



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

February 25, 2019

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 257 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: February 27, 2019, 11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and supports the bill provided that, given there is a time limit to the pilot program and will involve the use of public funds on private land, that the private land have basic existing infrastructure (i.e., public access, water, sewer, electricity, correct zoning) and that public funds be used primarily for contracted services and that funds for improvements be related to health and safety.

DHS is concerned with the direction to use a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) when it comes to use of private lands for public purposes. While MOU articulate an agreement between parties, they do not generally contain necessary provisions that are legally enforceable.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the measure is to authorize the use of private lands for the Ohana Zones Pilot Program. Extends the Ohana Zones Pilot Program to June 30, 2022. Extends the Emergency Department Homelessness Assessment Pilot Program and the Medical Respite Pilot Program to June 30, 2020. (HB257 HD1)

DHS recommends that the private lands should have existing infrastructure to be considered to become an Ohana Zone pilot site, and that Ohana Zone pilot funds be used for contracted services.

To give DHS more time to implement the Ohana Zones pilot, DHS proposes the following amendment to Act 209 (SLH 2018), section 4 (b) as follows:

"(b) The agencies designated by the governor shall establish [~~no later than December 31, 2018,~~] the following:",

and section 4(f) as follows:

"(f) The pilot program shall cease to exist three years from the contract execution date or on June 30, [~~2021~~] 2022, whichever is later."

DHS Homeless Program Office (HPO) is in the process of executing contracts for the emergency homelessness assessment pilot and the medical respite pilot with the identified provider. The proposed expiration date of June 30, 2020 for the emergency department homelessness assessment pilot program and medical respite pilot program will be beneficial as additional time is needed for the pilots to become fully operational.

HPO has included in its contract the ability to continue services with a no cost extension of unexpended funds in anticipation of an amendment to Act 2019, SLH 2018. The extension should also apply to the report dates.

At this time, DHS does not anticipate the need for additional appropriations. However, additional staff resources at the Department of the Attorney General will likely be required to assist with preparing a lease or other agreements with the land owners for use of the land during the pilot period.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

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**

**Wednesday, February 27, 2019
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 257, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

House Bill 257, House Draft 1 proposes to authorize the use of private lands for 'Ohana Zones and extends the sunset dates for homeless emergency medical programs. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers the following comment.**

The Department notes that unencumbered or unleased lands held by the Department are often unsuitable for 'ohana zone purposes due to the lack of infrastructure, remote location, size of the parcel or a combination all three. The Department further notes that private land owners, including churches and non-profits have offered the use of their lands, and this measure would allow the use of 'ohana zone funds for use on those properties. The Department notes that other agencies have expressed concern that building built using state funds be used for the purpose for which they were built. The Department agrees with these concerns and in addition to the changes already made, suggest that a timeframe, such as ten years, or whatever the legislature prefers be added to the MOU.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

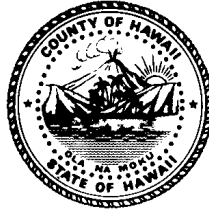
SUZANNE D. CASE
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FIRST DEPUTY

KALEO MANUEL.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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STATE PARKS

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Mayor



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County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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February 26, 2019

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

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

RE: HB 257, HD1 and HB 1451, HD2 Relating to Homelessness

The County of Hawai'i fully supports HB 257, HD1, and HB 1451, HD2, since each would extend the three- year pilot projects dealing with homelessness by an extra year. HB 257, HD1 is the better bill because it has the added provision that would broaden the scope of the Ohana Zones Pilot Program by allowing for partnerships on private land. This added flexibility is critical, and likely would provide an opportunity to expedite the construction of appropriate housing for individuals experiencing homelessness.

The Sacred Hearts and Hale Iki emergency housing projects on the Island of Hawai'i are a direct result of two separate government and private sector partnerships that led to the creation of thirty temporary housing solutions for survivors of the recent Kilauea eruptions.

