



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

March 16, 2018

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

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

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

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

Hearing: Friday, March 16, 2018, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, 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 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.

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, SB2401 SD1, 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.

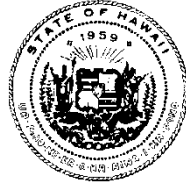
Homelessness remains one of the most pressing challenges facing Hawaii, and the State has adopted a comprehensive framework to address homelessness that focuses on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. In particular, the State has worked together 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.

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 HOUSING AND HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Friday, March 16, 2018
9:30 AM - Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

SB 2401, SD2

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Honorable Chair Brower, Honorable Chair Mizuno, and Members of the House Committee on Housing, and the House Committee on Health & Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 2401, SD2, 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 proposes in SECTION 2 of the measure to establish a 3-year state rental assistance program to assist homeless families with minor children, and also proposes in SECTION 4 to appropriate funds to the HPHA for public housing improvements and renovations statewide.

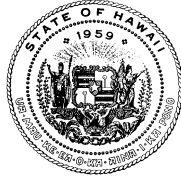
During Governor Ige's Emergency Proclamation to provide emergency relief to address the homeless crisis, the HPHA was able to contract with Catholic Charities and assist a total of 87 homeless families. The rental supplement was \$1000 for the first 6 months, and then \$500 a month going forward.

In SECTION 2, in order 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 2 of this Act."

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 Committees with the HPHA's testimony regarding SB 2401, SD2. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.



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

**TESTIMONY COMMENTING ON SB 2401 SD2
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

REPRESENTATIVE TOM BROWER, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: March 16, 2018

Room Number: 329

1 The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports SB 2401 SD 2, 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:

- 1 a. Whether LEAD participants reduced incidence of re-arrests or citations
2 after enrollment (other jurisdictions and states have seen up to a 60%
3 reduction in re-arrests);
- 4 b. Whether LEAD participants who are homeless at referral are housed
5 (other jurisdictions and states have seen a 40% housing rate through
6 LEAD);
- 7 c. Whether LEAD participants with substance use disorders engage in
8 substance abuse treatment (other jurisdictions and states have seen a 55%
9 increase in engagement in treatment services);
- 10 d. Whether LEAD participants with mental health disorders engage in mental
11 health treatment (other jurisdictions and states have seen a 49% increase in
12 engagement in treatment services); and
- 13 e. Whether LEAD participants have reduced incidence of using the
14 emergency room (ER) for non-urgent medical care (other jurisdictions and
15 states have seen a 55% decrease in non-urgent use of the ER for medical
16 care after enrollment).
- 17 2. Additional funding for year two to continue and to sustain the pilot was included
18 in the Governor’s Executive Budget, but was recently removed by House Finance
19 on the basis that this request was supported through other measures active in the
20 Legislature – including this measure, HB 2147 HD 2, and HB 2281 HD 1.

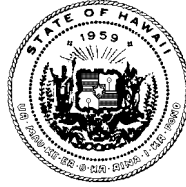
1 3. Funding for at least one to two additional years of the current LEAD pilot is
2 necessary to effectively implement and evaluate the pilot and determine the
3 feasibility of implementation to the rest of the state.

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

9 5. This measure also adds funding to continue outreach services to individuals with
10 chronic substance use disorders (SUD) with a focus on chronically homeless
11 individuals who have a primary diagnosis for SUD. These services were part of
12 the funds appropriated by the 2017 Legislature and were in the Governor's
13 Executive Budget request for \$800,000 this session.

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

18 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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

March 16, 2018

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

The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

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

Hearing: Friday, March 16, 2018, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill. 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. 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 for public

housing improvements and renovations statewide. Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services and Department of Health to support the State's most effective programs to end homelessness: 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. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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 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.



SB2401 SD1 Homeless Housing, Rent Subsidies, LEAD and Outreach COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

- Representative Tom Brower, Chair; Representative Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- Representative John Mizuno, Chair; Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
- Friday, March 16, 2018: 9:30 a.m.
- Conference Room 329

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 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 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 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.

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



TO: Chair Brower
Vice Chair Nakamura
Members of the Committee on Housing

Chair Mizuno
Vice Chair Kobayashi
Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

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 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

March 14, 2018

To: Representative Tom Brower, Chair
And members of the Committee on Housing

Representative John Mizuno, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

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. Please ensure the funding for youth outreach is directed to the Office of Youth Services.

