

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

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

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, February 28, 2018
11:00 AM - Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 2401, SD1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Senate Committee Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 2401, SD1, relating to homelessness.

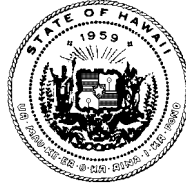
SB 2401, SD1 appropriates funds to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA), Department of Human Services, and Department of Health to support the State's most effective programs to end homelessness. In regards to the HPHA, this measure establishes and funds a 3-year state rental assistance program to assist homeless families with minor children, and appropriates funds for HPHA public improvements and renovations statewide. The HPHA **supports the intent of this measure, with amendments**, so long as it does not adversely affect the Governor's supplemental budget, and offers the following comments.

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

If the intent is to start the housing support program right away, the HPHA would like to request the addition of the following amendment:

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

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Ways and Means with the HPHA's testimony regarding SB 2401, SD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.



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

February 28, 2018

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2401 SD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill provided that the measure's passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. 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; \$13.4 million to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, homeless outreach services, and the Family Assessment Center; \$800,000 to the Department of Health (DOH) for homeless outreach, counseling and diversion services for unsheltered persons experiencing substance abuse. The Department of Human Services also asks the Legislature to support \$29 million in the Executive Budget for HPHA to provide public housing improvements and renovations statewide.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill establishes and appropriates funds for a three-year housing homeless children pilot program to assist families with minors, or those families with minors at imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic violence, to obtain and maintain permanent housing. Appropriates funds 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 improvements and renovations statewide, housing first, rapid rehousing, outreach services programs to homeless persons, including outreach services to runaway and homeless youth and civil legal services, Oahu's family assessment center, and the LEAD program. (SD1)

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 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 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.

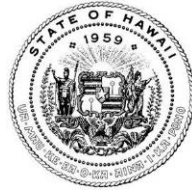
Also, the Family Assessment Center (FAC) in Kaka‘ako utilizes 'Housing First' principles to quickly move families with minor children off the streets and into permanent housing. FAC opened in September 2016 and served 184 people and placed 35 out of 38 families entering the facility into housing in the 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.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 28, 2018

TO: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

SUBJECT: SB 2401 SD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211, 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 Executive Budget. 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 state rental assistance pilot program to assist families with minor children who are either homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic violence.

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 over \$15 million for homeless services, including \$3 million for Housing First, \$3 million for Rapid Rehousing, and \$1.75 million for homeless outreach services.

Collectively, the homeless programs administered by DHS and other State agencies represent an array of financial resources designed to provide one-time crisis assistance, as well as medium term (3-24 months) and longer-term support. This mix of short-, medium-, and long-term assistance is designed not only to transition at-risk and homeless individuals and families into stable housing, but also designed to prevent homelessness by assisting formerly homeless individuals in maintaining housing over time. Accordingly, the Coordinator respectfully asks for the Legislature’s support of the Governor’s Supplemental Budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

O'ahu

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

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

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

ywcaohu.org

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 10:45AM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 211

Re: Testimony in support of S.B 2401 SD1, relating to homelessness

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support for Senate Bill 2401 SD1**, 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 can not 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



TO: Chair Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Keith-Agaran
Members of the Committee

FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2401 SD1, Relating to Homelessness

We offer this testimony in support of SB 2401, SD1.

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.

SB-2401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:43:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Bergquist	Testifying for Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:



DOING THE MOST GOOD

Founded in 1865

William Booth
Founder

Andre Cox
General

Kenneth Hodder
Territorial Commander

John Chamness
Lani Chamness
Divisional Leaders

Melanie Boehm
Executive Director

The Salvation Army

Addiction Treatment Services and Family Treatment Services

2/22/18

SB2401 SD1 Homeless Housing, Rent Subsidies, LEAD and Outreach

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

- Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair; Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
- Wednesday, February 28th, 2018: 11:00 a.m.
- Conference Room 211

The Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services (ATS) and Family Treatment Services (FTS) Supports SB2401:

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

Case Management for Substance Abuse is especially critical. Professional case management workers 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. Qualified staff with this kind of experience would be able to motivate people with chronic substance use disorders.

