

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

March 15, 2019

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 1020 SD2 – RELATING TO RENTAL ASSISTANCE**

Hearing: Friday, March 15, 2019, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this measure, and appreciates the amendments of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means clarifying "that rental assistance includes financial assistance for the payment of expenses related to relocating to, and rent due to a landlord of, residential property[.]" STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1048. DHS offers comments and requests additional amendments. We support an appropriation of funds so long as the appropriation does not supplant budget requests identified in the Executive Budget.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Human Services to establish a housing homeless children rental assistance pilot program to assist families with minor children experiencing, or at imminent risk of, homelessness due to domestic violence. Requires each family member to obtain financial management and budget counseling services. Requires the Department of Human Services to participate in the Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry system for homeless services. Requires inputting of data into the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Homeless Management Information System. Appropriates funds for the pilot program. Requires report to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

DHS currently provides significant funding for domestic violence services, including emergency shelters for victims of domestic violence and their children. Additionally, DHS financial benefits programs include exceptions to certain program requirements when domestic violence is an issue.

Regarding Section 2 of the measure mandating each member of families receiving rental assistance to obtain financial management and budget counseling services approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, these services are readily available in the state. See the list of approved agencies below.<sup>1</sup> The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports between 94-99% of domestic violence survivors have also experienced economic abuse; the Coalition provides a range of examples of economic abuse that include and are not limited to: preventing a victim from going to work; demanding the victim quit their job; harassing the victim at work; coercing the victim to take on debt by forcing or applying for credit cards, or loans, having accounts opened without their consent, refinancing home mortgages or car loans without the victim's knowledge, as well as denying victims access to their documents and funds.<sup>2</sup>

However, while we agree that financial management and budget counseling services should be included in the support services to individuals and families seeking safety from domestic violence, obtaining such counseling should not be a mandated requirement placed upon a victim of domestic violence who is seeking safety from abuse as it imposes an additional burden. However, if the Legislature maintains this mandate, it should also consider providing additional appropriation for civil legal services to assist victims and survivors of domestic violence address their debt and credit issues.

Regarding participation in the coordinated entry system to homeless services and entry of data into the Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS), DHS requests delayed effective dates be inserted for these provisions. The Continuum of Care organizations and the current domestic violence providers, should be given time to consider the

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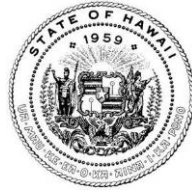
<sup>1</sup> List of US HUD approved Housing Counseling agencies at <https://apps.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hcc/hcs.cfm?webListAction=search&searchstate=HI>.

<sup>2</sup> See "What is Economic Abuse?", National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, [https://www.speakcdn.com/assets/2497/domestic\\_violence\\_and\\_economic\\_abuse\\_ncadv.pdf](https://www.speakcdn.com/assets/2497/domestic_violence_and_economic_abuse_ncadv.pdf).

appropriateness of the coordinated entry system in cases of domestic violence. This may also entail creation of what is referred to by federal programs as a "comparable database."

Also, federally funded domestic violence programs prohibit and/or limit the type of information that domestic violence organizations are required to share with the HMIS to preserve victim safety. While this appropriation is comprised of state general funds, DHS prefers that data sharing rules be maintained so that protective provisions of federal law also apply to state funded assistance for victims of domestic violence. DHS, homeless services, and domestic violence providers will require additional time to consult and determine how aggregate information (information allowed by federal programs) may be shared by domestic violence providers.

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



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

March 15, 2019

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

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

**SUBJECT: SB 1020 SD2 – RELATING TO RENTAL ASSISTANCE**

Hearing: Friday, March 15, 2019, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports the intent of this bill, and suggests amendments.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish a housing homeless children rental assistance pilot program. The bill also requires each family member to obtain financial management and counseling services, appropriates funds for the pilot program, and requires DHS to report to the legislature.