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" and a long, sweeping underline.

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



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

March 16, 2018

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TO: Chair Brower, Chair Mizuno, and Members, Committees
Housing and Committee on Health & Human Services

FROM: Pedro Haro, Advocacy Consultant

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

Hearing: March 16, 2018 at 9:30am
Conference Room 329

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Bill 2401, SD2. 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

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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.

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: Committees on Housing and Health & Human Services
FROM: Partners in Care (PIC)
HEARING: **Friday, March 16, 2018, 9:30 a.m. Conference Room 329**

Dear Chair Brower, Chair Mizuno, and Members, Committees on Housing and Health & Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on **SB 2401 SD2** 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.**

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, (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

PARTNERS IN CARE, c/o Aloha United Way
200 North Vineyard • Suite 700 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 • 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
 - Includes financial case management and administration
 - Funds for homeless outreach:
 - 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:
 - Includes \$250,000 for a LEAD pilot project
 - Funds for the Oahu Family Assessment Center
- \$ 800,000 (new)
\$ 2,200,000
\$1,000,000
\$ 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.

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

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** 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 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 2, RELATING TO
HOMELESSNESS**

**House Committee on Housing
Hon. Tom Brower, Chair
Hon. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair**

**House Committee on Health and Human Services
Hon. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Hon. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair**

**Friday, March 16, 2018, 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

Honorable Chair Brower, Chair Mizuno, 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 2, 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

SB-2401-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:27:19 AM

Testimony for HSG on 3/16/2018 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

To the Honorable Tom Brower, Chair; the Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Housing:

To the Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair; the Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services:

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**, relating to Homelessness; Housing; Rapid Rehousing; HPHA; DHS; DOH; State Rental Assistance; Housing First; Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion; and an appropriation.

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

SB2401 SD2, 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, 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 for public housing improvements and renovations statewide; appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services and Department of Health to support the State's most effective programs to end homelessness: 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; effective on 7/1/2050.

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 Hawai‘i’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** 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 for public housing improvements and renovations statewide; appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services and Department of Health to support the State's most effective programs to end homelessness: 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; effective on 7/1/2050, 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

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 Housing
Hawaii State House Committee on Health & Human Services

Hearing Date/Time: Friday, March 16, 2018, 9:30AM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 329

Position Statement Supporting Senate Bill 2401 SD2

Chair Brower, Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Nakamura, Vice Chair Kobayashi, 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



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 SD2: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative Tom Brower, Chair, Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair, and Members, Committees on Housing and Health & Human Services
FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer
Hearing: **Friday, March 16, 2018; 9:30 AM; CR 329**

Chair Brower, Chair Mizuno, Members, Committees on Housing and Health & Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support of SB 2401 SD2**, 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 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 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'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
Hopeline: (808)524-4673 • www.CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org



54

households served ^(1,2)

Catholic Charities Hawai'i's Family Assessment Center



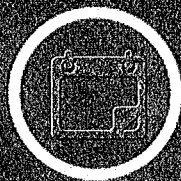
91%

successfully housed

2016 - 2017 Report Card ⁽³⁾

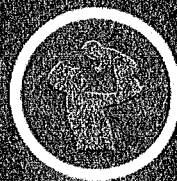
Our Success

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



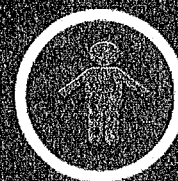
81

average number of days in program ⁽⁴⁾



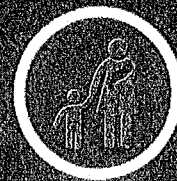
48%

households with four or more members ⁽⁵⁾



41%

participants 12 years of age or younger



31%

households single female parent with children

Community Partners



PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT

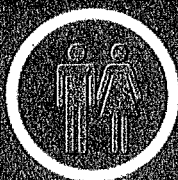
INSTITUTE FOR GREATER GOOD

Hawaii H. S. M. E. Project

Homeless Outreach & Medical Education

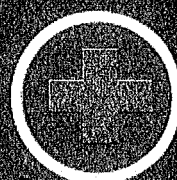


LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII



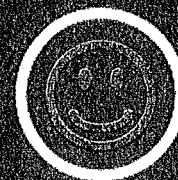
194

persons served ⁽⁶⁾



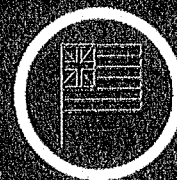
59

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

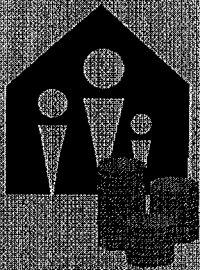
[3] All housing data provided by the State of Hawaii's Department of Human Services Homeless Programs Office

