

SB 2401

Measure Title: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

Report Title: Homelessness; Housing; Rapid Rehousing; State Rental Assistance; Housing First; Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Establishes the state rental assistance program or a pilot program to assist homeless families. Appropriates funds to the department of human services and the department of health to continue to administer programs for individuals or families who require assistance including Rapid Rehousing, Housing First, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, and the Family Assessment Center on Oahu, and outreach. Appropriates funds to the Hawaii public housing authority for public housing improvements and renovations statewide and a pilot program to administer the state rental assistance program.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HOU/CPH/HMS, WAM

Introducer(s): ESPERO, GREEN, HARIMOTO



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 1, 2018

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

The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

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

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

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

Hearing: Thursday, February 1, 2018, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225, 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 Executive Budget request of \$15 million 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 \$29 million in the Executive 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 Executive Budget. The Governor's Executive Budget request includes over \$15 million for homeless services, including \$3 million for Housing First, \$3 million for Rapid Rehousing, and \$1.75 million for homeless outreach services. Collectively, the homeless programs administered by DHS and other State agencies represent an array of financial resources designed to provide one-time crisis assistance, as well as medium term (3-24 months) and longer-term support. This mix of short-, medium-, and long-term assistance is designed to transition at-risk and homeless individuals and families into stable housing, and is also designed to prevent homelessness by assisting formerly homeless individuals in maintaining housing over time. Accordingly, the Coordinator respectfully asks for the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive Budget request.

The Coordinator defers to HPHA, DHS, and DOH respectfully in regard to the implementation and contracting for specific programs for homeless individuals and families.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII

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

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH
AND
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Thursday, February 1, 2018
2:45 PM - Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 2401
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Honorable Chair Espero, Honorable Chair Baker, Honorable Chair Green, and Members of the Senate Committees on Housing, Consumer Protection and Health, and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 2401, relating to homelessness.

SB 2401 establishes a state rental assistance program or pilot program to assist homeless families, and appropriates funds to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) for public improvements and renovations statewide and a pilot program to administer the state rental assistance program. The HPHA **supports the intent** of this measure, 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.

In order to establish the rental assistance program, the HPHA would need additional funding to contract with service providers to apply wrap around services for all participants. Furthermore, if the intent is to start the housing support program right away, the HPHA would like to request the addition of the following amendments:

- "The Hawaii public housing authority shall develop interim rules without regard to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for assisting participants with the housing support program pursuant to section 3 of this Act."

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

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committees on Housing, Consumer Protection and Health, and Human Services with the HPHA’s testimony regarding SB 2401. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

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

January 26, 2018

To: Senator Will Espero, Chair
And members of the Committee on Housing

Senator Roslyn Baker, Chair
And members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer
Protection, and Health

Senator Josh Green, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 2401 Relating to Homelessness.

Hawaii's homeless population includes runaway and homeless youth who are living on the streets without support or guidance from their families. More than 40% were forced to leave home by their families. Nine out of ten have slept outdoors in a park, beach, car, or sidewalk. Two-fifths have been victims of violence while on the streets.

They are the most vulnerable segment of our homeless population because they are children who have not completed their education, lack employment experience, and have not yet learned the skills for adult living.

Since 1981, Hawaii Youth Services Network has coordinated a statewide runaway and homeless youth collaboration. For the past 15 years, our partners have encountered 700 – 800 homeless youth annually.

Outreach is the first step in helping these youth leave the streets for safer and more appropriate living situations. Reuniting youth with their families, if it is safe for them, is the first choice, with placement in foster care or other out-of-home care if the family is not able to care for the youth. Workers build

trusting relationships and convince youth to accept help to leave the streets, while helping them meet their immediate survival needs.

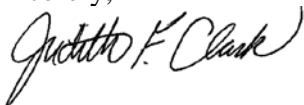
Hawaii Youth Services Network strongly recommends that at least \$300,000 be allocated specifically for outreach to runaway and homeless youth.

Young adults, ages 18 – 24, face many housing challenges and could benefit from rapid re-housing and rent supplement programs that can be provided through this bill. Typically, they work at low-wage jobs while trying to complete a GED, attend college, or participate in a vocational training program. 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 the homeless population, we can greatly reduce homeless population.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

Thursday, February 1, 2018, 2:45pm

Senate Committee on Housing

To: Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President & Government Relations

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

My name is Michael Robinson and I am Vice President and Government Relations of Hawaii'i Pacific Health. Hawaii'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system with over 70 locations statewide including medical centers, clinics, physicians and other caregivers serving Hawaii'i and the Pacific Region with high quality, compassionate care. Its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox – specialize in innovative programs in women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, cancer care, bone and joint services and more. Hawaii'i Pacific Health is recognized nationally for its excellence in patient care and the use of electronic health records to improve quality and patient safety.

