

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

February 22, 2019

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB1554 HD1 - RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OPERATING BUDGET**

Hearing: February 25, 2019, 2:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure and expresses appreciation to the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness and committee staff for their effort and cooperation through this process. DHS provides clarification and requests amendments specifically that **the highlighted items be restored**, and that two additional requests be considered.

DHS requests two amendments:

- an appropriation of \$811,000 C for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the capital improvement project Ho'opono Flood Zone Remediation, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; and
- the conversion of position # 120968, Public information Officer from Temporary to Civil Service Position, in HMS 904 General Administration.

These additions will also be submitted to the Legislature through a Governor's Message. See page 5 for justification.

PURPOSE: This measure Relates to the Department of Human Services operating budget. (HB1554 HD1)

1. HMS224 – HOMELESS SERVICES

The appropriation for Stored Property and Debris Removal Services for State Lands was deleted. The amount should be restored to read:

1. HMS224 – HOMELESS SERVICES

HOUSING FIRST PROGRAM	HMS	3,750,000A	3,750,000A
RAPID REHOUSING	HMS	3,750,000A	3,750,000A
FAMILY ASSESSMENT CENTER	HMS	1,550,000A	1,550,000A
HOMELESS OUTREACH AND CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES	HMS	1,750,000A	1,750,000A
STORED PROPERTY AND DEBRIS REMOVAL SERVICES FOR STATE LANDS	HMS	5,000,000A	5,000,000A
TOTAL		15,800,000A	15,800,000A

The state's framework addressing homelessness is also focused on public safety, especially related to unauthorized encampments located on state lands. Funding is needed to remove and store personal property left behind on state lands after a homeless encampment is vacated or when individuals trespassing on state land leave personal property behind. In addition, state agencies require resources to prevent unauthorized encampments from becoming established, such as placing appropriate signage and installing fencing on state lands where appropriate. The Department of Human Services (DHS) currently has a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Transportation (DOT) that enables DOT to oversee property storage and debris removal activities statewide for all state lands.

2. HMS222 – RENTAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES – RENTAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

This may be included in a bill addressing HPHA's operational budget.

2. HMS222 – RENTAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

RENT SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM	HMS	1,097,808A	952,743A
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This program ID is for the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA), an attached agency for administrative purposes to the Department of Human Services. Part of those administrative purposes is HPHA's budget is submitted as part of the DHS budget, however, the agencies are otherwise administratively and operationally distinct entities. We understand that the HPHA operating budget is being addressed through the Committee on Housing.

8. HMS401 – HEALTH CARE PAYMENTS

This add-on is included in **HB2 HD1**.

8. HMS401 – HEALTH CARE PAYMENTS

This item is for Medicaid capitation, the sums that are paid for insurance premiums for Medicaid clients. In general, the amount for capitation are based on estimates; for next fiscal year FY19-20, the estimate for the A fund match is lower than was previously estimated, and thus the amount is being returned to the general fund. However, for FY20-21, the estimate for the A fund match for capitation is increased.

9. HMS501 – IN-COMMUNITY YOUTH PROGRAMS

This program ID is for the Office of Youth Services and the request should be restored as these requests will expand successful juvenile justice reform efforts, and enable the Office to more effectively use its resources. The Office of Youth Services is an attached agency for administrative purposes; however, it has a different governance structure than HPHA and is reportable to the Director of DHS.

9. HMS501 – IN-COMMUNITY YOUTH PROGRAMS

		1.50*	1.50*
		-0.50#	-0.50#
OPERATING	HMS	1,131,416A	1,131,416A
		0.50*	0.50*
		-2.50#	-2.50#
	HMS	-115,803N	-115,803N

- **Youth Assessment Service Centers (501YA-01)**

- **Request: \$450,000 A for FY20 and for FY21**

- The program's initial request submitted to the Governor was for 3 youth assessment centers; however, only one assessment center was approved and included in the Executive Budget request. The priority for the proposed request is District 8 (Waianae to Ewa) or District 4 (Laie to Waimanalo) on Oahu. The first year of the existing center serving urban Oahu, youth who participated in the YASC had a 7.7 percent lower re-arrest rate compared to youth who did not participate in this YACS. Even lower re-arrest rates were shown for youth who had a warm handoff from police to YACS (difference of 19.4%) specifically for youth with misdemeanors, and youth who received YASC services compared to youth who did not; there was a difference of 12.2% lower re-arrest rate.