[4] Mean number of days between intake and discharge

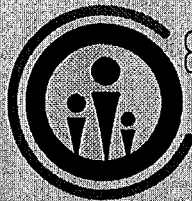
[5] Average number of individuals per household is 3.59

[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.



80% Experienced DV

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



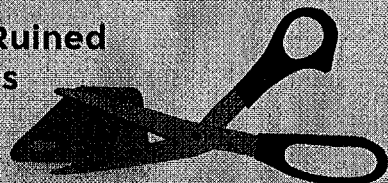
57% Homelessness was caused by DV

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

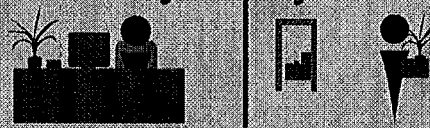
As a direct result of the power and control dynamics related to their abuse, survivors often face unique barriers to accessing shelter and affordable housing.

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 survivor's 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.

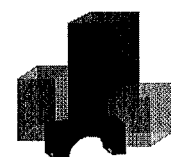
For more information, visit www.safehousingpartnerships.org

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.

3. Women and Children in Chicago Shelters. 3; Nat'l Center for Homelessness & Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network (2003). *Social Supports for Homeless Mothers*, 14, 26; Inst. for Children & Poverty (2004). *The Hidden Migration: Why New York City Shelters are Overflowing with Families; Homes for the Homeless and Inst. for Children & Poverty* (1998). *Ten Cities 1997-1998: A Snapshot of Family Homelessness Across America*, 3.

4. National Network to End Domestic Violence (2017). *11th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report: 24-Hour Census of Domestic Violence Shelters and Services*. Washington, DC.



SAFE HOUSING
PARTNERSHIPS

LATE

SB-2401-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 3:09:20 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/16/2018 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

We support and applaud 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 should be afforded an opportunity at treatment or services rather being funneled into the criminal justice system.

This is particularly true as the state continues its shift towards viewing drug use as a public health issue and 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 those. Acknowledging and dealing with these issues up front will increase the chances of smoother transitions into housing. Finally, given the overcrowding in our prisons, an approach like LEAD is not just sound policy but the humane approach to take.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Rep. Tom Brower, Chair

Rep. Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Friday, March 16, 2018

9:30 am

Room 329

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2401 SD2 - PARTICULARLY SECTION IV - LEAD

Aloha Chairs Brower & Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura & Kobayashi and Members of the Committees!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of all the people who have died in our facilities including, JESSICA FORTSON, JOEY O'MALLEY, DAISY KASITATI, ASHLEY GREY. and the approximately 5,500 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that approximately 1,600 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of this measure that addresses the needs of some of the most vulnerable people in our community. We especially LOVE Section IV that allocates funds to the Department of Health to continue the LEAD Chinatown pilot program. This community-initiated project with 30 state, county, and community partners who came together as the LEAD Hawai'i Hui has been such a bright light for our community. CAP has been an active member of the Hui since its inception. The goals of LEAD are:

- REORIENT the government's responses to safety, disorder, and health-related problems
- IMPROVE public safety and public health
- REDUCE the number of people entering the criminal justice system for low-level offenses
- UNDO racial disparities in our criminal justice system, particularly among Native Hawaiians
- SUSTAIN funding for alternative interventions
- STRENGTHEN the relationship between law enforcement and the community

The evaluations for Seattle's LEAD program <http://leadkingcounty.org/lead-evaluation/> show that LEAD participants are 58% less likely to be arrested after enrollment; spend significantly fewer days in jail after entering the program; obtained housing if they were experiencing homelessness prior to LEAD; receive mental health and drug treatment, legal assistance, and help obtaining identification.