Nationally, many families experience homelessness when they are fleeing domestic violence or family conflict, and more than 80% of women with children who experience homelessness have experienced domestic violence.<sup>1</sup> According to the 2018 statewide Point in Time count, 318 individuals statewide reported that they were victims of domestic violence. Of this number, over half (54%) were unsheltered and living in a place not suitable for human habitation. The proposed pilot program will provide targeted housing assistance to domestic violence survivors who may be unable to access mainstream homeless services due to safety considerations.

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<sup>1</sup> Aratani, Y. (2009). Homeless Children and Youth: Causes and Consequences. National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia University.

If this bill moves forward, the Coordinator requests amendments to provide the housing homeless children rental assistance pilot program with flexibility to determine the level of financial assistance based on the unique needs of each household, and to clarify that assistance could include payment for utility deposits or past due utility bills. The housing homeless children rental assistance pilot program appears to provide rental assistance only through shallow rental subsidies that are time limited. In addition to rental costs, the inability to cover utility deposits or arrears can provide a challenge to relocation and obtaining safe housing for survivors of domestic violence.

According to a 2011 policy brief by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, there is a range of different options on how to structure prevention and rapid rehousing programs for survivors of domestic violence.<sup>2</sup> Rental assistance to domestic violence survivors can be provided through “long-term” rent assistance (typically 18 months or longer), “short-term” rent assistance (a few months of rent or deposits, a “deep subsidy” (100% of rent), “shallow subsidy” (typically less than 70% of rent), a “flat subsidy” (a small amount every month), or can be structured through a “step down” approach where rental assistance is slowly decreased over time to allow survivors time to assume full financial responsibility. The range of rental assistance options is not only responsive to the unique needs and circumstances of each household seeking help, but also provides flexibility to take into account changing conditions in the local economy. According to the brief, *“domestic violence providers who designed rental assistance subsidies prior to the onset of the recession found that the ability to modify the rental assistance offered to women was critical to their success.”*

The Coordinator also requests amendments so that financial management and budget counseling services are provided as an option to program participants, rather than a mandated requirement. Similar to the flexibility requested for financial assistance, supportive services offered to participants should be structured in a flexible manner that recognizes the unique circumstances surrounding each household. There is concern that mandating specific services

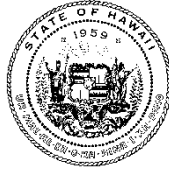
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<sup>2</sup> National Alliance to End Homelessness (2011). Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing for Survivors of Domestic Violence. Uploaded from: <http://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/prevention-rapid-rehousing-for-dv-survivors.pdf>

may unintentionally result in additional burdens being placed on domestic violence survivors participating in the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN  
ADMINISTRATOR  
BONNIE KAHAKUI  
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119  
Tel: (808) 586-0554  
email: [state.procurement.office@hawaii.gov](mailto:state.procurement.office@hawaii.gov)  
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>  
Twitter: [@hawaiispo](https://twitter.com/hawaiispo)

TESTIMONY  
OF  
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON  
HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS  
SB1020 SD2

March 15, 2019 9:00 AM  
RELATING TO RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB1020 SD2.

The State Procurement Office (SPO) thanks legislators for inserting language to clarify that the period of performance of contracts procured for financial management and budget counseling services may not exceed the three-year term of the pilot program they support. The SPO supports the intent of the bill.

Thank you.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1020 SD2: Relating to Rental Assistance

TO: Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair, Representative Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair; and Members, Committee on Human Services and Homelessness  
FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
**Hearing: Friday, March 15, 2019; 9:00 am; CR 329**

Dear Representative San Buenaventura, Chair, Representative Nakamura, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Human Services and Homelessness:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1020, SD2, for a rental assistance program to house homeless children. I am Betty Lou Larson, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are a member of Partners in Care. We support the intent of this bill, but urge that it be amended to include all homeless families, not just those homeless due to domestic violence.

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 **suggests one amendment for Section 6, (2):** "Assist, through the pilot program, families with minor children experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness, **including families facing homelessness due to domestic violence**, to obtain and maintain permanent housing...." We urge that all homeless families and those at imminent risk of homelessness be included in this bill.

This funding would support a creative new pathway for families to become housed and remain housed. Overall, 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 intervention will help struggling families to remain housed if they face evictions, as well as move homeless families into housing.

Many families fall into homelessness just due their inability to pay a market rent. They could rapidly be housed with shallow rental assistance, which, when tied to financial case management, could boost both housing and economic stability. The proposed pilot program, **Housing Homeless Children Rental Assistance Pilot Program**, would make a long-lasting impact on the lives of the children in these families, including those facing domestic violence. National research 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.

To prevent children from lingering in homelessness, we urge your support of this bill. Please contact me at (808) 373-0356 or [bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org) with any questions.







# PARTNERS IN CARE

## Oahu Continuum of Care

*Partners in Care is a coalition of Oahu's homeless service providers, government representatives and community stakeholders working together in partnership to end homelessness.*

### Testimony in Support of SB 1020, SD2 Relating to Rental Assistance

TO: Human Services and Homelessness Committee  
FROM: Partners in Care (PIC)  
HEARING: **Friday, March 15, 2019; 9:00 am; CR 329**

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1020,SD2 which would create a rental assistance program to house families with minor children. Partners in Care (PIC)—a coalition of more than 50 non-profit, homelessness providers supports the intent of this bill, but urges that it be amended to include all homeless families with minor children, not only those who fall into homelessness due to domestic violence.

Our Coalition supports this bill as family homelessness continues to plague our state and families continue to be severely housing cost-burdened. Despite record unemployment, government officials and concerned community members must continue to grapple with the fact that most jobs do not pay a living wage that enables families to afford the astronomical housing costs in Hawaii, let alone live with any sense of economic security. Our state must make investments in interventions proposed to making housing more affordable to move our families and children into homes and keep them there.

This bill recognizes that certain homeless families are working and have failed to secure housing due to the gap in their wages and Hawaii's exorbitant housing costs. The gap for families earning minimum wage and affording a fair market rental is over twenty-five dollars per hour. Families with vulnerable minor children could be housed with shallow rental assistance, which, when tied to financial case management and financial products like matched savings accounts, could launch the family on a trajectory toward economic stability. By funding a rental assistance pilot program targeted at housing homeless children, our state can make strides toward helping to end family homelessness.

In conclusion, Partners in Care is well aware of the state's investment in a variety of current necessary programs and housing interventions which have started to turn the tide on Homelessness. However, non-chronic, lower vulnerability families still need a way out of homeless and into housing, or be prevented from falling out of housing in the first place. We must meet the needs of all families on the spectrum to end family homelessness.

For these reasons, Partners in Care supports SB 1020, with the suggested amendment. Thank you for your consideration of this very important bill.

Contact for (PIC) Advocacy Committee: Chair: Gavin Thornton, 808-369-2510, [picadvocacychair@gmail.com](mailto:picadvocacychair@gmail.com)

**PARTNERS IN CARE, c/o Aloha United Way**  
**200 North Vineyard • Suite 700 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 • [www.PartnersinCareOahu.org](http://www.PartnersinCareOahu.org)**



March 13, 2019

Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair HHS and Homelessness Committee  
Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice-chair, HHS and Homelessness Committee

Re: SB 1020, SD 1 Relating to Homelessness

Dear Representatives San Buenaventura, Nakamura and Members of the House Human Services and Homelessness Committee

My name is Gail Breakey, Chair of the Board of Directors, United Church of Christ Transition House, a program for survivors of domestic violence, testifying in support of SB 1020. This bill will provide rental assistance for a gap group within the homeless community that are not financially stable enough to retain housing but have no other underlying issues.