Hawai'i County asks that you vote "Yes" on HB 257, HD1, and HB 1451, HD2, but we urge that authorization of partnerships utilizing private land be included in whatever vehicle is forwarded to the full House for action. The added flexibility would be a positive way of implementing the pilot project and maximizing its potential for success.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR



Inspiring Hope, Changing Lives

Visit us on the web: www.hopeserviceshawaii.org

Connect via email: info@hopeserviceshawaii.org

HOPE Help Line: 808-935-3050

Hearing: **HB 257 in support**
Date: February 27, 2019
Location: State Capitol, Room 308

Aloha Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

I am submitting testimony on behalf of HOPE Services Hawai'i, a non-profit affiliate organization of the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai'i, working toward ending homelessness in our community. We strongly support HB 257, which authorizes the use of private lands for the Ohana Zones pilot program.

The current restriction that only allows Ohana Zone projects to be located on State and County lands prevents Hawai'i County communities like Puna, Ka'u or Waimea, from exercising the creativity to develop programs in rural areas throughout our island. In the midst of last year's eruption, we were able to partner with 50+ businesses to develop **Sacred Heart Shelter, an emergency shelter program consisting of 20 micro-units** at 120 sq. ft. each, a common pavilion, restrooms, showers, and storage space, in less than 30 days. Following its intended use for households displaced by the lava, **this project could be converted into an Ohana Zone and remain in this rural community. However, given the current limitation where Ohana Zones projects must be on State or County lands, this is currently not an option.**

The challenge to State and County properties in Hawaii County is infrastructure! Gaining access to basic utilities like water, sewer/septic systems and electricity requires a large financial investment. However, removing the restriction on private land use (such as the Catholic Church-owned property where Sacred Heart Shelter is located), will allow us to creatively use land the way the Ohana Zones project intended. Faith communities own land. It will take public-private partnerships working together to end homelessness. We've heard this message from the State... so let's continue to practice this with Ohana Zones too! Therefore, **I strongly urge your support of HB 257.**

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brandee Menino,
Chief Executive Officer

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



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Brandee Menino

HB-257-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 9:33:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Deges	Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation	Support	No

Comments:



O'ahu County Democrats
oahudemocrats.org



Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Finance Committee,

RE: HB 257 HD1, Relating to Homelessness

I write in support of House Bill 257, House Draft 1. This bill authorizes the use of public land for an Ohana Zones Pilot Program.

The 2018 Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i speaks on the moral urgency of our homeless crisis. It compels us to *"fight for robust funding to end homelessness in our cities and counties once and for all, through targeted investment to provide the necessary outreach, social series, and housing options for all populations experiencing homelessness."*

Ohana zones have been found to be a necessary, incremental step towards housing security. Given our current complex of laws, policies and market forces affecting the houseless, we find that Ohana Zones in terms of concept have worked previously in a multitude of cities, because they allow for the basic security of the individual to know *where* he or she will be sleeping that night. Such a basic element of a secure existence is not secured for houseless people, who may be evicted, or experience crime, or environmental hazards, on a daily basis.

In some cases, we find that the lengthy development of Ohana Zones may be a self-sabotaging process. We cannot have our 'emergency, stop-gap' measures for housing security be long postponed, not when homelessness is our number one societal crisis in Hawai'i.

To that end, the use of Public-Private Partnerships ("P3") in the development of Ohana Zones, given the limited extent and nature of such a Pilot Project as enumerated in HB257 HD1, is entirely appropriate and laudable. By definition, to be our priority, we must do all that we can to hasten housing security for our thousands of houseless individuals, many of home are houseless families. I commend Representative San Buenaventura for taking up this matter. I thank the House Committee on Finance for performing its due diligence in considering this tactical measure.

Members, please vote 'aye' on HB257 HD1.