I write in support of SB 2401 which provides funding to continue multiple homelessness services programs such as Outreach, Housing First, and Rapid Rehousing; creates a pilot state rental assistance program that provides small subsidies to families that need just a slight economic boost to get out of homelessness; and appropriates funds to Hawaii'i Public Housing Authority for public housing improvements and renovations statewide.

Hawaii'i has the highest per capita rate of homelessness of any state in the United States and service providers have taken a multi-faceted approach using proven interventions that target particular characteristics of the population being served and that address the root causes of homelessness.

The Hawai'i Public Housing Authority currently manages hundreds of units that are vacant due to the need for major repairs. This measure would appropriate funds that could rapidly bring these units back into service and house families and individuals at thirty percent of their income. While Housing First programs are relatively costly, they are cost-effective. Providing housing and services is less costly than the alternative of incurring costs for emergency services necessary for unhoused persons who are chronically homeless.

The State Rent Supplement Program has proven to be effective in maintaining housing for working individuals and families. A large portion of homeless people have a stable source of income and only need modest financial help instead of full-scale subsidies and intensive, ongoing case management. This program provides a small, time-limited subsidy that wards off homelessness by providing time for families to close the affordability gap and achieve self-sufficiency.

Finally, the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program grants police officers the discretionary authority to redirect low-level offenders, typically drug-involved and homeless, to case managers as an alternative to incarceration.

As one of the State's largest health care providers, it is in Hawai'i Pacific Health's best interest to support this measure which appropriates funds to support and improve the well-being of the most vulnerable populations in our islands.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of SB 2401.

SB-2401

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:46:39 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Goodman	Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force	Support	No

Comments:

I'm Mike Goodman, Director of the Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony, in support of SB2401. Homelessness is the worst crisis faced by the State of Hawaii since Pearl Harbor. Outreach and other programs supported by this bill are crucial components of any viable strategy to end homelessness. We'll need every arrow in our quiver to defeat this scourge.

SB-2401

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 10:42:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

SB-2401

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 10:07:40 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate	Support	No

Comments:



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Chair Espero, Chair Baker, Chair Green, and Members, Committees on Housing, Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, and Human Services
FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer
Hearing: **Thursday, 2/1/18; 2:45 PM; CR 225**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of SB 2401, 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. These comprehensive solutions are proven effective. From rapidly repairing public housing units to outreach that helps homeless people navigate into housing to Housing First and 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 and instead into programs via the new Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program—reducing homeless in jails and flooding the justice system.

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. 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. To clarify and enhance the pilot program at the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, outlined in Part II, Section 2, we suggest:

- Change the name to “**Housing Homeless Children Pilot Program**”, and target **homeless children and children at risk for homelessness due to domestic violence**. This will avoid confusion with the State Rent Supplement Program, also run by HPHA..
- **Delete the “100 families” and “up to \$500/month”** to give HPHA flexibility to meet the individual needs of the families.
- Allow HPHA to adopt **Interim Administrative Rules** to address the amount of subsidy and other program requirements, and to implement this new pilot program ASAP.

We need to act now. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org, 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 Relating to Homelessness

TO: Committees on Housing, Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, and Human Services
FROM: Partners in Care (PIC)
HEARING: Thursday, 2/1/18; at 2:45 PM, Conference Room 225

Dear Chair Espero, Chair Baker, Chair Green, and Members of the Committees on Housing, Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, and Human Services:

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

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

Oahu Continuum of Care

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

- Funds for a Housing Homeless Children pilot program at HPHA to quickly move homeless children into permanent housing \$ 800,000
 - 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

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 **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 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

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

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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

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



January 31, 2018

To: Senator Will Espero, Chair, Committee on Housing
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Human services

Re: SB 2401 Relating to Homelessness – **SUPPORT**

Hearing: Date, February 1, 2018; Hearing Time 2:45; Conference Room 225

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

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

Recently, Aloha United Way released a report titled ALICE: A STUDY OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP IN 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 homeless issue. Legislation has been introduced to re-establish the diversion portion of CSHI.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We urge your favorable consideration of SB 2401.

Sincerely,

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

Norm Baker
Chief Operating Officer

SB-2401

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:59:28 AM

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

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

Comments:



SB2401 Homeless Housing, Rent Subsidies, LEAD and Outreach

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

- Senator Will Espero, Chair; Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH:

- Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair; Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

- Senator Josh Green, Chair; Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

- Thursday, February 1st, 2018: 2:45 p.m.

- Conference Room 225

HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION (HSAC) Supports SB2401 with Recommendations:

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.