- **Juvenile Justice Reform Program (501YA-02)**

- **Request: \$600,000 A for FY20 and FY21**

- This request will allow for the continuation of efforts to sustain and improve the juvenile justice reform outcomes made over the past 2 years. Funding will be targeted to continue the implementation and validation of a standardized risk and needs assessment and case management tool; evidence-based services, including aggression replacement training; truancy prevention and intervention; wrap around services; training for balance and restorative justice activities; professional staff development; and cultural-based healing services.

- Establish and Fund 1.00 Permanent Position for Youth Commission (501YA-06)**
Request: FTE 1.00 A and \$81,416 A for FY20 and for FY21

This request is to make the authorized amount a recurring budget item so that one staff position will be a permanent civil service worker to carry out the duties of the Youth Commission created by Act 106 (2018). Currently, the position is temporary because funding will end on June 30, 2019.
- Deletion of 2.00 Temporary Federal-Funded Positions (501YA-04) Request: FTE -2.00 N positions and -\$121,978 N for FY20 and for FY21**

The Office of the Youth Services cannot establish these positions with federal funds due to a lack of administrative and planning funds in the federal grant, and we request to abolish these positions. The average federal award each year is roughly \$400,000 and the percent of administrative and planning funds are 10% or \$40,000. The salaries for a program specialist IV and an account clerk III are \$76,236 plus fringe benefits of \$45,742 totaling \$121,978.
- Conversion from Temporary to Permanent Civil Service Position Request: FTE -0.50 A (T) to FTE 0.50 A (P), FTE 0.50 N (T) to FTE 0.50 N (P)**

The Office of Youth Services (OYS) requests that the position become a permanent civil service. The Office Assistant III position (122366) is currently budgeted as a temporary position. This position was vacant until very recently. Temporary positions in our office have experienced low interest as evidenced by our vacancy report, and are difficult to fill because of the temporary appointment. We currently have another program position that is vacant since July 3, 2017, because it is a temporary appointment. It is very difficult to hire a person knowing that they may lose their job at any time.

10. HMS503 – HAWAII YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY (HYCF)

The Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) is established within the Office of Youth Services, this amount should be restored to continue the process for the HYCF to become a therapeutic model.

10. HMS503 – HAWAII YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY (HYCF)

		- 3.00*	- 3.00*
OPERATING	HMS	-41,142A ¹	81,228A

Funding of Existing 5.00 Permanent Social Worker Positions in a trade-off by eliminating 3.00 Permanent Youth Corrections Officer and transferring Personal Services Funds (503YB-01) Request: FTE -3.00 A and -\$41,142 A for FY20 and FTE -3.00 A and \$81,228 A for FY21

Act 049, SLH 2017, established in HMS 503, 5.00 permanent Social Worker III positions (Position Numbers 98635K, 98636K, 98637K, 98638K, and 98639K) without funding. Without funding the Office of Youth Services (OYS) was not able to establish these positions. This funding request will partially fund those positions and support continuing juvenile justice efforts to transform to a therapeutic model.

¹ Please note there was a typographical error in previous correspondence; the amount has changed from -41,412A to -41,142A.

12. HMS 802 – VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION - FRINGE BENEFITS

We request this item to be restored. This request is to appropriate an increase in federal fund ceiling for fringe benefits at the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Though the Governor has the authority to raise the federal ceiling, it is preferred that the amounts appear in the budget. Without the increase in federal ceiling, DHS will not be able to draw down the total amount of federal funds.

12. HMS802 – VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

OPERATING	HMS	292,506N	308,236N
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13. HMS888 – COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN

Though we prefer everything to be in the same budget measure, we agree with this reduction; it is being addressed in **HB 1355**.

13. HMS888 – COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN

OPERATING	HMS	0	0
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CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUNDS

Regarding the request for capital improvement project funds, **HB 1259 does not** currently address HMS CIP requests. Included in the Executive Budget were CIP requests for the **HMS 503 – HAWAII YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, HMS 503:**

Campus Improvements Planning, Oahu (FY19.1)	\$800,000 C
Sewer Improvements, Oahu (FY20.1)	\$600,000 C
Water System Improvements, Oahu (FY20.5)	\$900,000 C
Gym Foundations Repair, Oahu (FY20.6)	\$225,000 C

Total funding: \$2,525,000 C

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGES

DHS is in the process of submitting two additional budget requests through a Governor's message.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

HMS 802 – Vocational Rehabilitation

802GA Capital Improvement Project

<u>Project Title</u>	MOF	<u>FY 2020-2021</u>
Ho'opono Flood Zone Remediation	C	811,000

Impact of Adjustment:

The department requests an appropriation of \$811,000 (C) for fiscal year 2020-2021 to address additional necessary flood zone remediation at the Ho'opono Services for the Blind facility of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (HMS 802). This addition will be included in a Governor's Message to include these funds in the executive budget bill.