Respectfully,

Dylan P. Armstrong, Vice Chair
O'ahu County Committee, O'ahu County Democrats



O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 27, 2019

TIME: 11:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

RE: HB 257, HD 1, Relating to Homelessness

To the Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair; the Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Finance:

I am Melodie Aduja, Chair of the O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (“DPH”). Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on HB 257, HD 1. The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (“OCCLP”) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of HD 257, HD 1, Relating to Homelessness.**

The purpose of this HB 257, HD 1, is to establish an ohana zones pilot program to provide temporary housing and services to homeless individuals and families based on principles similar to the housing first program. It expands the use of land to include private lands that are determined to be suitable for use as an ohana zones for such limited purposes and requires the following: (A) a memorandum of understanding between the private land owner and any state or county department that any structure built with public funds may be moved or is temporary; or (B) a partnership between the State and the private landowner.

HB 257, HD 1, also establishes within the department of human services a pilot program to be known as the emergency department homelessness assessment pilot program. The department of human services, in consultation with the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness and any other appropriate agency, shall serve as the administrator of the pilot program. The pilot program shall consist of multidisciplinary teams composed of but not limited to physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, social workers, and patient navigators who are employed by a participating hospital in the participating hospital’s emergency department. The multidisciplinary team shall: (1) identify patients who are experiencing homelessness or

patients at risk of experiencing homelessness and have high utilization of emergency department services; (2) assess the patient's current circumstances; and (3) coordinate and refer these patients to appropriate and available wrap-around supports and community resources along the entire continuum of care with a goal of reducing costs associated with chronic use of hospital emergency departments.

Housing is a basic human right and DPH believes 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. Hawai'i needs economically affordable housing and encourage increased support to this end including preservation of existing housing stock. To this end, DPH supports 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. DPH strongly urges that the definition of "affordable" be amended to 20%-25% of monthly income for all income brackets.

DPH believes 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.

DPH supports dedicated social services and housing opportunities for Hawai'i's homeless population to get them off the streets and reintegrated into society with specific devoted services for disenfranchised groups including, but not limited to, Native Hawaiian, Asian and Filipino American, Pacific Islander, aged-out foster kids, youth, returning veterans, the aged, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersexual and Asexual (LGBTQIA) homeless youth population. DPH believes in the concept of "Housing First" and in developing affordable housing policies and programs like "Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)." *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 13, ln. 48-53, p. 14, ln. 1-3, 9-18.*

DPH will continue to fight for those families who suffered the loss of their homes. DPH will help those who are working toward a path of financial stability and will put sustainable home ownership into the reach of more families. DPH will also combat the affordable housing crisis and skyrocketing rents in many parts of the State, which are leading too many families and workers to be pushed out of communities where they work.

DPH will preserve and increase the supply of affordable rental housing by expanding incentives to ease local barriers to building new affordable rental housing developments in areas of economic opportunity. DPH will substantially increase funding to construct, preserve, and rehabilitate affordable housing rental units. Not only will this help address the affordable housing crisis, it will also create good-paying jobs in the process. DPH believes that we should provide more state resources to the people struggling most with unaffordable housing: low-income families, people with disabilities, veterans, and the elderly.

DPH will expand programs to prevent displacement of existing residents, especially in Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities; create affordable and workforce housing; and preserve neighborhood-serving nonprofit organizations and small businesses. DPH will

reinvigorate housing production programs, repair public housing, and increase funding for rental assistance programs. DPH will fight for robust funding to end homelessness in our cities and counties once and for all, through targeted investment to provide the necessary outreach, social services, and housing options for all populations experiencing homelessness. DPH will engage in a stronger, more coordinated, and better funded partnership among Federal, State, and local governments to end chronic homelessness. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 6, ln. 13-33.*

For the foregoing reasons, i.e. housing is a basic human right and adequate, accessible, affordable, and safe housing should be available to all residents of Hawai'i, OCCLP supports HB 257, HD 1, and urges its passage out of the Committee on Finance.