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)

Government and healthcare providers can most effectively join together through LEAD efforts. This program brings both together with the hope that this will result in even more effective collaborations.

- LEAD is an innovative program that was developed in collaboration with the community to divert low-level drug and prostitution offenders into community-based treatment and support services. This would include housing, healthcare, job training, substance use disorder treatment and mental health support. All of these are much better interventions than arresting and processing people through traditional criminal justice system avenues.

Thank you for opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Melanie T. Boehm MA, LMHC, CSAC
Executive Director ATS-FTS

Participating Agency



Aloha United Way

Addiction Treatment Services

3624 Waokanaka Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817 ♦Tel: (808) 595-6371 ♦Fax: (808) 595-8250

Family Treatment Services

845 22nd Avenue ♦ Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816 ♦Tel: (808) 732-2802 ♦Fax: (808) 734-7470

Visit us at: www.SalvationArmyHawaii.org



SB2401 SD1 Homeless Housing, Rent Subsidies, LEAD and Outreach

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

- Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair; Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
- Wednesday, February 28th, 2018: 11:00 a.m.
- Conference Room 211

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC) Supports SB2401:

GOOD MORNING CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide hui 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 LEAD pilot project. HSAC also supports the Oahu Family Assessment Center (FAC) and a pilot program for families.

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.

LEAD

For years, providers and policy makers have concluded that we can't solve our drug problem 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.

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

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

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 Mohala

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

February 22, 2018

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2301 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports SB2301 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.

More than 40% 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. Many trade sex for the resources they need for survival – food, money, a safe place to sleep. They lack adequate food, access to education, and have difficulty meeting health care needs.

Street outreach is the first step in helping youth leave the streets for safer and more appropriate living situations. Workers build trusting relationships and convince youth to accept help to leave the streets, while helping them meet their immediate survival needs.

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. This includes young adults who have emancipated

from foster care or are participating in the Imua Kakou Program (voluntary care to age 21) 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members, Committee Ways and Means
FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer
Hearing: **Wednesday, 2/28/18; 11:00 AM; CR 211**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support of SB 2401 SD1**, 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 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 these funds in the base budget**, since this funding is vital to create ongoing pathways out of homelessness. We must increase the pace of helping the homeless into permanent housing. Thus, we support the **funding levels in this bill which are generally a 25% increase over the administration's budget**. 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, this bill provides robust and effective solutions. We need to prevent substance abusers from falling into the criminal justice system via the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program—reducing homeless in jails and flooding the justice system.

Suggested Amendment: to clarify funding, we suggest adding to Part III, Section 8, (1), 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. (See attached) **Another new pathway urgently needed is ongoing rental assistance to get homeless 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. (See attached) A new **Housing Homeless Children** pilot program at the Hawaii Public Housing Authority would significantly impact the lives of these children.

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



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eauomoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
Hopeline: (808) 524-4673 • www.CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org



54

households served ^(1,2)

Catholic Charities Hawaii's Family Assessment Center



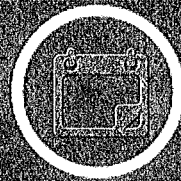
91%

successfully housed

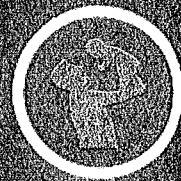
2016 - 2017 Report Card ⁽³⁾

Our Success

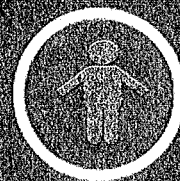
Celebrating the achievements of our program participants and honoring our community partners for their continued support and commitment.



