

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN
ADMINISTRATOR
MARA SMITH
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

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TESTIMONY
OF
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, February 21, 2018, 10:10 a.m.

SENATE BILL 2989
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2989. The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports the intent of this Act but opposes the 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes exemption language contained therein.

The State Procurement Office's (SPO) comments are limited to:

Section 6, page 12, lines 16-18: The Hawaii public housing authority may procure financial case management and counseling services without regard to chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes..."

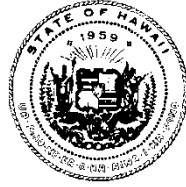
Financial case management and counseling should be accomplished through a best value request for proposals (RFP) where desired attributes and competencies can be defined in weighted evaluation criteria and minimum standards required. Best value is defined as the outcome of any procurement that ensures customer needs are met in the most effective, timely, and economical manner. Finding the best value, then, should be the ultimate goal of every procurement. It is in the State's best interest to do so as the statutes and rules protect both the state and potential vendors by ensuring transparency and an open process. A competitive purchase of service within current statute provides for price analysis. If these services are not procured, then a cost analysis should be conducted to fulfill the state's fiduciary responsibility to ensure the state is paying a fair and reasonable price. These services may also be subject to HRS 103F as services falling under that statute are defined as "...services to communities, families, or individuals which are intended to maintain or improve health or social well-being..."

Hawaii Public Procurement Code is the single source of public procurement policy to be applied equally and uniformly, while providing fairness, open competition, a level playing field, government disclosure and transparency in the procurement and contracting process vital to good government. Public procurement's primary objective is to provide everyone equal opportunity to compete for government contracts, to prevent favoritism, collusion, or fraud in awarding of contracts. To permanently legislate that any one entity should be exempt from compliance with both HRS chapters 103D and 103F conveys a sense of disproportionate equality in the law's application.

Considering the serious and immediate homelessness issues faced by the State of Hawaii the SPO is actively working with the Governor's office to identify specific programs to provide temporary Hawaii Public Procurement Code exemptions.

Thank you.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

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

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, February 21, 2018
10:10 AM - Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 2989, SD1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 2989, SD1, relating to homelessness.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports the intent** of SECTION 4 of SB 2989, SD1, **with amendments**, provided that it does not adversely affect the Governor's supplemental budget. SB 2989, SD1 expands eligibility and credit amount of the low-income household renters' income tax credit. Appropriates funds for the continued administration of the family assessment center for homeless families and for a housing homeless children rental assistance pilot program. Exempts adoption of interim rules and procurement of services by federally-certified financial counselors from chapters 91 and 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, respectively.

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.

The HPHA would like to request an amendment on page 12, line 17 to read:

- "to chapter 103D **and 103F**, Hawaii Revised Statutes, from a Department of"

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Ways and Means with the HPHA's testimony regarding SB 2989, SD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: INCOME, Increase Low-Income Household Renters Credit and Index for Inflation

BILL NUMBER: SB 2989, SD-1

INTRODUCED BY: Senate Committees on Housing and Human Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Expands eligibility and credit amount of the low income-household renters' income tax credit, as part of a multi-faceted approach to tackle the homelessness issue.

SYNOPSIS: As it relates to the low-income household renters' credit, amends section 235-55.7, HRS, to increase the amount of the credit from \$50 to the following:

For unmarried taxpayers or married filing separately:	
Adjusted gross income	Tax credit per exemption
Not over \$20,000	\$150
Over \$20,000, not over \$30,000	100
Over \$30,000, not over \$40,000	50
For head of household:	
Adjusted gross income	Tax credit per exemption
Not over \$25,000	\$150
Over \$25,000, not over \$37,500	100
Over \$37,500, not over \$50,000	50
For married taxpayers filing jointly, surviving spouse, head of household:	
Adjusted gross income	Tax credit per exemption
Not over \$30,000	\$150
Over \$30,000, not over \$45,000	100
Over \$45,000, not over \$60,000	50

Also provides that for each taxable year beginning after December 31, 2019, the dollar amounts in the above table will be increased to follow the percentage increase, if any, in the Honolulu Region Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, All Items as published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, or any successor index.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018; the income tax credit applies to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2018.