As background for the Ho'opono Flood Zone Remediation, Act 49, SLH 2017, appropriated \$521,000 to DVR for design and construction to replace basement walls with a structure to withstand forces due to potential flooding, elevate wall openings, and protect the equipment around the Ho'opono Services for the Blind building.

The capital improvement project is known as the Ho'opono Flood Zone Remediation. However, the department of accounting and general services has advised the department of human services that additional capital improvement funding in the sum of \$810,310 (C) (rounded up to \$811,000 (C)) is required to respond to new flood zone mitigation requirements established by the City and County of Honolulu after the initial 2017 planned improvements were completed.

DHS Administration

HMS 904 – General Administration

904AA Conversion of Position # 120968, Public information Officer from Temporary to Civil Service Position

Pos. No.	Position Title	MOF	FTE	
			Perm	Temp
120968	Public Information Officer	A	1.00	(1.00)

Impact of Adjustment:

DHS is a complex organization with four division, six staff offices, two attached agencies and two attached commissions, staffed by almost 2,500 employees and with a budget of \$3.8 billion. DHS administers complex programs including the state's Medicaid program, TANF, SNAP, child care licensing and subsidies, homeless services, vocational rehabilitation, child welfare services and adult protective services. Each of these programs has unique needs, regulations, and confidentiality requirements.

The Public Information Officer (PIO) functions as the communications director for the

department. It is imperative that the communications lead of the department have a command of the major programs, the regulations, and statutes that govern information sharing for each program, as well as statewide public information laws. Additionally, the communications lead for the department best serves the department when he or she has a strong understanding of key decision-makers and the history of the department.

Continuity in communications is important for the department to best fulfill its obligations and process to be open, accessible and transparent. The PIO position has historically changed with the department director. If the PIO or communications lead position is made permanent, the department and each DHS Director would be better served, so that policies, decisions, and institutional knowledge can be transmitted across administrations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Monday, February 25, 2019
2:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1554, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

House Bill 1554, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds for the operating expenses of the Department of Human Services. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) support this measure and respectfully requests an amendment to Item 1 HMS224.**

The Department notes that in the original version of this measure, a total of \$15,800,000 was appropriated to HMS224. However, House Bill 1554, House Draft 1 is \$5,000,000 less due to the removal of funding for homeless property storage and debris removal services. The Department respectfully asks that these funds be reinstated.

Funds appropriated last year are helping clean Department properties on all major islands. Centralized storage and debris removal is more efficient and effective than having to tap into operating funds for each of our land-owning divisions, and allows the Department to focus its scarce resources on mission critical operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Monday, February 25, 2019; 2:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

RE: COMMENTING ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1554, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES OPERATING BUDGET.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **COMMENTS** on House Bill No. 1554, House Draft 1, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES OPERATING BUDGET.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Appropriate funds for Fiscal Years 2019-2020, and 2020-2021, for the operations of the Department of Human Services (DHS); and
- (2) Take effect on July 1, 2019.

Because it would seem that this measure is intended to facilitate discussion on the Department of Human Services program of work and allow the public the opportunity to comment and make recommendations on their budget, the HPCA wishes to share its concerns on Program ID HMS401 -- the Medicaid Program.

Over the past seven legislative sessions, the HPCA has urged the Legislature to appropriate additional funds to HMS401 for the reinstatement of adult dental Medicaid coverage, without success. As such, during the 2018 Regular Session, we offered an alternative solution for your consideration. Last year, we believed additional funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 were not necessary because it was our contention that there were sufficient resources within HMS401 to reinstate this essential benefit immediately.

Our position has not changed and we continue to assert that there are sufficient resources in HMS401 to reinstate the benefit immediately.

Based on our review of the Ige Administration's disclosures, it would appear that there are sufficient funds to reinstate this benefit immediately. Also, because this is the reinstatement of a pre-existing benefit, and that no additional statutory authorization is needed for DHS to reinstate the benefit, any subsequent change in resources for this benefit could be incorporated into the "base" budget so that future adjustments could be made citing "changes in utilization" as DHS did this year. Furthermore, because of the scale of the appropriations in HMS401, DHS has more options at its disposal to ensure that funds are available for this benefit.