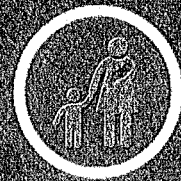
81
average number of days in program ⁽⁴⁾



48%
households with four or more members ⁽⁵⁾



41%
participants 12 years of age or younger



31%
households single female parent with children

Community Partners



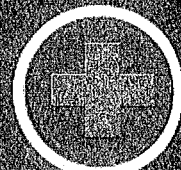
Hawaii H. S. M. E. Project
Homeless Outreach & Medical Education



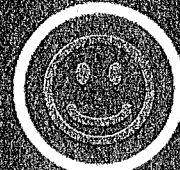
LEGAL AID
SOCIETY OF HAWAII



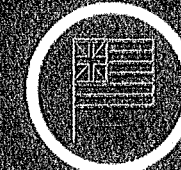
194
persons served ⁽⁶⁾



59
participants enrolled into health insurance



100%
participants placed in housing remain stably housed



85%
Hawaii residents

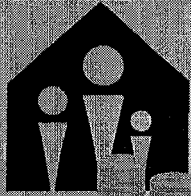
Services

- Benefits review and determination
- Health screenings
- Health assessments
- Legal support
- Linkage to financial assistance

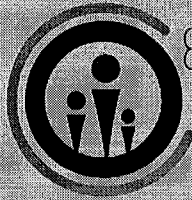
- Housing readiness
- Housing placement
- On-site computer lab
- Service coordination

[1] Unduplicated count of households served from September 1, 2016 - October 1, 2017
 [2] 42% homeless for 1 year or more, 72% received homeless services before intake
 [3] All housing data provided by the State of Hawaii's Department of Human Services Homeless Programs Office
 [4] Mean number of days between intake and discharge
 [5] Average number of individuals per household is 3.59
 [6] 101 adults and 93 children

The Intersection of Domestic Violence and Homelessness

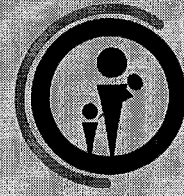


The two most pressing concerns for survivors of abuse are the need for safe housing and the need for economic resources to maintain safety.¹



80%
Experienced DV

A study of homeless women with children found that 80% had previously experienced domestic violence.²



57%
Homelessness was caused by DV

Studies show that as many as 57% of all homeless women report domestic violence as the immediate cause of their homelessness.³

Barriers to Safety: Understanding the Intersection

As a direct result of the power and control dynamics related to their abuse, survivors often face unique barriers to accessing shelter and affordable housing.

Poor Credit & Ruined Rental Histories



Often caused by abusers running up credit card bills or lying about paying rent, utilities, childcare and other bills. This affects a survivors' ability to pass a landlord background check.

Lack of Steady Employment



Caused when victims are forced to miss work as a result of violence, or are fired as a result of stalking and harassment that occurs at the workplace.

Housing Discrimination



The most common cases of this occur when landlords evict victims from housing due to repeated calls to the police or property damage caused by the abuser.

Loss of Subsidized or Other Affordable Housing



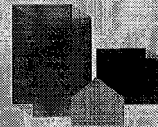
Caused by lease or voucher policy violations committed by the abuser.

This is particularly true for survivors most marginalized in our society and with the least access to resources, including many survivors of color, Native Americans, immigrants, those living in poverty and who are geographically isolated, those with disabilities, and others.

In just
1 Day
In 2016⁴

OVER
 41,000

adults and children fled domestic violence and found refuge in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program.

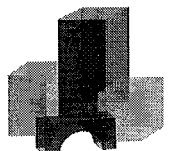


7,914

requests by domestic violence survivors for housing were unmet due to a lack of funding, staffing, or other resources. Emergency shelter and transitional housing were the most urgent unmet need for survivors.

For more information, visit www.safehousingpartnerships.org

1. Clough, A., Draughon, J. E., Njie-Carr, V., Rollins, C., & Glass, N. (2014). "Having housing made everything else possible": Affordable, safe and stable housing for women survivors of violence. *Qualitative Social Work*, 13(5), 671-688.
2. Aratani, Y. (2009). *Homeless Children and Youth, Causes and Consequences*. New York, NY: National Center for Children in Poverty.
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SAFE HOUSING
PARTNERSHIPS

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD1 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: February 28, 2018, 11:00 AM, CR 211

Thank you for hearing **Senate Bill 2401 SD1**, which proposes making critical investments to address homelessness in Hawaii. Mental Health America of Hawaii supports this bill.