Recommendations:

Section 1: page 4, Line 6 (4) Embracing harm-reduction approaches **in collaboration with prevention and early intervention approaches to addictions** reduce the impact of substance use disordersⁱ, which includes a spectrum of multiple opportunity strategies from safer use to abstinence providing critical links to deepen the impact to populations at greater risk.ⁱⁱ **rather than mandating abstinence while supporting program participant commitments to recovery;** and Providing program participants with leases and tenant protections as provided by law.

SECTION 11. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much there of as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the department of health to continue to administer homeless outreach, counseling, and diversion for unsheltered persons experiencing substance abuse **including professional case managers that employ basic core competencies for substance abuse treatment;** provided that \$ 2 5 0 , 0 0 0 of the sum appropriated shall be expended to continue administering the law enforcement assisted diversion pilot program.

Section 12. All programs must have data collection, quality metrics and periodic reports that assess the strategies to determine health outcomes, improved safety and less victimization. Reports to be submitted to the Legislature annually.

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

ⁱ SAMHSA: Prevention for substance use disorders and mental illness <https://www.samhsa.gov/prevention>

ii SAMHSA: Prevention and Harm Reduction: Opportunities for Collaboration to Address Opioid-Related Overdose <https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/news-announcements/conferences-trainings/prevention-harm-reduction-opportunities-collaboration>



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

February 1, 2018

Board of Directors

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

TO: Chair Baker, Chair Espero, Chair Green, and Members, Committees on Housing, Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, and Human Services

FROM: Pedro Haro, Advocacy Consultant

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of SB2401, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: February 1, 2018 at 2:45pm
Conference Room 225

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

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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what works to change the tide in the race to end homelessness in Hawaii. We strongly support the continued funding of these programs.

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.

To clarify and enhance the pilot program at the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, outlined in Part II, Section 2, we suggest the following amendments:

- Change the name to “Housing Homeless Children Pilot Program”, and target homeless children and children at risk for homelessness due to domestic violence. This will avoid confusion with the State Rent Supplement Program, also run by HPHA.
- Delete the “100 families” and “up to \$500/month” to give HPHA flexibility to meet the individual needs of the families.
- Allow HPHA to adopt Interim Administrative Rules to address the amount of subsidy and other program requirements, and to implement this new pilot program ASAP.

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.

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.



Aloha Chairs Espero, Baker and Green, members of the joint committees,

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 the 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

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Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Joint Public Hearing – Thursday, February 1, 2018
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street,
2: 45 p.m., Conference Room 225

Ina Stefani
istefani@hawaii.edu

Friday, January 26, 2018

Support of SB 2401, Relating to Homelessness.

I am writing in strong support of SB 2401. SB 2401 establishes the state rental assistance program or a pilot program to assist homeless families. It appropriates funds to the department of human services and the department of health to continue to administer programs for individuals or families who require assistance including Rapid Rehousing, Housing First, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, and the Family Assessment Center on Oahu. Sb 2401 also funds the Hawaii public housing authority for public housing improvements and renovations statewide and a pilot program to administer the state rental assistance program.

As a graduate student of Social Work 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 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
Graduate Student
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work
University of Hawaii at Manoa
istefani@hawaii.edu

SB-2401

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:36:47 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Espero, Baker and Green and members of the Committees on Housing, Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and Human Services:

I urge you to **support** this bill for further discussion and to provide more support for those families at risk of homelessness that require a hand-up to continue renting in the market or to access services that will allow them to do so while accessing services for those areas of their lives whihc they need to address to keep them in housing.

Mahalo,

Cynthia K.L. Rezentes

SB-2401

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:56:43 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jina Rabago		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2401

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 4:17:35 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Ching		Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2401. We need to help the homeless get into permanent housing.

Randy Ching / Honolulu / makikirandy@yahoo.com

SB-2401

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:16:34 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2401

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:45:57 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Severine Busquet		Support	No

Comments:

Hi:

Hawai'i's houseless problem is one of the most dramatic examples of the social and economic inequality. In Hawai'i, where we value aloha, there is no excuse for our allowance of more than 7,000 people, 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.

For these reasons, I would like to express my strong support for SB2401.
Thanks for your attention,

Severine

Schools Our
Keiki Deserve

808-351-0980
808-627-0193

1488 Glen Ave.
Wahiawā

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2401 - Housing and Houseless Omnibus Bill

Dear Chair Espero and members of the committee,

I am writing in support for SB2401, the housing and houselessness omnibus bill.

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. 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. We must create intelligent, sustainable housing development designed to address the needs of local working families.

The bill also identifies outreach as an essential tenet of an effective housing strategy, particularly when it comes to addressing the needs of the chronically houseless. The best-practices of data-driven Housing First strategies are included in this bill, which is important because cost of Housing First is far less in the long run than the costs incurred through emergency medical services and incarceration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy Perruso