STAFF COMMENTS: The following comments relate only to the proposed change in the low-income household renters' credit.

The 1970 legislature adopted a system of tax credits for household renters which was intended to partially offset the higher tax burden on renters resulting from the lack of tax relief like the home exemption for homeowners and the 4% general excise tax levied on rental income. The current renter credit was established by the 1977 legislature at \$20 per exemption for those taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes of less than \$20,000 who paid more than \$1,000 in rent during the tax year. Act 230, SLH 1981, increased the credit amount to \$50. Act 239, SLH 1989, increased the adjusted gross income (AGI) limit to \$30,000 to claim the credit. The proposed measure would increase the amount of the credit from \$50 to \$150. It does not increase the rent qualification amount – the taxpayer still will need to pay \$1,000 in rent during a taxable year to qualify for the credit.

There are some issues to consider with refundable credits targeted at low-income and homeless people generally.

First, a tax return is one of the most complicated documents for government agencies to process. The administrative costs associated with each one can quickly make heads spin. Furthermore, as the U.S. Treasury has experienced with the Earned Income Tax Credit, the combination of complexity and a refundable credit result in a certain percentage of improper payouts, some due to mistake or misunderstanding, and some due to bad actors.

Second, the low-income household renters' credit does nothing for most of the homeless; the credit requires payment of more than \$1000 in rent. And even for those in the target population who do qualify for this credit, the relief that the credit provides comes in a tax refund which is paid, at the earliest, in the early part of the year after the tax return filer needs the relief. A person who qualifies for the credit in 2017, for example, won't get a check until early 2018.

Third, as a policy matter, lawmakers might prefer that the recipient of the refund not use the money obtained on such things as cigarettes, alcohol, or illegal drugs. But the tax system contains no way of restricting the uses of a refund check; other departments do have systems in place to give some assurance that the payment will go toward legitimate living expenses such as groceries (EBT, for example).

The better solution is to get such people out of the tax system entirely. They receive peace of mind because they don't have to worry about tax returns, and the department doesn't have to worry about processing those returns. If additional relief to such people is considered desirable, it can be delivered through the agencies that are better equipped to do so.

Digested 2/19/2018



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www.hawaiiancommunity.net

February 19, 2018

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 21 2018, 10:10am
Conference Room 211

SB2989, SD1 – Relating to Homelessness

Aloha Chair Dela Crus, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

I am submitting testimony on behalf of Hawaiian Community Assets, the State's largest nonprofit Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved housing and financial counseling agency, to **STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2989, SD1**.

At a time when Hawaii reports the highest homeless rate per capita of any state in the nation and 57.6% of our renters pay more than 30% of their monthly income toward housing, the bill would help address our homeless and affordable housing crises by updating our renter tax credit, appropriating funds for continued administration of the Family Assessment Center, and establish a rental assistance pilot program to house our homeless children in the state.

Despite the increases in rental housing costs in Hawaii, our Renter Tax Credit has remained stagnant for nearly 40 years. More specifically, the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index Data shows that value of \$1 in 1980 is now \$0.34 cents today. Without adjusting our renter tax credit for inflation, we risk placing greater financial hardship on our lowest income renters and unnecessarily putting them at-risk of falling victim to our ongoing homeless crisis.

Appropriating funds to the continued administration of the Family Assessment Center would help in continuing its success rate of placing 100% of its participants in permanent housing.

Finally, this bill will couple shallow, long-term rental subsidies for homeless children their families with multi- and intergenerational financial case management services to ensure their ability to secure AND SUSTAIN permanent housing. As a HUD-approved counseling agency, our organization understands the critical nature of educating the entire family about finances in order to break the cycle of homelessness. Our success in multi- and intergenerational financial empowerment and asset building programming was highlighted as a national best practice by Brandeis University in their recently released [Foundations for the Future Report](#). Not only is our

organization educating local families about finance, but we are also leveraging public funds for rental subsidies with our own grants and micro-loans as well as incentivized savings by our families themselves. This model allows for government, nonprofits, private philanthropy, and our residents to all play a role in addressing family homelessness. For instance, since 2011, HCA has deployed \$1 million in grants for first month's rent/deposits and other financial goals to match approximately \$1 million in savings by our family program participants, while at the same time deploying nearly \$500,000 in loan capital to assist with credit building, credit repair, and emergency rent and mortgage payments.

As our homeless and affordable housing crises continue, we must look to a comprehensive set of solutions that can not only ensure services continue for our families with homeless children and that more money is available for low-income renters to prevent eviction, but we must also look to spark innovative approaches to addressing the needs of some of our most vulnerable citizens in this crisis – our children.

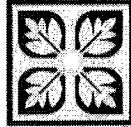
Please help us work to address family homelessness – **PASS SB2989, SD1.**

Mahalo for your time, leadership and consideration. Please contact me directly at 808.587.7653 or jeff@hawaiiancommunity.net should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Gilbreath". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Gilbreath
Executive Director



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2989 SD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair; Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair;
and Members, Committee on Ways and Means
FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer
Hearing: **Wednesday, 2/21/18; 10:10 AM; Conference Room 211**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony **in strong support of SB 2989 SD1**, which provides a three prong approach to helping families out of homelessness. I am Terry Walsh, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care.

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. Housing homeless kids and their families is of special concern.

This funding would support creative new pathways for families to become housed and remain housed. Families continue to be severely housing cost-burdened. Half of isle households are living on a survival budget with barely enough to cover basic needs, much less save anything for an emergency, and can easily fall into homelessness. Many jobs do not pay enough to enable families to afford the astronomical housing costs in Hawaii. The proposed interventions could rapidly move our families and children into homes and help to keep them there.

First, the **Family Assessment Center**: This new program had tremendous success in its first year, housing 91% or 54 of the homeless families it served within 81 days, with 100% of those families remaining housed. 48% of the households had four or more members, and 41% of all participants were children aged 12 or under. With over 458 homeless families on Oahu alone as of the 2017 Point in Time Count, this successful program needs to be continued.

Second, many of the 582 homeless minor children on Oahu as of Nov. 30th, 2017, could be housed with shallow rental assistance, which, when tied to financial case management, could boost both housing and economic stability. Many homeless families have no other issues other than inability to pay a market rent. **Housing Homeless Children, a new pilot project at the Hawaii Public Housing Authority**, would make a long-lasting impact on the lives of homeless children. This project is also critical for children who face homelessness due to domestic violence. National research (see attached) has shown that as many as 57% of all homeless women report domestic violence as the immediate cause for their homelessness. 80% of homeless women with children had previously experienced domestic violence. We need to help these traumatized families before they fall into homelessness. This pilot rental assistance project would assist families who are at imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic violence. To prevent children from lingering in homelessness, and to begin this pilot project ASAP, we support the proposed exemption from interim rules and procurement.

Third, updating the **Low-Income Household Renters Tax Credit** would help renters to



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
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remain housed. Increasing this tax credit could help renters weather small crises that otherwise might result in homelessness. This tax credit was established to make up for the high rents and tax rates that burden low-income and moderate-income earners. However, this tax credit has not been updated since the 1980's and should be changed to reflect the astronomical increases in the rental market. This bill contributes to a comprehensive strategy to meet Hawaii's affordable housing goals and end homelessness.

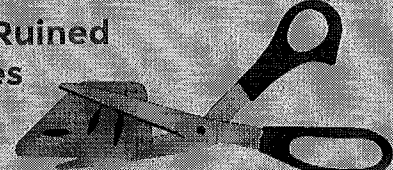
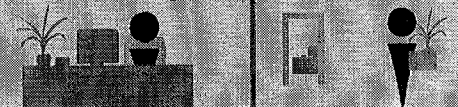


Many families simply need financial relief to get into housing, or be prevented from falling out of housing in the first place. This bill can provide that relief to end family homelessness. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org, if you have any questions.

The Intersection of Domestic Violence and Homelessness

 <p>The two most pressing concerns for survivors of abuse are the need for safe housing and the need for economic resources to maintain safety.¹</p>	 <p>80% Experienced DV</p> <p>A study of homeless women with children found that 80% had previously experienced domestic violence.²</p>	 <p>57% Homelessness was caused by DV</p> <p>Studies show that as many as 57% of all homeless women report domestic violence as the immediate cause of their homelessness.³</p>
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Barriers to Safety: Understanding the Intersection

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

<h3>Poor Credit & Ruined Rental Histories</h3>  <p>Often caused by abusers running up credit card bills or lying about paying rent, utilities, childcare and other bills. This affects a survivors' ability to pass a landlord background check.</p>	<h3>Lack of Steady Employment</h3>  <p>Caused when victims are forced to miss work as a result of violence, or are fired as a result of stalking and harassment that occurs at the workplace.</p>
<h3>Housing Discrimination</h3>  <p>The most common cases of this occur when landlords evict victims from housing due to repeated calls to the police or property damage caused by the abuser.</p>	<h3>Loss of Subsidized or Other Affordable Housing</h3>  <p>Caused by lease or voucher policy violations committed by the abuser.</p>

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

<p>In just 1 Day In 2016⁴</p>	<p>OVER 41,000 adults and children fled domestic violence and found refuge in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program.</p>	<p>7,914 requests by domestic violence survivors for housing were unmet due to a lack of funding, staffing, or other resources. Emergency shelter and transitional housing were the most urgent unmet need for survivors.</p>
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For more information, visit www.safehousingpartnerships.org

1. Clough, A., Draughon, J. E., Njie-Carr, V., Rollins, C., & Glass, N. (2014). "Having housing made everything else possible": Affordable, safe and stable housing for women survivors of violence. *Qualitative Social Work*, 13(5), 671-688.
 2. Aratani, Y. (2009). *Homeless Children and Youth, Causes and Consequences*. New York, NY: National Center for Children in Poverty.
 3. *Women and Children in Chicago Shelters*, 3; Nat'l Center for Homelessness & Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network (2003). *Social Supports for Homeless Mothers*, 14, 26; Inst. for Children & Poverty (2004). *The Hidden Migration: Why New York City Shelters are Overflowing with Families; Homes for the Homeless and Inst. for Children & Poverty* (1998). *Ten Cities 1997-1998: A Snapshot of Family Homelessness Across America*, 3.
 4. National Network to End Domestic Violence (2017). *11th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report: 24-Hour Census of Domestic Violence Shelters and Services*. Washington, DC.



54

households served (1,2)

Catholic Charities Hawaii's Family Assessment Center



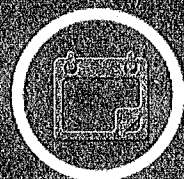
91%

successfully housed

2016 - 2017 Report Card (3)

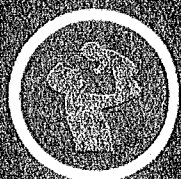
Our Success

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



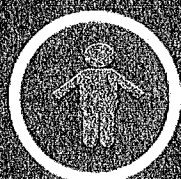
81

average number of days in program (4)



48%

households with four or more members (5)



41%

participants 12 years of age or younger



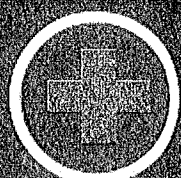
31%

households single female parent with children



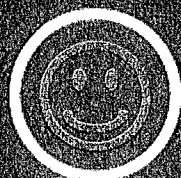
194

persons served (6)



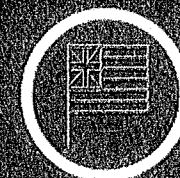
59

participants enrolled into health insurance



100%

participants placed in housing remain stably housed



85%

Hawaii residents

Community Partners



PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT



INSTITUTE FOR GREATER GOOD

Hawaii H. S. M. E. Project

Homeless Outreach & Medical Education



LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII

Services

Benefits review and determination

Health screenings

Health assessments

Legal support

Linkage to financial assistance

Housing readiness

Housing placement

On-site computer lab

Service coordination

[1] Unduplicated count of households served from September 1, 2016 - October 1, 2017

[2] 42% homeless for 1 year or more; 72% received homeless services before intake

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

[4] Mean number of days between intake and discharge

[5] Average number of individuals per household is 3.59

[6] 101 adults and 93 children



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting SB2989 SD1 -- Relating to Homelessness
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Scheduled for hearing on Wednesday, February 21, 2018, 10:10 am, Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Keith-Agarn, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of **SB2989 SD1**, which would expand the low-income household renters' credit, create a housing homeless children rental subsidy pilot program, and continue the funding for the successful Family Assessment Center.

This bill addresses homelessness at three crucial points along the housing spectrum: it would help families climb out of homelessness, provide them with rent subsidies and financial case management to help keep them from falling back into homelessness, and prevent other low-income and working-class families from falling into homelessness in the first place.

The Family Assessment Center has been very successful in its mission to transition families quickly out of homelessness. It reports a 91 percent housing placement rate, an average of less than 3 months between intake and exit, and that 100 percent of those placed in housing remaining stably housed. This bill would continue funding for this impressive program.

To help ensure that homeless families with children, or those at imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic violence, are able to stay stably housed, this bill would create and fund a pilot program to provide shallow rent subsidies and financial case management to 100 of them.

Finally, to prevent some families from falling into homelessness in the first place, this bill would increase the low-income household renters' credit to provide more support to those who are struggling to pay the highest rental costs in the nation. 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. Simply adjusting the credit to catch up to inflation would help many families keep up with their rent, avoiding eviction and homelessness.

Through focused, coordinated efforts, Hawai'i is starting to turn the tide on homelessness. Now is the time to put additional funding toward effective programs that span a spectrum of housing needs.

We appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

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

SB-2989-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 10:01:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

THE SENATE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

10:10 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 211

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2989 SD1 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

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

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No.2989 SD1 relating to Low-Income Household Renters Tax Credit; Family Assessment Center; Housing Homeless Children Rental Assistance Pilot Program; and Appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. 2989 SD1 and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. 2989 SD1 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it expands eligibility and credit amount of the low income-household renters' income tax credit; appropriates funds for the continued administration of the family assessment center for homeless families and for a housing homeless children rental assistance pilot program; and exempts adoption of interim rules and procurement of services by federally-certified financial counselors from chapters 91 and 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The DPH Platform states that "[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.(Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 340-344 (2016)).

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 352-358 (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. 2989 SD1 expands eligibility and credit amount of the low income-household renters' income tax credit; appropriates funds for the continued administration of the family assessment center for homeless families and for a housing homeless children rental assistance pilot program; and exempts adoption of interim rules and procurement of services by federally-certified financial counselors from chapters 91 and 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities 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

SB-2989-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 12:44:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg and Pat Farstrup	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2989-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 1:46:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the committee,

I am in strong support of Senate Bill 2989, SD1, relating to homelessness.

This bill will accomplish three important things to reach a gap group within the homeless community that is not financially stable enough to retain housing but has no other underlying issues.