Mental Health America of Hawaii is a 501(c)3 organization founded in Hawai'i 76 years ago, that serves the community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education and service. Many of our community members suffering from homelessness are also mentally ill and unable to access the mental health treatment that they need due to the instability of their living situation. Evidence-based and highly evaluated program models such as Housing First and Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion are critical to reduce homelessness among people suffering from mental illness.

Homelessness also puts people at risk for mental health issues due to the high level of stress it causes. We need to support programs that both prevent homelessness and directly intervene in it while targeting the diverse types of populations affected by homelessness in our state.

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 considering my **testimony in support of SB 2401 SD1**. Please contact me at trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.



PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu Continuum of Care

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

Testimony in Support of SB 2401 SD1 Relating to Homelessness

TO: Committee on Ways and Means
FROM: Partners in Care (PIC)
HEARING: **Wednesday, 2/18/18; 11:00 am, Conference Room 211**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on **SB 2401 SD1** 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 SD1**.

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) However, Hawaii still ranks first among the US states for homelessness per capita.

Robust and comprehensive solutions are required to increase the pace at which Hawaii can successfully move homeless people into permanent housing. 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 a large 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 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

PARTNERS IN CARE, c/o Aloha United Way
200 North Vineyard • Suite 700 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 • www.PartnersinCareOahu.org



PARTNERS IN CARE

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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 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 a LEAD pilot project
- Funds for the Oahu Family Assessment Center \$ 680,000

Suggested Amendment: to clarify funding, we suggest adding to Part III, Section 8, (1), that the funding for “Outreach to runaway/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 housing.

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 DV 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.

Outreach: Children living alone on the streets is a tragedy. **Outreach to unaccompanied homeless youth** is essential to help these often “hidden homeless” kids who are living in perilous and life threatening

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

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PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu Continuum of Care

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situations. 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 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 3 months, with 100% remaining 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.

This year it is critical to enhance pathways out of homelessness and build these systems/programs into the base budget of the state. 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

PARTNERS IN CARE, c/o Aloha United Way
200 North Vineyard • Suite 700 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 • www.PartnersinCareOahu.org



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

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

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hon. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Hon. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, 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 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



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Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my **strong support** for SB 2401 SD1, which proposes making critical investments to address homelessness in Hawaii. As a homeless service provider, we see how dire the experience for individuals and families experiencing homelessness is on a daily basis. We 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. We 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. We 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 will create a pilot program that will assist 100 homeless families with minor children or families imminently facing homelessness due to domestic violence. All too often, families with minor children who are facing homelessness due to domestic violence end up in one of our shelters. A rental subsidy (up to \$500/mo) along with financial case management can bring these families out of homelessness quickly 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 SD1.

Samantha Church, MSW
Executive Director
Family Promise of Hawaii



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

February 1, 2018

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TO: Chair Dela Cruz, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pedro Haro, Advocacy Consultant

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of SB2401, SD1 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: February 28, 2018 at 11:00 am
Conference Room 211

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Bill 2401, Senate Draft 1. 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, Senate Draft 1.

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

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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, Senate Draft 1.

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.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting SB 2401 SD1, Relating to the Conveyance Tax
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Scheduled for Hearing Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 11:00am, Conference Room 221

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.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB 2401 SD1, 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 SD1. Thank you for your consideration of this very important issue.

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



Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: **SB 2401 SD1 Relating to Homelessness-SUPPORT**
February 28, 2018; 11:00 AM; Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

Aloha United Way supports the intent of SB 2401 SD1 which appropriates funds 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 HAWAII. 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.

