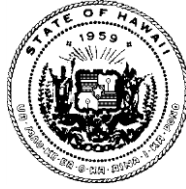


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 1, 2018

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

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

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

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

Hearing: Thursday, February 1, 2018, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill provided that the measure's passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. DHS asks the Legislature to support the Governor's Executive Budget request to address homelessness which includes \$1.5 million to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) for the Rent Supplement program; \$13.4 million to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, homeless outreach services, and the Family Assessment Center; \$800,000 to the Department of Health (DOH) for homeless outreach, counseling and diversion services for unsheltered persons experiencing substance abuse. The Department of Human Services also asks the Legislature to support \$29 million in the Executive Budget for HPHA to provide public housing improvements and renovations statewide.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to establish 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.

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

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

DHS recently expanded its Housing First program services statewide. From May to December 2017, Housing First served a total of 181 unduplicated households and 241 unduplicated individuals: 87 unduplicated households and 125 unduplicated participants on Oahu; 75 unduplicated households and 88 unduplicated participants on Hawaii Island; 6 unduplicated households and 7 unduplicated participants on Kauai; and 13 unduplicated households and 21 unduplicated participants on Maui.

The State's Rapid Rehousing program provides flexibility that supports those who are homeless or those who are imminently at risk of homelessness. The Rapid Rehousing program allows households to maintain their homes or quickly divert them from utilizing existing homeless programs. These programs are accessible to those who are the most vulnerable and have higher service needs. In 2017, the Rapid Rehousing program provided financial assistance 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.

Lastly, please correct Section 10 of the measure to include section 6 of the measure so that DHS would be able to expend the funds appropriated in section 6, or

SECTION 10. The sums appropriated in sections 7~~6~~ to 9 of this Act shall be expended by the department of human services for the purposes of this part.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

From: [Erin Rutherford](#)
To: [HOU Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony Supporting SB 2401
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 3:28:08 PM

Testimony in Support of SB 2401, Relating to Homelessness

TO: Senate Committees on Housing, Human Services, and Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

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

FROM: Erin Rutherford

Dear Chairs Espero, Baker, and Green, and members of the committees on Housing, Human Services, and Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my strong support for SB 2401, which proposes making critical investments to address homelessness in Hawaii. As a homeless service provider it is so frustrating to see so many of our community members living on the streets. I provide services to homeless Veterans. While our funding is federal and the VA does provide a great deal of funding for Veterans, we still rely heavily on other state-funded service providers to work together in serving our Veterans. I ask your support for the specific programs below, which provide real solutions for homelessness.

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

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

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

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

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

From: [Lawrence Chun](#)
To: [HOU Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony Supporting SB 2401
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 3:19:16 PM

Testimony in Support of SB 2401, Relating to Homelessness

TO: Senate Committees on Housing, Human Services, and Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

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

FROM: Lawrence Chun

Dear Chairs Espero, Baker, and Green, and members of the committees on Housing, Human Services, and Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my strong support for SB 2401, which proposes making critical investments to address homelessness in Hawaii. I am disturbed by the number and sad condition of so many of our residents living on the streets. It is affecting our neighborhoods, beaches, and the future of our great state. I ask your support for the specific programs below, which provide real solutions for homelessness.

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

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

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

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

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

From: [Natalie Okeson](#)
To: [HOU Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony Supporting SB 2401
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 2:35:26 PM

Testimony in Support of SB 2401, Relating to Homelessness

TO: Senate Committees on Housing, Human Services, and Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

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

FROM: Natalie Okeson

Dear Chairs Espero, Baker, and Green, and members of the committees on Housing, Human Services, and Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my strong support for SB 2401, which proposes making critical investments to address homelessness in Hawaii. I am disturbed by the number and sad condition of so many of our residents living on the streets. It is affecting our neighborhoods, beaches, and the future of our great state. I ask your support for the specific programs below, which provide real solutions for homelessness.

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

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

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

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

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

From: [Timothy Zhu](#)
To: [HOU Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 2856--Relating to Taxation
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 2:11:49 PM

TO: Senate Committee on Housing
HEARING: Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 2:55 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 225
FROM: Timothy Zhu
RE: SB 2856--Relating to Taxation
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2856, which would help many struggling families in Hawai'i by improving the Low-Income Household Renters' Credit.

Hawai'i's Low-Income Household Renters' Credit was created to help make up for the high rents and tax rates that burden our low- and moderate-income neighbors. The amount of the Renters' Credit was last set over 35 years ago, in 1981, at \$50 per exemption. The income eligibility cut-off was set in 1989 at \$30,000, which was just above the median household income at that time. Neither of those levels have budged since then.

We desperately need to alleviate the tax burden on renter families struggling to afford housing. Simply bringing the Renters' Credit up-to-date will benefit over 80,000 households, as well as put much-needed dollars into the pockets of Hawaii's low- and moderate-income families. Please pass SB 2856. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

From: [Kathleen Kikuchi Samonte](#)
To: [HOU Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 2856--Relating to Taxation
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 1:32:41 PM

TO: Senate Committee on Housing
HEARING: Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 2:55 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 225
FROM: Kathleen Kikuchi Samonte
RE: SB 2856--Relating to Taxation
ATTENDING HEARING: No

Dear Chair Espero, Vice Chair Harimoto, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2856, which would help many struggling families in Hawai'i by improving the Low-Income Household Renters' Credit.

Hawai'i's Low-Income Household Renters' Credit was created to help make up for the high rents and tax rates that burden our low- and moderate-income neighbors. The amount of the Renters' Credit was last set over 35 years ago, in 1981, at \$50 per exemption. The income eligibility cut-off was set in 1989 at \$30,000, which was just above the median household income at that time. Neither of those levels have budged since then.

We desperately need to alleviate the tax burden on renter families struggling to afford housing. Simply bringing the Renters' Credit up-to-date will benefit over 80,000 households, as well as put much-needed dollars into the pockets of Hawaii's low- and moderate-income families. Please pass SB 2856. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

****Although I have a good job, have my Master's Degree, and am married, my family still pays over 50% of our income for rent. We cannot find an affordable rental, and buying our own seems like a pipe dream. This is not how I want to raise my 2 Native Hawaiian daughters in their own land. Something needs to be done to help not only those who live in poverty, but those who live on the cusp of homelessness and despair. We are the working poor, shamed to ask for help or food, and not being able to qualify anyway. I implore our law-makers to ACT, to REACT, and HELP.

Mahalo.
Kathleen

From: [Anna Stone](#)
To: [HOU Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony Supporting SB 2401
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 9:51:47 PM

Testimony in Support of SB 2401, Relating to Homelessness

TO: Senate Committees on Housing, Human Services, and Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

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

FROM: Anna Stone

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

At The Salvation Army Family Services Office, we receive despairing calls every day from men and women who are hurting financially and are not able to fully provide for their own families. These are cries for help from hard working folks who couldn't make ends meet because of the high cost of rent and are on the brink of homelessness. Some have to choose between taking care of basic needs, purchasing needed medications, paying for childcare or avoiding electric or water disconnection. With just one unexpected event or emergency, the scale is tipped. Something needs to be done to stop these cycles of crisis.

The Senate Bill 2401, which proposes making critical investments to address poverty and homelessness in Hawaii, will strategically address a spectrum of critical needs in our State:

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

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

SB2401 will create a pilot program that will assist 100 homeless families with minor children or families imminently facing homelessness due to domestic violence. A rental subsidy (up to \$500/mo) along with financial case management can bring these families out of homelessness and stabilize them in a permanent rental unit.

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

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

Respectfully,

Anna Stone, MPH
Director, Family Services Office
296 Vineyard Blvd. Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [WordPress](#)
To: [HOU Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony Supporting SB 2401
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 4:17:58 PM

Testimony in Support of SB 2401, Relating to Homelessness

TO: Senate Committees on Housing, Human Services, and Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

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

FROM:

Dear Chairs Espero, Baker, and Green, and members of the committees on Housing, Human Services, and Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my strong support for SB 2401, which proposes making critical investments to address homelessness in Hawaii. I am disturbed by the number and sad condition of so many of our residents living on the streets. It is affecting our neighborhoods, beaches, and the future of our great state. I ask your support for the specific programs below, which provide real solutions for homelessness.

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

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

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

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

As an outreach worker I see first hand the extreme need for services that will assist homeless individuals to get into shelter of some kind. Although there are folks who will not accept services in existing shelters such as IHS or Next Step, providing a safe place for them to live NOW is a humane step in the right direction.

Please consider fully funding services to assist homeless individuals. And hold service

providers accountable for truly using the money to do the job we are asking them to do.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for SB 2401. Sorry for rambling!

Deborah Smith
Waimanalo

From: [Rosita Aranita](#)
To: [HOU Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony Supporting SB 2401
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 1:15:46 PM

Testimony in Support of SB 2401, Relating to Homelessness

TO: Senate Committees on Housing, Human Services, and Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

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

FROM: Rosita Aranita

Dear Chairs Espero, Baker, and Green, and members of the committees on Housing, Human Services, and Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my strong support for SB 2401, which proposes making critical investments to address homelessness in Hawaii. I am disturbed by the number and sad condition of so many of our residents living on the streets. It is affecting our neighborhoods, beaches, and the future of our great state. I ask your support for the specific programs below, which provide real solutions for homelessness.

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

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

I have seen the progress since the 1980's and '90's when I staffed the Affordable Housing Alliance through the Office for Social Ministry of the Roman Catholic Diocese. The consciousness raising and commitment to put our tax dollars toward alleviating homelessness has grown. As a Sister of Saint Joseph of Carondelet with a national membership of nearly 4,000 members, we have committed ourselves to advocate for and operate programs for the homeless here and across the nation. I fully support the positive programs that have been time proven in SB 2401

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

From: [Nicole Velasco](#)
To: [HOU Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony Supporting SB 2401
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 10:44:37 AM

Testimony in Support of SB 2401, Relating to Homelessness

TO: Senate Committees on Housing, Human Services, and Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

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

FROM: Nicole Velasco

Dear Chairs Espero, Baker, and Green, and members of the committees on Housing, Human Services, and Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my strong support for SB 2401, which proposes making critical investments to address homelessness in Hawaii. I am disturbed by the number and sad condition of so many of our residents living on the streets. It is affecting our neighborhoods, beaches, and the future of our great state. I ask your support for the specific programs below, which provide real solutions for homelessness.

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

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

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

From: [Eric Englin](#)
To: [HOU Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony Supporting SB 2401
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 1:54:18 PM

Testimony in Support of SB 2401, Relating to Homelessness

TO: Senate Committees on Housing, Human Services, and Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

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

FROM: Eric Englin

Dear Chairs Espero, Baker, and Green, and members of the committees on Housing, Human Services, and Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health:

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

I work as the administrator of our coordinated entry system for Oahu's families experiencing homelessness. Coordinated entry is a process by which we assess families and route our resources to the most vulnerable. However, in doing this process, it is apparent that there truly are gaps at each level of the homeless service system.

Outreach and emergency shelters help us ensure that all of our families experiencing homelessness have a fair chance at our resources. Without adequate outreach and shelters, we cannot be certain that our resources are going to the most vulnerable families first.

Sufficient housing resources are what actually move families into housing or prevent them from losing that housing in the first place. Of the 626 families that are currently in our family coordinated entry system, 179, or 29%, require permanent supportive housing, 296, or 47%, require rapid rehousing subsidies, and

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

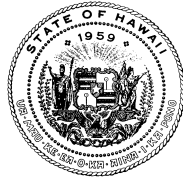
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\$500/mo) along with financial case management can bring these families out of homelessness and stabilize them in a permanent rental unit.

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

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



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



**TESTIMONY COMMENTING ON S.B. 2401
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

SENATOR WILL ESPERO, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date and Time: Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 2:45 p.m. Room Number: 225

1 The Department of Health (DOH) applauds the intent of this bill to continue to administer
2 homeless outreach, counseling, and diversion for unsheltered individuals experiencing substance
3 abuse, and to continue to administer the law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD) program,
4 but defers to the Governor's Supplemental Budget Request for appropriations priorities. Studies
5 indicate that a significant proportion of the state's chronic homeless population have substance
6 abuse and/or mental health issues and are frequently arrested for non-violent, non-felony
7 offenses.

8 The DOH continues to follow the lead of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness
9 (Coordinator) to ensure that efforts are synchronized in support of the State's comprehensive
10 framework to address homelessness across the system of care. The framework includes focus of
11 efforts on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and
12 public safety. The DOH, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) is especially grateful that

1 one of the initiatives identified by the sponsors of S.B. 2401 and jointly supported by both the
2 DOH and the Coordinator is the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program.
3 Nationally, LEAD was evaluated to have significant positive impact in other jurisdictions where
4 the program was deployed, including significant decreases in rates of re-arrest and increase in
5 engagement of participants with needed treatments and other social services. It has also been
6 successful at decreasing burdens on judicial and law enforcement systems by directing
7 individuals, particularly the chronically homeless, to behavioral health care services in the
8 community. The ADAD also commends the Legislature who in the 2017 Session approved
9 \$200,000 to implement a LEAD pilot project, and for understanding that there is a need for
10 LEAD in Hawaii and sees that there is community willingness to assist with its implementation.

11 The DOH acknowledges that homelessness is one of the State's most significant and
12 challenging social concerns. The DOH and its Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) partner
13 with other state agencies and with both AMHD contracted and non-AMHD contracted
14 community programs to address the mental health needs of individuals experiencing
15 homelessness. Key partners include the Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of
16 Transportation (DOT), Department of Public Safety (PSD), the City and County of Honolulu,
17 law enforcement, and community based health and human service programs.

18 The AMHD continues its commitment to increasing and strengthening linkages to
19 housing and community based referrals that support recovery for adults with serious mental
20 health challenges. The AMHD Homeless Outreach providers focus their outreach efforts on

1 locating individuals who live with Serious Mental Illness (SMI), who are chronically homeless,
2 and who meet AMHD's eligibility criteria for AMHD funded services.

3 In 2017, AMHD provided homeless outreach services to 2,817 consumers identified as
4 homeless on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii. In addition to homeless outreach
5 services, AMHD provides specialized treatment and group home housing for 808 individuals,
6 including those who live in twenty-four hour, eight-to-sixteen hour, and semi-independent group
7 homes. There are over 100 eligible individuals who receive supported housing/bridge subsidy
8 through the AMHD. These individuals live with a serious mental illness and have the option to
9 live independently in housing of their choice with services that support their movement towards
10 assuming the role of a neighbor or tenant.

11 The DOH asks for the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive Budget request.
12 In the Governor's Executive Budget request, appropriations to ADAD to continue LEAD and
13 homeless outreach to unsheltered persons experiencing substance abuse, and to DHS for the
14 Rapid Rehousing program are included. The Rapid Rehousing program addresses both
15 homelessness prevention and housing replacement. The AMHD defers to the State Procurement
16 Office and the DHS with regard to contracting and implementation of homeless services.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To:

Senator Will Espero, Chair, Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair, Members, Senate Committee on Housing
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair, Members, Senate Committee on
Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Josh Green, Chair, Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, Members, Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2401 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: February 1, 2018, 2:45 pm, CR 225

Dear Chairs Espero, Baker, and Green, and members of the committees on Housing, Human Services, and Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health:

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

Mental Health America of Hawaii is a 501(c)3 organization founded in Hawai'i 76 years ago, that serves the community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education and service. Many of our community members suffering from homelessness are also mentally ill and unable to access the mental health treatment that they need due to the instability of their living situation. Homelessness also puts people at risk for mental health issues due to the high level of stress it causes. We need to support programs that both prevent homelessness and directly intervene in it while targeting the diverse types of populations affected by homelessness in our state.

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

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

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

LATE

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: Thursday, February 1, 2018
TIME: 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 225
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Position: Strong Support SB2401

This bill will provide funding for multiple homelessness services programs such as Outreach, Housing First, and Rapid Rehousing. It will also improvements for public housing and create a pilot program that provides small subsidies to families that need just a slight economic boost to get out of homelessness.

In my area I see countless homeless, homeless shelters simply do not have the capacity to meet the demand imposed by the excessive cost of living here in Hawai'i

Hawaii has a significant issue with the lack of affordable housing coupled with the excessive cost of living fosters an environment where we see individuals on the street. In addition, most persons that are homeless do work (approx. 80%). Furthermore, another group which will benefit from this bill will be those that have mental incapacitations which prevent them from being a part of the work force.

Please pass this bill for the benefit of the under severed in Hawai'i

Ken Farm

Member At-Large
Neighborhood Board No. 15
Kalihi-Palama



Community Health Outreach Work

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 226
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone (808) 853-3292 • Fax (808) 853-3274

LATE

TESTIMONY in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2041: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senator Will Espero, Chair; Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair; Senator Josh Green, Chair; Senate Committee on Housing; Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health; Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Heather Lusk, Executive Director, CHOW Project

Hearing: Thursday, February 1, 2018 2:45 PM Conference Room 225, State Capitol

Dear Chair Espero, Baker, and Green, and members of the committee(s):

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

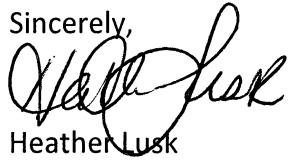
As you know, Hawaii has the HIGHEST rate of homelessness among states in the U.S. and resources to connect the homeless to services through outreach are an essential component of our continuum of care.

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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Lusk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Heather" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Lusk".

Heather Lusk
Executive Director
CHOW Project

LATE

SB-2401

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 11:33:59 AM

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

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

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING,
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH,
AND
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
THE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Thursday, February 1, 2018
2:45 p.m.**

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 225

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2401, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

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

To the Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair; the Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

To the Honorable Josh Green, Chair; the Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on 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 Senate Bill No. 2401, relating to the production of available housing through Rapid Rehousing; State Rental Assistance; Housing First; and Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion to address homelessness in the State of Hawaii. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. 2401 and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. 2401, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it appropriates funds to the Hawaii public housing authority, department of human services, and department of health to support the State's most effective programs to end homelessness: public housing, outreach, rapid rehousing, housing first, Oahu's family assessment center, the LEAD program, and civil legal services and establish a one-year pilot program to assist families at risk of homelessness to obtain permanent housing.

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, stable housing and support services to break the cycle of homelessness for people with the fewest housing options.

We support dedicated social services and housing opportunities for Hawaii's homeless population to get them off the streets and reintegrated into society with specific devoted services for disenfranchised groups including but not limited to the Hawaiian community, aged-out foster kids, youth, returning veterans, the aged, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender homeless." (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 340-348, 352-358 (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. 2401 assists in the production of available housing through Rapid Rehousing; State Rental Assistance; Housing First; and Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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

LATE

SB-2401

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 10:56:46 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Englin	PHOCUSED	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs Espero, Baker, and Green, and members of the committees on Housing, Human Services, and Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health:

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

I work as the administrator of the coordinated entry system for Oahu's families experiencing homelessness. Our coordinated entry system assesses every family that falls into homelessness and prioritizes our limited housing resources for our most vulnerable families. SB 2401 puts forward clear and necessary solutions to each stage of the homeless services system.

It can be difficult to ensure that our housing resources are helping the most vulnerable if we do not have sufficient outreach and shelters. Strong portals of entry, like outreach and shelters, help families navigate our system of services. They are also critical in moving our most vulnerable families into housing, as some families require consistent connection before being ready to accept housing or other services. Additionally, 10% of our families are headed by youth parents. Expanded youth outreach would help us better reach these families and move them into permanent housing.

On the other side, sufficient housing resources are needed to move our families into permanent housing. Of the 626 families experiencing homelessness that are in our family coordinated entry system, 29% require permanent supportive housing, 47% require rapid rehousing, and 24% require some kind of light subsidy or other method of diversion.

Many families with minor children become homeless or risk losing their housing due to domestic violence. As these families are in different situations than many of the other families, housing resources targeted for 100 families fleeing domestic violence will ensure that they have options to get safely and quickly get back into permanent housing.

In sum, SB 2401 will greatly expand our homeless service system for families, including important expansions to specifically help youth families and those with minor children that are fleeing domestic violence.

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

Best,

Eric Englin

Program Manager

Families Coordinated Entry System

PHOCUSED

8085217462

LATE

SB-2401

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 12:44:31 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Gaoteote		Support	No

Comments:

My name is Joshua Gaoteote and I am a MSW Student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am testifying in support of SB2401 because of Part II. Part II provides funds for the state-rental assistance program for 6 months. This rental assistance program will help families with children that are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless to find permanent and stable housing. It also provides case management services for these families.