The support for LEAD is broad and we urge the committees to support these vital services by passing this bill and urging adequate funding. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Being homeless is like living in a post-apocalyptic world. You're on the outskirts of society.

Frank Dillane



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

LATE

The Salvation Army

Addiction Treatment Services and Family Treatment Services

3/15/18

SB2401 SD1 Relating to Homelessness

Representative John Mizuno, Chair; Representative Bert Kobayashi, Vice Chair; House Committee on Health and Human Services and Representative Tom Brower, Chair and Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair; Committee on Housing Hearing: Friday, March 16th 2018 9:30 AM Conference Room 329, State Capitol

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

SB2401, when implemented will have a lasting positive impact on our State and provide a future for our struggling families and individuals who so easily can fall into homelessness. Particularly, we are supportive of Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), which was established in Seattle in response to a need. Seattle's LEAD implementation in 2011, shows many positive and lasting results. Seattle's Police Department faced: A never-ending stream of the same offenders being arrested and a community frustrated by an enforcement policy that was both unjust and ineffective.

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. Instead of using jails to hide away public health issues it would be much better if we tap into our social service professionals who are ready and able to assist in the most effective way.

Pre-arrest diversion is another great strategy to add to our toolbox to address our public health issues. LEAD works in concert with HELP Honolulu, DOH's Jail Diversion Program and the Community Court. 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.

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



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

LATE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice

Supporting SB 2401 SD2, Relating to Homelessness

House Committees on Housing and Health & Human Services

Scheduled for Hearing Friday, March 16, 2018 at 9:30am, Conference Room 329

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 Chairs Brower and Mizuno, and members of the committees on Housing and Health & Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB 2401 SD2, 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. Thank you for your consideration of this very important issue.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Rep. Tom Brower, Chair
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Joint Public Hearing – Friday, March 16, 2018
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street,
9:30 a.m., Conference Room 329

Ina Stefani
istefani@hawaii.edu

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Support of SB 2401 SD2, Relating to Homelessness.

I am writing in strong support of SB 2401 SD2. SB 2401 SD2 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 for public housing improvements and renovations statewide. Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services and Department of Health to support the State's most effective programs to end homelessness: 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 program.

As a graduate student of the Social Work Program at UH Manoa and resident of downtown Honolulu, I am very familiar with the homeless population and pertinent challenges we are facing in our society. A variety of factors contributes to homelessness; socioeconomic status, cost of living, illness, and employment. Hawai'i continues to have the highest per capita rate of homelessness of any state in the United States, with an estimated 7,220 people living on the streets and in shelters.

The State must increase the investment and commitment to the solution. It is vital that SB 2401 SD2 establishes programs that are successful. Otherwise the consequences of homelessness will cost the state of Hawaii more money, and progressively, it will be affecting our surroundings,

safety, and tourism branch. Not to forget the possible potential of human and society that is missed by not giving vulnerable populations a perspective to be a valued part of our communities. Finally, the way we treat the most vulnerable individuals of our society directly reflects upon the society we are.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Ina Stefani
MSW Candidate
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work
University of Hawaii at Manoa
istefani@hawaii.edu

SB-2401-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:42:27 AM

Testimony for HSG on 3/16/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Morgan Esarey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of Senate Bill 2401 SD2.

SB-2401-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:07:52 AM

Testimony for HSG on 3/16/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mario Avalor	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-2401-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 5:25:43 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/16/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mona Bomgaars	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Brower and Chair Mizuno,

I support funding The Homelessness Omnibus Bill at a 25% higher than proposed by Governor Ige. Of all the problems Hawaii has to deal with, homelessness tops the list. Addressing the problem means using multiple approaches and certainly keeping families from failing their rent payments as well as advancing the OAHU Family Assessment Center is another.

During the past 20 years as a volunteer in aid, I have noticed a change from single men and women to an increased number of families which is heart wrenching for all of us who continue to be concerned.

Please pass this bill with an increase in the requested funding amount.