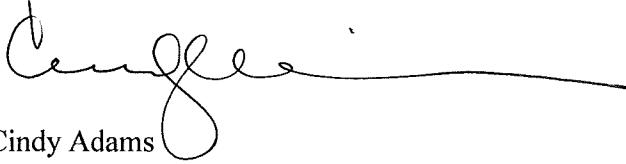
Forty-two percent of households in Hawaii are renters (fourth highest rate in the country) And 54% of these households pay 50% or more of their monthly income for housing (the second highest rate in the country). Further, 63% of households lack emergency savings to deal with an unexpected \$500 expense. 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 this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Adams", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Cindy Adams
President & Chief Executive Officer

SB-2401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 9:58:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Normann	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Friends,

Please support this important bill. Homelessness is a crisis in our state that has been ignored for too long. Now that we have become aware of the scope and magnitude of the problem, we must do everything we can to support and expand our efforts to house people experiencing homelessness.

Paul Normann

SB-2401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 10:51:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marissa Ortiz	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Committee on Ways and Means

Support for S.B. No. 2401, S.D. 1, Relating to Homelessness

Public Hearing - February 28, 2018

11:00 A.M., Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Marissa Ortiz, I am a full-time graduate student at the University of Hawaii, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. I am testifying on behalf of SB2401 SD1 and I am testifying in support of SB2401 SD1.

I strongly support funding the three-year housing homeless children pilot program because it will support families with children, or families with children in imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic violence. As a lifelong renter in Hawaii, finding and obtaining affordable housing in Hawaii can be a challenge especially when families need to pay the first month's rent and the deposit.

As a previous domestic violence advocate with the United States Army at Schofield Barracks and with the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney, I am aware that when a victim decides to leave a domestic violence relationship, the individual leaves with the bare

minimum; victims don't have monies readily available to obtain housing due to the alleged abuser blocking access to family finances.

In closing, SB2401 SD1 will allow give support to homeless families with children and/or families with children in imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic violence.

Thank You,

Marissa Ortiz

Contact Number: 808-225-7880

SB-2401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 3:31:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ELIZABETH A HILLER VALENTIN	Testifying for PROJECT VISION HAWAII	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2401**. We need continued investment in our families and community members to turn the tide on homelessness in our state. By providing funding for public housing, housing first, rapid rehousing, outreach services programs to homeless persons, including outreach services to runaway and homeless youth and civil legal services, Oahu's family assessment center, and the LEAD program, we can work towards ensuring all community members have a safe place to call home.

Thank you,

Annie Valentin

SB-2401-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 3:59:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

THE SENATE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

11:00 A.M.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 211

RE: Testimony in Support of **SB2401 SD1**, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. **2401 SD1**, 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 Senate Bill No. **2401 SD1** and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. **2401 SD1**, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it (A) establishes and appropriates funds for a three-year housing homeless children pilot program to assist families with minors, or those families with minors at imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic violence, to obtain and maintain permanent housing; and (B) appropriates funds 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 improvements and renovations statewide, housing first, rapid rehousing, outreach services programs to homeless persons, including outreach services to runaway and homeless youth and civil legal services, Oahu's family assessment center, and the LEAD program.

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 Senate Bill No. **2401 SD1** (A) establishes and appropriates funds for a three-year housing homeless children pilot program to assist families with minors, or those families with minors at imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic violence, to obtain and maintain permanent housing; and (B) appropriates funds 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 improvements and renovations statewide, housing first, rapid rehousing, outreach services programs to homeless persons, including outreach services to runaway and homeless youth and civil legal services, Oahu's family assessment center, and the LEAD program, 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



Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Ways & Means Committee,

On behalf of the nearly 600 registered members of the Young Progressives Demanding Action – Hawai‘i, I would like to express my **strong support** for SB2401, the housing and houselessness omnibus bill. Hawai‘i’s houseless problem is one of the most dramatic examples of the social and economic inequality of our day and age. In Hawai‘i, where we value aloha and where community bonds are strong, there is no excuse for our allowance of more than 7,000 of our brothers and sisters, children and kūpuna, to exist in such extreme poverty that they cannot afford to keep a roof over their heads or basic necessities that the rest of us consider a baseline of existence. Our aloha must extend to these individuals and families, and our communities must forge bonds that include these members of society as well. We are measured by how we treat the least fortunate among us, not by how many millionaires we have moving into our state, and YPDA commends the legislature for addressing this grave situation in earnest through measures like SB2401.