Mahalo nui loa
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja


Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Ph. (808) 258-8889

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Members, House Finance Committee


From: Paula Yoshioka, Vice President, Government Relations and External Affairs, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 25, 2019

Hrg: House Committee on Finance Hearing; Thursday, February 27, 2019 at 11:00 AM in Room 308

Re: Strong support for H.B. 257 H.D. 1, Relating to Homelessness

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a not-for-profit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, 66 health care centers and labs, and more than 1,600 physicians statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of H.B. 257 H.D.1, which provides for a no cost extension for the emergency department (ED) assessment and medical respite pilot programs currently being administered through Care Coordination at The Queen's Medical Center – Punchbowl. Last year, the 2018 Legislature passed Act 209, which established these pilot programs. Preliminary data has demonstrated their success in reducing strain on our health care system; our request for an extension to June 30, 2020 is to demonstrate the full value of these pilots.

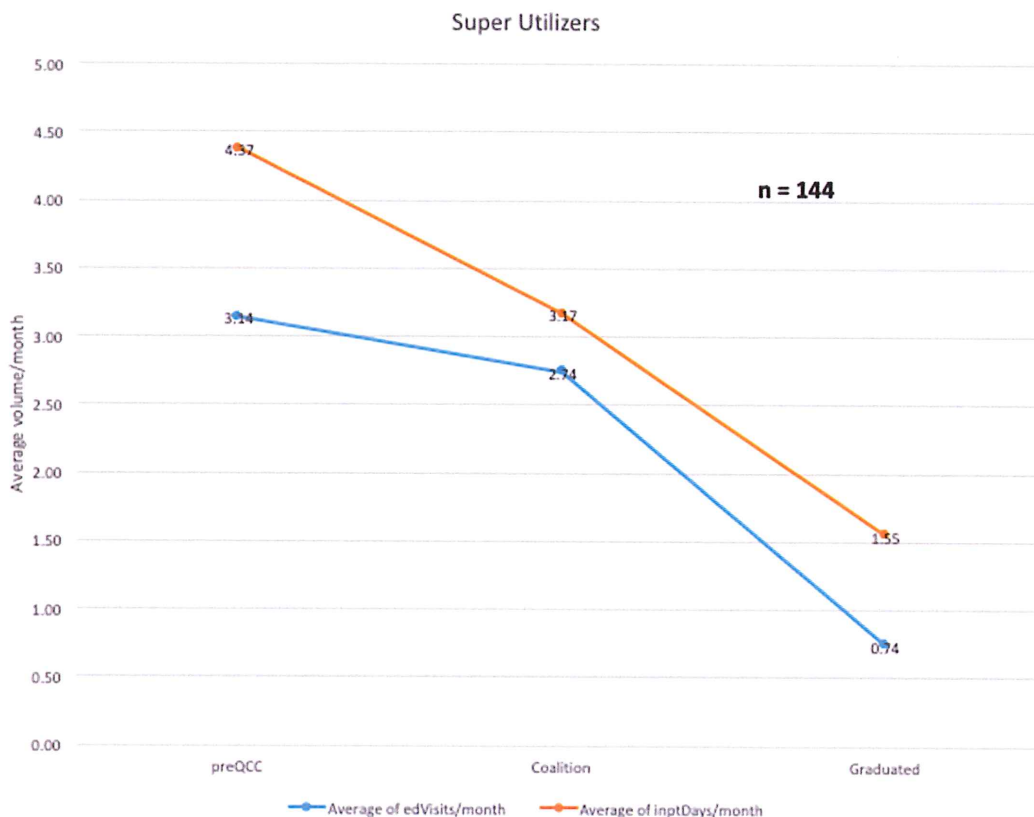
Hawai'i has the highest per capita rate of homelessness in the nation, with roughly 5,000 homeless individuals heavily distributed on Oahu and concentrated in Honolulu and on the Waianae Coast.^{1,2} As an island state, our geographical and isolated position presents unique challenges in serving a homeless population that is densely concentrated. As the primary health system serving this population, by focusing resources for maximum access to this population, we are able to see over 400 unique homeless patients per month and provide them with the care they need.