Yours sincerely,

Mona R. Bomgaars MD

SB-2401-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:25:13 AM

Testimony for HSG on 3/16/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kari Benes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



Life Foundation & The CHOW Project

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 226
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 521-2437 | (808) 853-3292



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2401 SD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative John Mizuno, Chair; Representative Bert Kobayashi, Vice Chair; House Committee on Health and Human Services and Representative Tom Brower, Chair and Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair; Committee on Housing

FROM: Heather Lusk, Executive Director, CHOW Project

Hearing: Friday, March 16th 2018 9:30 AM Conference Room 329, State Capitol

Dear Chair Mizuno, Chair Brower and Members of the Committees,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide strong support for SB 2401, a proposal which appropriates crucial resources for addressing homeless in Hawai'i.

As you know, Hawaii has the HIGHEST rate of homelessness among states in the U.S. and resources to connect the homeless to services through outreach are an essential component of our continuum of care.

The Community Health Outreach Work (CHOW) Project is dedicated to serving individuals, families, and communities adversely affected by drug use, through a participant-centered harm reduction approach. CHOW works to reduce drug related harms such as but not limited to HIV, hepatitis B/C and overdose. We 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.

Throughout the past 20 years, the CHOW Project has used outreach to connect some of the most vulnerable in our community to services. While we hope that people will come to us for services, our data demonstrates that our approach to "meet people where they are" and take the services to the community has been immensely effective in linkage and access to care for those struggling with homelessness, addiction and mental and physical challenges. Please support this bill so that those who need help the most can be reached.

Actions implemented through SB2401 will have a lasting impact on our State and provide a future for our struggling families and individuals who so easily can fall into homelessness. Particularly, we are supportive of Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), which was established in Seattle in

response to a need. Before LEAD's implementation in 2011, the Seattle Police Department was torn in a war on two fronts: A never-ending stream of the same offenders being arrested and a community frustrated by an enforcement policy that was both unjust and ineffective.

In the five years since it's been implemented, the collaboration between service providers and law enforcement in Seattle has gained national recognition for its work, with LEAD participants showing to be 58% less likely than other users to be arrested after being involved in the program.

Inspired by Seattle's success, CHOW has worked with community partners since 2016 to develop a pre-arrest diversion program that strives to integrate successful strategies from other localities into Hawaii's unique social ecosystem. It is our hope that this pilot, once implemented, will transition the burden of public health to those best suited to meet the needs of the community.

According to the Honolulu Police Department¹, of the 16,000 arrests made on Oahu in 2016, 61% involved people who were severely mentally ill or abusing drugs and 43% of detainees in HPD's central cell block last year were homeless.

As of August 31, 2017, 51% of the people imprisoned at OCCC are pre-trial detainees costing the state more than \$2.5 million a month. 43% of the individuals held in the police cell block are houseless and 72% had a serious mental illness or substance abuse problem.

Why are we using jails to hide away our social challenges? These correctional institutions are not equipped to address these public health issues.

Incarceration is the most expensive sanction. Providing appropriate services to those struggling in our community is the smart way – the compassionate and humane way – to address our social challenges. Once someone gets entangled in the criminal justice web, the system makes it virtually impossible to move forward after one pays his/her debt to society.

Improving relationships between community and law enforcement is vital to community health and safety and so desperately needed at this point in time.

Pre-arrest diversion is another great strategy to add to our toolbox to address our social challenges. It works in concert with HELP Honolulu, DOH's Jail Diversion Program and the Community Court.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony for HB 2401 a critical next step in addressing mental health and drug use challenges.

Sincerely,

Heather Lusk
Executive Director

CHOW Project + Life Foundation

SB-2401-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:21:12 AM

Testimony for HSG on 3/16/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Haley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Brower, Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Nakamura, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2401 SD2**. 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,â€

Matthew Haley

SB-2401-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 12:42:50 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/16/2018 9:30:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

Chair Brower, Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Nakamura, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Committee members,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide **STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2401 SD2.**

We simply 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,â€

Jeannine Souki

LATE

SB-2401-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 5:21:17 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/16/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marion McHenry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Marion McHenry. I am testifying from Kauai. I strongly support this bill. We must do more to address homelessness in Hawaii. This bill provides some important steps towards that goal.

Thank you

SB-2401-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:20:38 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/16/2018 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katie Hashimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Katie Hashimoto and I support this bill to fund 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. Homeless children and families are in need of our help, we must not abandon them from society when action, such as this bill, can be taken.

SB-2401-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:46:48 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/16/2018 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: