



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

February 14, 2019

**TO:** The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair  
House Committee on Housing

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

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

Hearing: Thursday, February 14, 2019, 11:40 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, 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-](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.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT  
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 14, 2019

TO: The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair  
House Committee on Housing

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

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

Hearing: February 14, 2019, 11:40 a.m.  
Conference Room 326, 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 for contracted services.

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 Committees on  
HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS  
and  
HOUSING**

**Thursday, February 14, 2019  
11:40 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**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 suggests that the measure clarify whether 'ohana zone funding can be used for infrastructure development on private lands. The Department would support such use of 'ohana zone funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**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

**HB-257-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/14/2019 8:36:21 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/14/2019 11:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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To: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair  
The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Housing

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

Date: February 13, 2019

Hrg: House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness and Committee on Housing Joint  
Hearing; Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 11:40 AM in Room 329

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

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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.<sup>1,2</sup> 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

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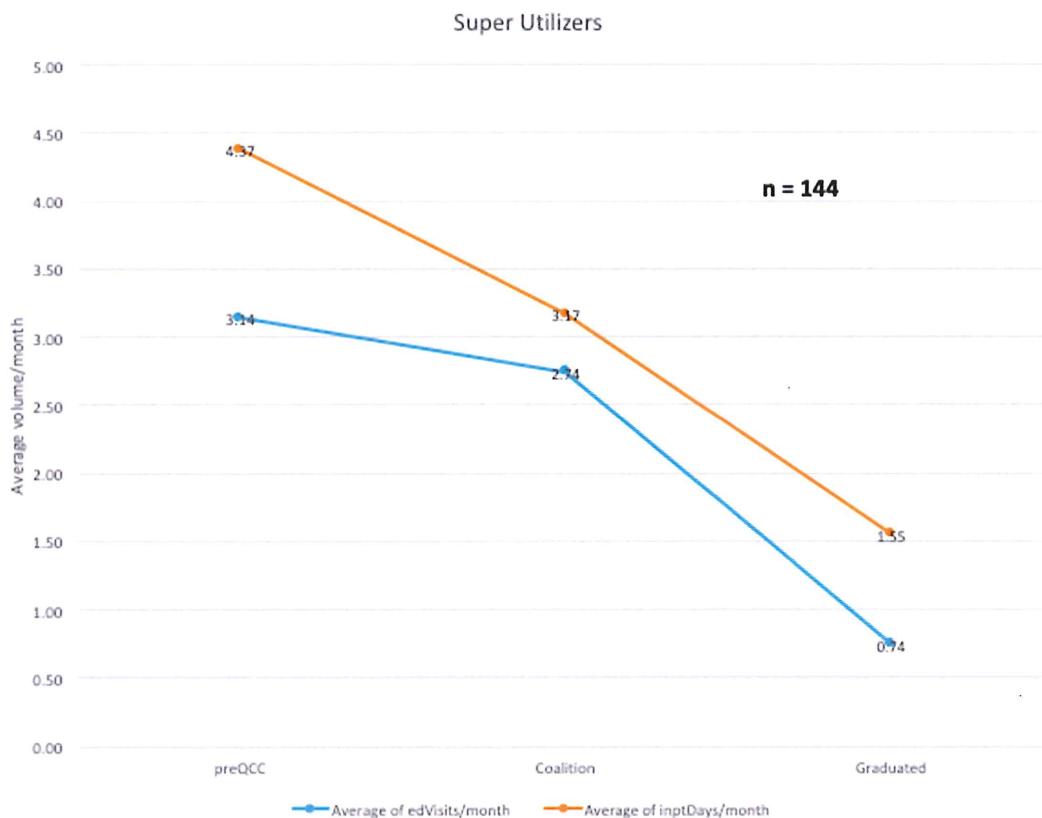
<sup>1</sup> The Department of Housing and Urban Development, "The 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress", December 2017

<sup>2</sup> 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.*

are able to see over 400 unique homeless patients per month and provide them with the care they need.

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.

*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

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Queen's is proud to partner with 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 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 recovery. 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.

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*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: 2/14/2019 12:55:41 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/14/2019 11:40:00 AM

**LATE**

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Pakele	Dynamic Community Solutions	Support	No

Comments:

Dynamic Community Solutions supports this bill in hopes that it will provide the state with the flexibility to use these funds to partner with private and non-profit entities in forming a borad range of solutions to address houselessness.

**HB-257-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 7:47:37 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/14/2019 11:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert Quartero	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I oppose HB 257 HD 1 because the 'Ohana Zones Program are a rebranded version of TENT CITIES, and where tent cities have been erected in various US municipalities and have proven to be a failure in addressing socioeconomic needs, ohana zones do not provide adequate relief justifying support.

Regards,

Robert Quartero

**HB-257-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 11:17:47 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/14/2019 11:40:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Carrasco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB257

Relating to HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

To: The Honorable Reresentative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair

House Committee on Housing

From: David Carrasco, UH at MÄ• noa MSW student

Subject: **HB 257-RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Committee on HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

1. Date:ThursdayFebruary 14, 2019, 11:40 a.m. Room Number: 329

Position: I support this measure. As a previous employee of a non-profit organization that worked with homelessness individuals I have gained vast experience in the difficulty individuals face with achieving and maintaining housing in Hawaii. I believe that the shortage of housing on Oahu and neighbor islands contributes to the homeless issue and the passing of Ohana zones that will provide temporary housing can significantly reduce the number of homeless individuals on Oahu and neighboring islands.

Purpose: The purpose of the bill is to establish the ohana zones pilot program to provide temporary housing and services to homeless individuals and families based on principles similar to the housing first program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.