The bill correctly states that effectively and compassionately addressing houselessness will require a multi-faceted approach, backed by a sincere, dedicated and fully-funded effort on the part of state, county and nonprofit/private sector agencies. There is no one-size fits-all strategy to addressing this severe problem. County sit/lie ordinances, coupled with the so-called “compassionate disruption” strategy of the county administration(s) represent shallow and short-sighted thinking that seeks to apply a one-size fits-all approach that policy experts, social workers and, most importantly, the houseless themselves all agree makes the situation worse. We are excited that this bill seeks to lead the state in a different direction, through evidence-based best-practices and genuine compassion that does not seek to disrupt, but rather to rebuild. This is a key feature of houseless policy that must be embraced by all.

Creating intelligent housing strategies is an essential priority to managing and, eventually, reversing the trend of social degradation represented so poignantly through the tent cities of Wai‘anae, Wahiawā, Waimānalo, Kalihi, Iwilei and Kaka‘ako. The housing shortage in Hawai‘i is at crisis levels, and

focusing efforts to increase the pool of housing available to the lowest bracket of income earners, 30 percent and below the median area income level, is absolutely essential to getting these families and individuals off the streets quickly. Fixing vacant units that are in need of repair is a good strategy, but creating incentives for the development of additional, vertically-oriented, low-income housing is also vital. If we are serious about creating the necessary housing to support our growing population into the middle of the 21st century, we have got to create policy that prevents the development of suburban sprawl. There can be no more Ho‘opili-style developments. We must create intelligent, sustainable housing developments that fit the need of the people living here, not the desires of foreign elites or the pocketbooks of continental developers.

The bill also correctly identifies outreach as an essential tenet of an effective housing strategy, particularly when it comes to addressing the needs of the chronically houseless. Whereas sit/lie and “compassionate disruption” seek to apply a one-size fits-all strategy—akin to using a sledgehammer to try and fix every household repair—outreach is about taking the time and effort to accurately assess the myriad needs of our houseless brothers and sisters and matching those needs to the services that will actually affect positive change in the lives of our least fortunate—using the right tools for the job instead. The current strategy is lazy, ineffective and cruel. Truly effective outreach takes work and compassion, as well as sufficiently generous funding. We cannot half-ass this. If we are serious about this, we need to fully fund a veritable army of outreach service providers to canvass our city streets and the houseless encampments that, despite what the point-in-time count says, continue to grow in size and squalor.

We are pleased to see the best-practices of data-driven Housing First strategies included in this bill. We are pleased that this bill recognizes and accurately states that cost of Housing First is far less in the long run than the costs incurred through emergency medical services and incarceration, as well as the societal costs of lost productivity, community degradation and a decaying moral fabric. We are pleased to see the inclusion of a harm-reduction mentality when addressing substance abuse, and a general recognition that drug abuse and crime are unfortunate symptoms of the inequality that is so pervasive in our society today, and not the other way around. Poverty, substance abuse, mental illness, criminal behavior—these are natural reactions to an unnatural way of life that values wealth extraction over human life, liberty and happiness.

Our only criticism of this bill is that the funds appropriated, while an excellent start, almost certainly will not go far enough to fully addressing this problem. In the short term, however, we are extremely thankful for funding through 2019 to continue the state's current outreach and housing programs. These efforts must be expanded in the near future and we hope that the legislature will continue to work with experts, service providers and houseless advocates to develop expanded programming and housing services with increased funding. The immediacy of this issue cannot be overstated and we hope that stakeholders from all aspects of our community can come together to support this measure and additional bills that seek to reverse the trends of economic and social inequality that are the true causes of houselessness, over-incarceration, elevated rates of mental illness and substance abuse, domestic violence, low educational and vocational attainment levels, cultural erasure and injustice in our society.