¹ The Department of Housing and Urban Development, "The 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress", December 2017

² State of Hawaii, Homeless Point-in-Time Count, January 22, 2017

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

The ED assessment pilot program is currently operating through the Queen's Care Coalition (QCC). The QCC identifies homeless patients with the highest utilization of emergency services and works aggressively to provide care and the right resources. The QCC navigates approximately 225 homeless patients annually, providing them coordinated care and connecting them to community resources such as supportive housing services, social services, behavioral health, etc. to address underlying issues that may stem from their unique circumstances.



Since the start of the QCC in January 2018, the graph (above) illustrates a significant decrease in average volume per month by super utilizers coming to the Queen's Emergency Department. The chart shows utilization per month, per super utilizer three months pre-intervention and three months post-intervention. As we continue to develop and deploy the QCC Team, there is the potential for efforts to be replicated on the neighbor islands for greatest reach and reduced costs and strain on the health care system. An upwards of 64% of all hospital visits by the homeless are at Queen's, where care is delivered at partial or no reimbursement. High utilization of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Emergency Department (ED) resources by homeless individuals also impacts Hawaii's Medicaid program.

Queen's is proud to partner with to the Institute for Human Services on Tutu Bert's House and Ka Uka Respite House. Both of these facilities provide a stable and transitional supervised environment for homeless patients who have been discharged from Queen's and may need

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

additional time to heal in a more appropriate level of care setting. The need for Medical Respite care for individuals experiencing homelessness is a critical part of the continuum of care for this population. Once individuals experiencing homelessness are ready for discharge from a hospital, many times they do not have a place to go to complete their post-acute care recover. Medical Respite facilities not only provide emergency shelter, they also serve as a “place of healing”. Eligible guests are able to recover from acute conditions of medical, surgical or psychiatric nature.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

HB-257-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 4:25:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toni Symons- HAPI	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-257-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 4:52:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Normann	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB257 HD1. As an individual who lives on the Big Island and is active in addressing homelessness, I have seen firsthand how difficult it has been to locate State or County land to use for Ohana Zones. We need to allow Ohana Zones on private lands in order to effectively address homelessness and the need for shelter. We have a strong network of faith communities that are committed to reducing homelessness. Allowing for Ohana Zone projects on private land, would make it possible for one or more churches to partner with government and homelessness providers to build Ohana Zones in the areas they are most needed. Please help maximize the effectiveness of Ohana Zones and support HB257 HD1.

HB-257-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 12:16:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen Alice Apruzzese	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in strong support of HB 257, which would allow the use of private lands for Ohana Zones. Currently, Ohana Zones must be located on state or county land, which prevents us from finding efficient solutions for homelessness, especially in rural areas. Passing this bill would mean that private landowners who want to help end homelessness could provide the land to do so. For example, Sacred Heart Shelter (the PÅ• hoa micro-homes for lava evacuees), which is located on privately held land, could be turned into an Ohana Zone, and provide badly needed homelessness resources for the Puna community. Therefore, I strongly support HB 257.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-257-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 4:11:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB257. The homeless need all the help they can get. Compassion aside, it will also help to reduce the homeless problem businesses regularly complain about.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei



LATE

Inspiring Hope, Changing Lives

Visit us on the web: www.hopeserviceshawaii.org

Connect via email: info@hopeserviceshawaii.org

HOPE Help Line: 808-935-3050

Hearing: **SB 471 in support**
Date: February 28, 2019
Location: State Capitol, Room 211

Aloha Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

I am submitting testimony on behalf of HOPE Services Hawai'i, a nonprofit homelessness service provider, in support of SB 471.

The programs and services covered by this bill will allow us to assist clients more efficiently, and will also directly address the rising rents that have left many Hawai'i families teetering on the edge homelessness. These are foundational programs that are critical to continue our work in reducing homelessness in our state, and **must be included in the State Department of Human Services Base Budget. If we can count on these critical resources--rather than having to fight for them each year--we will be able to plan for the long term, likely saving money and increasing our effectiveness in the fight to end homelessness.**

In order to afford a 2-bedroom apartment in Hawai'i County, a person earning minimum wage needs to work **101 hours per week**. A former client from Kona shared their family's struggle: "I had 2 part time jobs and a full-time job. I was always working. I ended up keeping my full-time job. I then later struggled with my rent payments. Me and my family were close from being evicted from our home. I called multiple places that would help me. HOPE services **helped me with my rent, because of them me and my family still have a roof over our heads.**"

Let's each do whatever is within our power to keep a roof over the heads of families like this one. I urge you to help us help our neighbors avoid homelessness by **supporting SB 471**.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brandee Menino,
Chief Executive Officer

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



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Brandee Menino

LATE

HB-257-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 10:22:54 PM
Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendi M Okazaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

I am submitting testimony on behalf of HOPE Services Hawai'i, a non-profit affiliate organization of the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawai'i, working toward ending homelessness in our community. We strongly support HB 257, which authorizes the use of private lands for the Ohana Zones pilot program.

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The challenge to State and County properties in Hawaii County is infrastructure! Gaining access to basic utilities like water, sewer/septic systems and electricity requires a large financial investment. However, removing the restriction on private land use (such as the Catholic Church-owned property where Sacred Heart Shelter is located), will allow us to creatively use land the way the Ohana Zones project intended. Faith communities own land. It will take public-private partnerships working together to end homelessness. We've heard this message from the State... so let's continue to practice this with Ohana Zones too! Therefore, I strongly urge your support of HB 257.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

HB-257-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 10:53:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case and I support HB257. I work for HOPE Services Hawai'i On the Big Island in both East and West Hawai'i. I am representing myself at this time. I believe Ohana Zones will provide our agencies and programs more opportunities to help our homeless in Hawaii. Allowing Ohana Zones to be designated within private lands as well as public lands will expand the possibility of our proposed as well as established projects to assist in ending homelessness and be able to serve more individuals, Kupuna and families who need our shelter services.

Mahalo,

Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case

Big Island

LATE

HB-257-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2019 8:58:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angel Hernandez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB257 to extend Ohana zones pilot program to the year 2022. This will allow places like Sacred Heart in Pahoia to convert into an Ohana zone to provide housing for displaced lava disaster people. Also due to lack of shelters or affordable housing options, it will allow safe areas to become available for people in our community to transition and connect with community services.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 27, 2019

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

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

SUBJECT: **HB 257 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 27, 2019, 11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this bill, provided that private lands identified as suitable for an Ohana Zone pilot shall have basic existing infrastructure in place (e.g. water, sewer, electricity, and road access, etc.).

The Coordinator notes that without sufficient infrastructure it will be difficult to implement pilot projects on private land given the time limitation for the Ohana Zone pilot program.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to authorize the use of private lands for the Ohana Zones pilot program and extend the Ohana Zones pilot program to June 30, 2022. The bill also extends the sunset dates of the Emergency Department Homelessness Assessment and Medical Respite pilot programs to June 30, 2020.

In regard to the Ohana Zone pilot program, the Coordinator is supportive of additional efforts to address homelessness and, in particular, to expand the availability of permanent supportive housing resources. A report regarding the current allocation of Ohana Zone funds was submitted to the legislature in December 2018, and can be found online at: http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/2019-HRS-346-3819_Report-Re-HICH-Act-209-2018-Re-Ohana-Zone-Medical-Pilots.pdf. The extension of the sunset date for

the Ohana Zones pilot program will allow for a full three-year evaluation of programs funded through the pilot.

In regard to the Emergency Department Homelessness Assessment and Medical Respite pilot program, the Coordinator supports extending the sunset date of the programs by one year to avoid the lapse of non-recurring funds appropriated by Act 209, SLH 2018. If the sunset date for the pilot programs are not extended, there will not be enough time for the provider to implement the pilots and DHS will be unable to sufficiently evaluate the effectiveness of the programs and make recommendations to continue, modify, or terminate either program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.