care facilities to home-based services—of 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.

*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.*



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

**LATE**

April 3, 2018

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2401 SD2 HD1– RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 2:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure and provides comment. To continue the momentum of 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. DHS asks the Legislature to support \$29 million in the Executive Budget for HPHA to provide public housing improvements and renovations statewide.

Regarding amendments of the House Committees on Housing and Health and Human Services, DHS offers further caution to the legislature in creating similar or duplicate case management and counseling services that are not part of the coordinated homeless services system; further this new program will require creation of similar administrative processes and somewhat thwarts the legislature's demands for performance based measurements and improved data collection.

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**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill establishes and appropriates funds for a three-year housing homeless children pilot program to assist families with minors experiencing, or at imminent risk of, homelessness due to domestic violence, to obtain and maintain permanent housing. Appropriates funds for public housing improvements and renovations and to support Department of Health and Department of Human Services programs to end homelessness. Provides that the Hawaii Public Housing Authority may procure case management and counseling services for the housing homeless children pilot program without adhering to the State Procurement Code. (SB2401 HD1)

The State's coordinated effort to end homelessness is moving forward with positive results. In 2017, the Point in Time (PIT) count found that the number of homeless people in Hawaii decreased for the first time in eight years. DHS has worked together with the Legislature and other stakeholders to increase resources for permanent housing programs, such as Housing First and Rapid Rehousing.

In State Fiscal Year 2017, the State's Housing First program on Oahu enrolled 100 veteran and non-veteran households. A total of 131 unduplicated individuals were served, (including 10 unduplicated families with children). The retention rate of 96.7% reflects the percentage of the participating chronically homeless individuals and families who sustained placement in permanent housing with the assistance of rental subsidies and supportive services.

DHS recently expanded its Housing First program services statewide. From May to December 2017, Housing First served a total of 181 unduplicated households and 241

unduplicated individuals: 87 unduplicated households and 125 unduplicated participants on Oahu; 75 unduplicated households and 88 unduplicated participants on Hawaii Island; 6 unduplicated households and 7 unduplicated participants on Kauai; and 13 unduplicated households and 21 unduplicated participants on Maui.

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Also, the Family Assessment Center (FAC) in Kaka'ako utilizes 'Housing First' principles to quickly move families with minor children off the streets and into permanent housing. FAC opened in September 2016 and served 184 people and placed 35 out of 38 families entering the facility into housing in the first year. The housing placement rate for the center in its first year was 92% (35 out of 38), and families were housed in an average of 82 days.

In addition to quickly moving families with minor children out of homelessness and into permanent housing in its first year, FAC also increased the income for 59% of families through linkages to public benefits, employment, and other critical resources during their stay at the facility.

Incorporating the 'Ohana Nui strategy of service integration, FAC addresses the social determinants of health and provides increased housing stability for families with minor children. FAC can accommodate 12-14 families (up to 50 people) at any one time and needs additional funding to continue critical services beyond SFY 18.

Additionally, DHS supports creation of more affordable housing for low-income households as the best strategy to end homelessness is to link households to housing. The increase in affordable housing will further support placement of households who are experiencing a housing crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

FIN-Jo

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From: Phil Augustus Acosta <pacosta@aleabridge.org>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 7:13 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2401 SD2 HD1



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House Committee on Finance

HEARING: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 2:30 pm, Conference Room 308

FROM: "Phil" Augustus Acosta  
Executive Director  
ALEA Bridge

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To Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Finance Committee:

On behalf of ALEA Bridge, I would like to provide our strong support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1, which proposes making critical investments to help people struggling with homelessness in Hawaii. The programs funded through this Bill have proven their effectiveness in addressing homelessness. In fact, we need to increase our investment to these critical homelessness programs to adequately address this epidemic affecting our State.

Some highlights of the bill which we feel are most important:

- \$35 million to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for improvements and renovations of public housing units
- Increase the current funding by 25% to the Department of Human Services for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Homeless Outreach, including civil legal services and youth outreach
- Increase funding by 25% for Outreach and Counseling for homeless with substance abuse disorders, including the LEAD pilot project
- Support the Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC), which successfully housed 91% of the homeless families it served last year, in under 3 months
- A pilot program that will assist 100 homeless families with minor children or families imminently facing homelessness due to domestic violence

These actions will have a lasting effect on our State and provide a future for our struggling families and individuals who so easily can fall into homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for SB 2401 SD2 HD1.