Young people care deeply about the future of this society, of this place, of this planet, and we look to you, our elected leaders, to stand up and courageously challenge the status quo powers that be that are actively working to hinder progress along these lines. We are realizing that our future, and the future of our children, is in extreme peril, and we will no longer sit idly by as our communities fall apart around us and our livelihoods are robbed to pay for the greed and selfishness of a handful of wealthy elites and corporate oligarchs. We commend and support any legislator—and public servant—who will stand

and be counted as a champion for our future. Mahalo.

Will Caron
Social Justice Action Committee Chair
Young Progressives Demanding Action – Hawai‘i

From: [Carla Houser](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2401 SD1
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 9:26:42 AM

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 11:00 am, Conference Room 211

FROM: Carla Houser

Executive Director

RYSE

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my strong support for SB 2401 SD1, which proposes making critical investments to address homelessness in Hawaii. 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 SD1.

From: [Michael Goodman](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2401 SD1
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 9:46:02 AM

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 11:00 am, Conference Room 211

FROM: Michael Goodman

Director
Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB2401 SD1. We need every arrow in our quiver to bring this crisis to it's knees. The programs embodied in this bill are crucial. We are also vigorously supporting HB2014, which will create 8000 units of low-cost alternatively constructed housing, which is enough for every homeless person in the State. But that will not supplant the need for a bill like SB2401, which contains essential elements for a comprehensive strategy. Mahalo for your time. The two bills complement each other perfectly. Together, they can literally take homelessness to functional zero. Mahalo for your time.

From: [Nicole Velasco](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2401
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 5:05:18 PM

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2401**. We need continued investment in our families and community members to turn the tide on homelessness in our state. By providing funding for public housing, housing first, rapid rehousing, outreach services programs to homeless persons, including outreach services to runaway and homeless youth and civil legal services, Oahu's family assessment center, and the LEAD program, we can work towards ensuring all community members have a safe place to call home.

Thank you,

Nicole Velasco (YWCA Board Member)

From: [Jenaiah Banasihan](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2401 SD1
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 9:38:24 AM

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 11:00 am, Conference Room 211

FROM: Jenaiah Banasihan

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my strong support for SB 2401 SD1, which proposes making critical investments to address homelessness in Hawaii. 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.

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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 SD1.

From: [Ashleigh Loa](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2401 SD1
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 9:12:53 AM

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

HEARING: Wednesday, February 18, 2018 at 11:00 am, Conference Room 211

FROM: Ashleigh Loa

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Ashleigh Loa and I work at a local non-profit organization assisting homeless families with children under the age of 18 to find permanent affordable housing and to create a sustainable lifestyle. My role in the organization is to provide financial literacy training and search for affordable rentals. Living in Hawaii, this can be a daunting task. A family with two incomes can barely make ends meet without living paycheck to paycheck, constantly worrying if they will be able to make rent or face eviction and homelessness. This causes a lot of stress on parents, as well as the children, so providing a safe and stable affordable home is top priority.

Most importantly, the lack of affordable rental inventory is a challenge. I not only compete with other homeless providers serving their clients, I am competing with other local families trying to find an affordable place to live. By increasing funding for programs such as RRH, Housing First, and Outreach, providers, such as myself, would be able to move families into permanent housing quicker instead of having the families in emergency shelters. Providing financial support to build more truly affordable housing for homeless families specifically (2 bedroom units under \$1,300 including utilities) would eliminate competition with local families and get homeless families off the street quicker.

Another factor that would greatly assist families is providing a rental subsidy. The families that I work with would be able to move out quicker if we provided rental subsidies. I understand that the end goal is sustainability; however, because some families are not used to paying rent, helping them for a short period of time (6 months - 1 year) would greatly help them with getting in the habit of paying rent on time.

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 SD1.