Fear of homelessness is a major reason why many survivors of domestic violence fear to leave violent situations. The UCCTH provides transition housing for up to one year for survivors. During this time a major challenge is to assist them in finding on-going housing. This has become increasingly difficult in recent years due to the housing crisis and ever-increasing costs of rent. 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. Coupled with the financial case management the program would provide, this program will be essential to the families we serve

All homeless families, not only those with children who are at risk for homeless as a result of domestic violence, stand to benefit from this program. Therefore, the program should be expanded to encompass all families with a priority placed on those families who are experiencing domestic violence. Providing long-term, shallow rent subsidy is essential to serve this gap group of homeless children and their families over a longer period of time as they adapt to a new environment than the short-term, emergency assistance current programs allow.

The provisions of this bill will assist gap groups of families that may otherwise become or remain homeless. We urge you to consider and fund Senate Bill 1020. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Gail Breakey, Board Chair  
United Church of Christ Transition House



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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*Susan Chandler, Ex Officio*

**Executive Director**

*Bryan L. Talisayan*

TO: Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

FROM: Pedro Haro, Advocacy Director, PHOCUSED

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of SB 1020, SD2, RELATING TO  
RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Hearing: March 15, 2019 at 9:00 am  
Conference Room 329

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and members of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness:

I am Pedro Haro, Advocacy Director for PHOCUSED. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Bill 1020, SD2 **with suggested amendments.**

PHOCUSED is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to increasing the safety for, visibility of, and investment in the children and adults in Hawaii who are marginalized, impoverished, and under-served. Our organization has been a leading voice in advocating for our homeless populations since our formation, as the membership of PHOCUSED and our Board of Directors represent many of the major providers of human services across our state.

This bill will accomplish important inter-related solutions to reach a gap group within the homeless community that are not financially stable enough to retain housing.

PHOCUSED is a membership and advocacy organization for health and human services in Hawaii, which works together with community stakeholders to collectively impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our state. Our commitment to the people is reflected in our name – Protecting Hawaii's 'Ohana, Children, Under-Served, Elderly, and Disabled. We are guided by the shared commitment of our members to protect the interests of Hawaii's people and the sector which seeks to provide them with quality programs and services.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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**Executive Director**

*Bryan L. Talisayan*

PHOCUSED, as the former Administrator of the Families Coordinated Entry System, identified a gap group of homeless families; there are a large number of children and their families who are homeless due to economic reasons and do not need traditional case management (low-vulnerability, non-chronic). 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. 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 also agree with the Senate Committees on Housing and Human Services that all families, not only those with children who are homeless as a result of domestic violence, can benefit from this program. Therefore, **we believe the program should be expanded to encompass all families with a priority placed on those families who are experiencing domestic violence.**

However, we disagree on the agency that should be responsible for this pilot program. **We believe that the funds should be appropriated to The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA)**, the responsible agency in the original draft of this bill, and not to the Department of Human Services, because of HPHA's experience in providing rent subsidy programs. In addition, because the target populations of this pilot project are not chronic homeless, but rather families with no other social issues, we think that it is best housed within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

As we continue to see the tide changing in the amount of homeless individuals and families, we have the responsibility to identify and assist gap groups that are at risk of being left behind. The programs in this bill will assist those gap groups of homeless families that may otherwise fall through the cracks. We urge you to please consider and pass Senate Bill 1020, SD2.

PHOCUSED is a membership and advocacy organization for health and human services in Hawaii, which works together with community stakeholders to collectively impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our state. Our commitment to the people is reflected in our name – Protecting Hawaii's 'Ohana, Children, Under-Served, Elderly, and Disabled. We are guided by the shared commitment of our members to protect the interests of Hawaii's people and the sector which seeks to provide them with quality programs and services.

**SB-1020-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 6:07:51 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**To:** The House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness  
**From:** Mike Goodman, Director, The Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force, Member of Partners In Care  
**Re:** SB1020  
**Hearing:** Friday, March 15, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 329

Dear Rep. San Buenaventura, Chair, Rep. Nakamura, Vice Chair, and all Members of the Committee; Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of **SB1020**

This bill provides crucial funding for a rental assistance pilot program which as a practical matter, will primarily serve women with children who are forced to flee their homes because of domestic violence.

**We propose the following amendments:**

**First;** This should be a permanent program, not a pilot. When someone becomes homeless because they're fleeing domestic violence, the reason they don't have a home is almost always because they can't afford to rent a place on their own; The violence that made them flee may be a sociological problem, but the cause of their homelessness is purely financial, and money is always the solution. It's therefore axiomatic that rent-subsidies will work 100% of the time, and a pilot is unnecessary.

**Second;** There are several other existing rent subsidy programs, administered by the Department of Human Services. We recommend that these subsidies be administered as a permanent part of an existing subsidy program.

*Thank you for the opportunity to testify.*

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

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Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of  
West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action  
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Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

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Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native  
Hawaiian Health Care  
Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together  
(PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the  
Great Northwest and  
Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services  
& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family  
Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community  
Center

The Catalyst Group

March 13, 2019

Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair,  
And members of the Committee on Human Services and Housing

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1020 SD 2 RELATING TO RENTAL ASSISTANCE

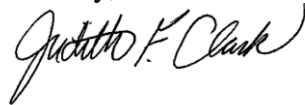
Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB1020 SD 2 Relating to Rental Assistance.

Survivors of domestic violence often experience homelessness. This primarily affects women and children, specifically those who have limited economic resources and no access to safe housing and networks of social support. Sixteen percent (16%) of homeless persons are victims of domestic violence. Approximately half of homeless women report that domestic violence was the immediate cause of their homelessness.

A rental assistance pilot program can allow survivors of domestic violence to obtain and maintain stable housing and minimize the effects of the trauma that the victims, especially children, have experienced. Domestic violence can have a profound impact on a child's brain development, academic performance, mental health, and ability to form trusting relationships.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



# Family Promise® of Hawai'i

*A Community Response to Homelessness*

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## **Executive Director**

Samantha Church

March 13, 2019

TO: Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Nakamura, House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

FROM: Samantha Church, Executive Director, Family Promise of Hawai'i

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of SB 1020, SD 2 Relating to Homelessness, with comments

Family Promise of Hawai'i is a community-based non-profit organization that provides homeless prevention/diversion, emergency shelter, comprehensive support services and help securing permanent housing to families with minor children who are experiencing homelessness. Since its opening in 2006, our organization has provided assistance to more than 600 families experiencing homelessness or on the brink of becoming homeless on Oahu. Our continued service in support of families in need of assistance to maintain housing has demonstrated that shallow rental subsidies make a noticeable difference in a family's ability to both secure and maintain permanent housing. When provided with shallow rental subsidies, families struggling with homelessness are able to secure permanent housing quicker than those without access to those subsidies, ensuring a child's experience with homelessness is as brief as possible. We have been operating our own shallow rental subsidy program with private funding and have seen families move out of our shelter quicker as well as remain in housing.

As we face a housing shortage and high rental costs, finding permanent housing for homeless families with minor children has become increasingly difficult, whether the cause of their homelessness is related to domestic violence or another form of trauma.

**While we support SB1020, we respectfully ask that it be extended to all families seeking help to escape homelessness, not just those that are fleeing domestic violence.**

An expansion of this bill to cover families who do not qualify for other housing support vouchers will provide assistance to gap groups of families that may otherwise become or remain homeless. The identified expansion of this program is a crucial step on the path to end family homelessness in our community.

We urge you to consider and fund an expansion of Senate Bill 1020, SD 2. Thank you for your time and attention to our testimony on this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Samantha Church, Executive Director  
Family Promise of Hawai'i

**SB-1020-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 10:23:26 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John A. H. Tomoso	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

03-13-19

TESTIMONY

**RE SB1020 SD2**

I am in favor of the Department of Human Services establishing a Housing Homeless Children Rental Assistance program for children experiencing, or at imminent risk of, homelessness due to domestic violence.

As a Social Worker and a Priest, I see domestic violence as a reality that not only tears families apart, but stigma experienced by children experiencing domestic violence and, in effect, sentences them to the vicious cycle of abuse that they need to get help from a professional member to obtain financial management and budget counseling services is a good intervention to help break this cycle.

Mahalo

John A. H. Tomoso+, MSW, ACSW, LSW

51 Kuula Street

Kahului, Maui, HI 96732-2906

john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com

808-280-1749



**SB-1020-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 7:24:07 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 1020 SD2, relating to rental assistance. This bill supports programs that offer assistance to gap groups of homeless families at a crucial time as we are beginning to see a decrease in the number of homeless individuals in Hawai'i.

## HSHtestimony

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**From:** Troy Siruno <tsiruno@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 9:02 AM  
**To:** HSHtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1020, SD for HSH Hearing on 3/15/19, 9am Rm 329

Chair San Buenaventura  
Vice-Chair Nakamura  
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

March 15, 2019 – 9:00 am, Conference Room 329

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1020, SD2 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I am Troy Siruno and I thank you for the opportunity to voice strong support for Senate Bill 1020 SD2, relating to rental assistance.

This bill will reach a gap group within the homeless community that are not financially stable enough to retain housing but 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. 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. All family members, including children, will receive guidance from a financial case manager.

I also believe that all families, not only those with children who are homeless as a result of domestic violence, stand to benefit from this program. Therefore, the program should be expanded to encompass all families with a priority placed on those families who are experiencing domestic violence. Providing long-term, shallow rent subsidy would better serve this gap group of homeless children and their families over a longer period of time as they adapt to a new environment than the short-term, emergency assistance current programs allow.

We are starting to see a decrease 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 1020, SD2.

Thank you,  
Troy Siruno  
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Honolulu, HI 96816  
[tsiruno@gmail.com](mailto:tsiruno@gmail.com)

**SB-1020-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 12:08:19 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-1020-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 1:31:35 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lauralee Baoy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 1020. When a mother leaves a domestic violence situation, especially with her children it is a vulnerable and dangerous time for her and her children. SB 1020 would create an option for women and hope to find permanent housing after the traumatic situation. Most women return to their abusers because of the lack of resources and financial backing. Having this senate bill passed would support these women and her children for safer outcomes and an avenue to leave the abuser.

**SB-1020-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 2:45:39 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/15/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nathalia Cardenas-Haro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019



COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 15, 2019  
TIME: 9:00am  
PLACE: Conference Room 329  
State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street  
HEARING  
**SB1020 SD2**

POSITION: **SB1020 SD2**

The proposed legislation has the potential to effect change in the lives of persons that are on the receiving end of domestic violence. Domestic violence inordinately affects women and children, specifically those who have limited economic resources and no access to safe housing and networks of social support. The data suggest that 16 percent (16%) of homeless persons are a result of escaping domestic violence. This would indicate a strong relationship between domestic violence as a strong contributor toward homelessness.

A rental assistance pilot program can allow survivors of domestic violence to obtain and maintain stable housing and minimize the effects of the trauma that the victims, especially children, that because of possibility witnessing or being a victim of domestic violent may have a greater propensity to imitate such behavior in life.

In addition, domestic violence can have a profound impact on a child's brain development, academic performance, mental health, and ability to form trusting relationship which may cause them to not to integrate with the rest of society and may put them on the path toward greater exposure to the criminal justice system as a youth or an adult in the later years of their development. I urge you to please pass this bill out of committee and, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Ken Farm

Board Member, Member CAC, OMPO  
Neighborhood Board No. 15  
Kalihi-Palama