First, this bill will expand the eligibility and credit amount of the low income-household renters' income tax credit, which has not kept up with the increasing costs renters have had to endure. The average rent for two bedroom in Hawaii posted in the popular website RentJungle in 2011 was \$1,866. Today, that average has jumped to \$2,761. The tax credits proposed in this bill are more in line with today's costs and allow more of our families that are on the low end of the earning spectrum to benefit.

Second, this bill appropriates funds for the continued administration of the Family Assessment Center for homeless families. With services like legal support and linkages to financial assistance, the center has a success rate of 100% of participants placed in housing remain stably housed.

Finally, this bill will establish the housing homeless children rental assistance pilot program. Coupled with the financial case management the program would provide, this program will be essential to homeless children and their families who are homeless simply because they are struggling economically and are not deemed to be vulnerable enough to qualify for certain services because they have no other underlying issues. The pilot project will allow shallow, but long-term, rental subsidies meant to stabilize families that are not facing issues such as drug abuse or mental health crisis. All family members, including children, will receive guidance from a financial case manager.

We are starting to see improvement in the number of homeless individuals in Hawaii and we must continue to invest in the programs that work. The programs in this bill will assist gap groups of homeless families that may otherwise fall through the cracks. We urge you to please consider and pass Senate Bill 2989, SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching / Honolulu

SB-2989-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 10:59:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

SB-2989-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 12:19:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laulani Teale	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

KÄ• nÄ• wai MÄ• malahoe.

SB-2989-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 9:25:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:10:00 AM

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

Comments:

I would be testifying in person, but I am on Kauai. I urge you to pass this important bill. As a state, we must do all we can to help our citizens who are falling through the cracks. If we do not plan ahead, we will spend much more money on dealing with a rising level of homelessness. Give housing first and people's lives will stabilize and improve.

Chair Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Keith-Agaran
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 21, 2018 – 10:10 am, Conference Room 211

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2989, SD1 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith Agaran, and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, I am Kathy Jaycox, Oahu President of FACE (Faith Action for Community Equity) and I thank you for the opportunity to voice strong support for Senate Bill 2989, SD1, relating to homelessness.

This bill will accomplish three important things to reach a gap group within the homeless community who are not financially stable enough to retain housing but have no other underlying issues. First, this bill will expand the eligibility and credit amount of the low income-household renters' income tax credit, which has not kept up with the increasing costs renters have had to endure. The average rent for a two bedroom unit in Hawaii posted in the popular website RentJungle in 2011 was \$1,866. Today, that average has jumped to \$2,761. The tax credits proposed in this bill are more in line with today's costs and allow more of our families who are on the low end of the earning spectrum to benefit.

Second, this bill appropriates funds for the continued administration of the Family Assessment Center for homeless families. With services like legal support and linkages to financial assistance, the center has a success rate of 100% of participants placed in housing remain stably housed.

Finally, this bill will establish the housing homeless children rental assistance pilot program. Coupled with the financial case management the program would provide, this program will be essential to homeless children and their families who are homeless simply because they are struggling economically, but who are not deemed to be vulnerable enough to qualify for certain services because they have no other underlying issues. The pilot project will allow shallow, but long-term, rental subsidies meant to stabilize families who are not facing issues such as drug abuse or mental health crisis. All family members, including children, will receive guidance from a financial case manager.

We are starting to see improvement in reducing the number of homeless individuals in Hawaii, and we must continue to invest in the programs that work. The programs in this bill will assist gap groups of homeless families who may otherwise fall through the cracks. We urge you to please consider and pass Senate Bill 2989, SD1.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify.

Kathy Jaycox
559 Pauku St
Kailua, HI 96734

SB-2989-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 5:42:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lee Buenconsejo-Lum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

strongly support.

SB-2989-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 9:28:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to expand eligibility for renter tax credits and especially for its focus on the needs of homeless children, who have largely been ignored in discussions and solutions to homelessness.

I urge you to pass SB2989 SD1.