If the Legislature continues to find merit in DHS' plea for additional resources for the reinstatement of this benefit, we offer for your consideration this -- deny DHS's request to reduce the budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 in Line Item HMS401 by \$16,511,000 in general funds. This amount is more than what the Administration requested in all means of financing last year for the reinstatement of the benefit. If DHS believes it needs even more funding the following year, they can request it in the Supplemental Budget. However, at that time, DHS will need to reconcile their projected increases with the actual amounts spent and any variance with the previously budgeted amounts.

On page 2, lines 42 through 44, we propose the following amendment:

"7. HMS401 -- HEALTH CARE PAYMENTS

OPERATING HMS [-16,511,000A] 38,369,000A"

Furthermore, to ensure that the \$16 million is used for the reinstatement of adult dental Medicaid coverage, we further suggest that proviso language be added to this bill. It should be noted, however, that because this language would be contained in a stand-alone bill rather than the budget bill, if enacted, one could argue that it would have to be treated as law.

We also propose a new SECTION be added to the bill as follows:

"SECTION . Of the appropriations for health care payments (HMS401), \$16,511,000 in general funds or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020, shall be expended only for the restoration of adult dental benefits which include preventative and restorative oral health services."

In closing, we greatly appreciate this opportunity to share our MANAO with you today.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1554, HD1: Relating to the Department of Human Services Operating Budget

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair; and
Members, Committee on Finance
FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: Monday, February 25, 2019 2:30 pm; CR 308

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members, Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of HB 1554, for proven services that successfully end homelessness. I am Betty Lou Larson, 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 70 years. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i **supports Item 1- HMS 224:** Homeless Services; and **Item 15— HMS 903:** General Support for Self-Sufficiency Service –Aftercare for homeless families with children. ***We request that the appropriations listed in HMS 224 be increased in order to turn the tide of homelessness.*** HMS224 provides for critical services that create a network of programs that are successfully moving people who are homeless to permanent housing. After many years of increasing homelessness, the 2018 Statewide Point in Time Count found that homelessness had decreased **by nearly 18% since 2016**. We still have a long ways to go. Additional funding will address the diverse needs of the homelessness in a coordinated network.

Housing First: is a proven program that not only moves the most visible and vulnerable chronic homeless people off the streets, but can save the state millions of dollars. Recent research by the UH Center on the Family found that an estimated **\$6,197 / MONTH** in health care costs alone, was saved for EACH homeless participant in Housing First – an estimated **\$22 million EACH year in savings**. **Rapid Rehousing:** rapidly enables families to obtain permanent housing through shallow rent subsidies. Hawai'i proven model is an effective path to end homelessness. **Family Assessment Center (FAC):** The Kakaako FAC, operated by Catholic Charities Hawai'i, has been so successful that the shelter system is using it as a model to streamline and enhance this overall system. Families with children are moved off the streets in an average now of 77 days! A 2nd assessment center is also currently being procured by DHS. **Homeless Outreach and Civil Legal Services:** these front line services are essential to connecting people living on the streets to housing navigation and resources and remove barriers to getting housing.

There is a missing piece: **Aftercare to ensure that once families move into permanent housing, they successfully remain there.** We need an increased focus on housing retention and stabilization, especially since 60% of the individuals in shelters are children. This funding could support 701 households, statewide.

We urge your support for these multiple paths out of homelessness. Please contact me at (808) 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org with any questions.





PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Continuum of Care

Our mission is to eliminate homelessness through open and inclusive participation and the coordination of integrated responses.

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1554, HD1: Relating to the Department of Human Services Operating Budget

TO: House Committee on Finance
FROM: Partners in Care (PIC)
HEARING: **Monday, 2/26/19; 2:30 pm; conference room 308**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members, Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB1554, HD1, which would provide proven services that successfully end homelessness. Partners in Care (PIC), a coalition of more than 50 non-profit homelessness providers, strongly supports the sections funding homeless services in this bill.

Partners in Care supports an increase in funding for the ongoing programs in HMS 224:

Item 1--HMS 224: Homeless Services: includes funding for Housing First, Rapid Re-housing, Family Assessment Center (Oahu), Family Assessment Center (new center), Homeless outreach and civil legal services.

Item 15 –HMS 903: General Support for Self-Sufficiency Service: Aftercare services for homeless families with children.

The first item funds evidence based, proven programs that are critical to turning the tide of homelessness. They show strong successes and are the keystones of the network that can end homelessness, if funding is sufficient to reach more homeless people. Not only do these programs lift people out of homelessness into permanent housing, they can also save the state millions of dollars. Research by the UH Center on the Family found that Housing First could save the state an estimated **\$22 million in health care costs alone** for about 300 placed clients. Stable housing is the key.

The Family Assessment Center in Kakaako has been such a success that the Legislature funded a 2nd new center to be developed. This successful model is now being utilized to streamline and enhance the overall shelter system. This Center now moves families off the streets into permanent housing in an average of 77 days (down from 80 days last year)!

All the homeless programs funded in this bill are critical to keep moving forward. The one new item to be funded, Aftercare services, is also extremely important to ensure that families who move into permanent housing can successfully remain there. This is essential since 60% of the individuals in shelters are children. We must ensure these families can maintain a stable home environment.

Partners in Care urges your support for the above listed items in the budget of the Department of Human Services. Thank you for your consideration of this very important bill.

PARTNERS IN CARE, OAHU'S CONTINUUM OF CARE

200 North Vineyard • Suite 210 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 • www.PartnersinCareOahu.org

LATE

HB-1554-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 6:01:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2019 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

TO: The Committee on Finance, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen Vice Chair

FROM: Mike Goodman, Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force & Member of Partners in Care (PIC)

HEARING: Monday, February 25, 2019, 2:30 P.M. Conf. Rm. 308

RE: HB1554

Dear Chair Rep. Luke, Vice Chair Rep. Cullen, and all Members of the Committee on Finance; Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony.

I'm Mike Goodman, Director of the Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force, and a member of Partners in Care ("PIC"). PIC is a coalition of more than 50 non-profit homelessness providers, including Aloha United Way, Catholic Charities, the Institute for Human Services, the Appleseed Center, the City and County of Honolulu Mayor's Office on Housing, The Salvation Army, and many others.

The Homeless Task Force, and Partners In Care strongly supports the sections of this bill which fund homeless services, and those which prevent people from becoming homeless. *In particular.*

Item 1. HMS 224- Homeless Services. These are core services, which have proven, time-tested track records. In fact; if these programs could be "scaled up" to serve every homeless person, we would not longer have a homeless crisis in Hawaii. These include:

Houssing First, which has a 96.7% success rate, serves the chronic homeless, most of whom are severely impaired by mental illness and substance addiction. The irony is it costs less to end chronic homelessness than it does to allow it to persist. Over one-hundred million dollars a year is spent caring for the chronic homeless, just in the Emergency Room at Queens Medical Center. Add that to expenses borne by other medical providers, the cost of property repair and clean-up borne by government and the private sector, the expenses borne by the judiciary and law enforcement, the status

quo could easily cost more than \$200 million a year. If Housing First were “scaled up” to provide for every chronic homeless person, the net savings would likely be about \$72 million dollars a year.

Rapid Re-housing saves the State money in the long run, because the sooner a person is rehoused, the sooner than person can return to be a productive member of society.

The Family Assessment Center on Oahu, (*and a new Family Assessment Center to be built*), have transitioned homeless families into permanent housing in an average of 77 days. Roughly 60% of shelter space is occupied by children. The Family Assessment Center is turning the tide against this shameful statistic.

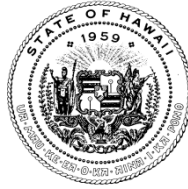
Homeless outreach is essential for connecting the chronic homeless to services. It can take 300 or more contacts with severely impaired individuals to get them off the streets.

Civil legal services are necessary to prevent eviction, and other entanglements that cause homelessness. It is exponentially less expensive to prevent homelessness than it is to put someone’s life back together after they become homeless.

Item 2. HMS222- **Rental Assistance Services** prevents homelessness. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Item 15 –HMS 903: **General Support for Self-Sufficiency Service and Aftercare services for homeless families with children** are extremely important. Even people who are not mentally impaired or substance addicted, can become homeless for reasons which are not solely economic. For example, many women with children fleeing violent domestic abuse become homeless.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 25, 2019
2:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 308

H.B. 1554, H.D. 1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

House Committee on Finance

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill and seeks funding for Program ID 224HS-05 - "Appropriate Funds for Stored Property and Debris Removal Services for State Lands".

Since June 2017, the appropriated funds for fiscal year 2017 and 2018 allowed the DOT to clear structures and store items found within the DOT Right of Ways and other State properties. The largest of the cleanups was performed in October 2017 at the Nimitz Viaduct area. The DOT continues to clear shoulders, rights of ways, and other state properties to ensure safety and proper maintenance of these thoroughfares.

This worthy effort has aided the DOT to respond to the needs of the community, allowing traffic and pedestrian access, while keeping areas clear for safety and for maintenance purposes. We work in direct coordination with service providers and the Governor's Homeless Coordinator to encourage individuals to enter into shelters and gain access to human and social services. Through this program, we have successfully placed over 300 individuals into shelter, most who are experiencing severe and chronic homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.