



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

**LATE**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

March 19, 2019

TO: The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair  
House Committee on Housing

The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services

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

SUBJECT: **SB 1031 SD2 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 10:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 423, State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness respectfully offers comments regarding this measure and notes that the Department of Health (DOH) is opposed to this measure.

The Coordinator appreciates the amendments of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Housing to require the long-term assistance pilot program to participate in the Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry System for homeless services and for the provider of the program to input data into the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to establish the long-term rental assistance pilot program within the Department of Health (DOH). The bill also appropriates funds for the administration of the program.

The Coordinator appreciates the legislature's efforts to address the unique housing needs of elderly individuals who are experiencing homelessness or are at imminent risk of homelessness, and there are a number of current programs administered by the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) and Department of Human Services (DHS) that provide short- and

long-term rental subsidies for this population. If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator suggests that the expansion of capacity for current programs be considered as an alternative to the establish of a new program such as the long-term assistance pilot program.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) currently administers a state elderly public housing program for individuals over 62 years of age and includes a preference in its state family public housing program for the elderly and for individuals experiencing homelessness. In addition, HPHA and the Department of Human Services (DHS) currently administer the Rapid Re-Housing and state rent supplement programs that provide shallow subsidy support for a broad population, which includes both the elderly and individuals experiencing homelessness. DHS also administers the Housing First program that provides a deep rental subsidy and intensive case management for chronically homeless individuals and is in the process of procuring services for the Coordinated Statewide Homelessness Initiative (CSHI) that will provide financial assistance for individuals who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. Accordingly, it is unclear whether there is a need for an additional program to provide long-term rental assistance specifically for the elderly.

The Coordinator further notes the Continua of Care (CoCs), including Partners in Care on Oahu, are responsible for setting prioritization criteria for programs such as Rapid Re-Housing and Housing First that receive referrals through the CoCs Coordinated Entry System (CES). For example, if Partners in Care determines that providing homeless assistance to elderly individuals is a priority, they have the option of establishing age as a prioritization factor for individuals referred to homeless programs by the CES. The current policies and procedures for the CES on Oahu can be found online at: <https://www.partnersincareoahu.org/sites/default/files/2019-01-03%20PIC%20Unified%20CES%20Policies%20and%20Procedures.pdf>.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in OPPOSITION of SB1031 SD2  
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

REPRESENTATIVE TOM BROWER, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

REPRESENTATIVE JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date and Time: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 10:30 a.m.

Room: 423

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) respectfully opposes this measure.

3 SB1031 SD1 proposes to establish a long-term rental assistance pilot program within the  
4 DOH for kupuna. In collaboration with the counties, this measure requires the DOH to provide  
5 rental assistance to kupuna over the age of 60 who are homeless or at imminent risk of  
6 becoming homeless; to ensure pilot program participants pay no more than 50% of their income  
7 for rent; and to provide housing counseling and landlord assistance for kupuna to obtain or  
8 retain permanent housing.

9 Additionally, this measure defers to the DOH for collaboration with the Executive Office  
10 on Aging to determine whether it is efficient to merge the pilot program with existing programs;  
11 for the establishment of rules and qualification standards for beneficiaries of the pilot program;  
12 and for requiring the pilot program to participate in the Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry  
13 System for homeless services. The provider of the pilot program will be required by the DOH to  
14 input data into the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Homeless  
15 Management Information System. The DOH is required to submit a report to the legislature with  
16 its findings and recommendations one month prior to the convening of the regular sessions of  
17 2020, 2021, and 2022. The pilot program is set to cease to exist on June 30, 2022.

1           The DOH is the inappropriate agency for the long-term rental assistance pilot program  
2 described this measure. With the exception of the Hawaii Special Supplemental Nutrition  
3 Program for Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC), the DOH does not currently run  
4 means-tested housing programs. The DOH is without significant experience in the following  
5 relevant areas: zoning ordinances, federal and state housing laws, and income and asset  
6 verification, nor matters outside the scope of population health management and believes that  
7 other programs are more experienced and appropriate in operating a housing program or a  
8 direct subsidy program.

9           At this time, the DOH asks for the Legislature's support of the Governor's Executive  
10 Budget request which includes appropriations to the DOH and the Department of Human  
11 Services (DHS) for Housing First, rapid re-housing, homeless outreach, and for outreach and  
12 counseling services for chronically homeless individuals with severe substance use disorders.

13 **Offered Amendments:** Delete the Department of Health as the expending or implementing  
14 agency.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1031, SD2: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

**TO:** Representative Tom Brower, Chair, Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair; and Members, Committees on Housing, and Human Services and Homelessness  
**FROM:** Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
**Hearing:** **Tuesday, March 19, 2019; 10:30 AM; CR 423**

Chair Brower, Chair San Buenaventura, and Members, Committees on Housing, and Human Services and Homelessness:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of SB 1031, SD2, which establishes and funds the long-term rental assistance pilot program for elders. 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. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless and immigrants. Our Housing Assistance Program for elders finds that many of our clients who are homeless or at the point of homelessness could be housed with the type of subsidy proposed in this bill. Catholic Charities Hawaii supports a **\$1.5 million** appropriation.

A recent study by UC San Francisco, found that a 'veritable tidal wave of older people will probably be living on the streets in the coming years.' Another recent study on aging homeless echoed these concerns and "**projected that the elderly homeless population will nearly triple over the next decade**". **Researchers agree that this reflects a national problem.** Even more shocking, the UC researcher found that "Homeless people in their 50s generally display the geriatric difficulties of people age 70 or 80. That means caring for the coming boom in older street people will be expensive... with more intensive medical care" needed. Hawaii, with a high elderly population, must find ways to prevent our kupuna from becoming homeless.

The proposed rental assistance pilot program addresses this need. In Hawaii, like San Francisco, skyrocketing housing costs are a serious threat to Hawai'i's kupuna living on fixed incomes. 1,386 elderly were already living on the streets in Hawaii per the 2017 Service Utilization Report. One elderly veteran came to CCH after being homeless for 14 years. He was unable to afford a unit even though he was willing to share with a friend, also a homeless elder. Their salvation was an ongoing rental subsidy which got them a unit where they no longer had to spend much of their budget on buying ice daily and eating out due to no place to cook. These kupuna were overwhelmed with gratitude that they would not have to weather gusty winds and could take a hot shower. Rental subsidies are critical to address future trends for homeless elders.

We understand that there are concerns about what department should expend these funds. We need a program that could effectively and efficiently assist our high risk elders to obtain housing and prevent growing homelessness. Catholic Charities Hawaii is committed to continuing to work with the legislature, departments and stakeholders to address these growing needs. Please contact me at (808) 373-0356 or [bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org) if you have any questions.



**SB-1031-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 9:55:07 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/19/2019 10:30:00 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 Committees on Human Services & Homelessness and Housing.  
**FROM:** Mike Goodman, Director, The Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force and Member, Partners In Care Advocacy Committee.  
**RE:** SB1031 SD2  
**HEARING:** Joint Committee Hearing on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 10:20 a.m. Conf. Rm. 423

Dear Representative San Buenaventura, Chair and Representative Kakamura, Vice Chair, of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness; Representative Tom Brower, Chair and Representative Matayoshi, Vice Chair, of the Committee on Housing; Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB1031 with one suggested amendment.

Programs like this are extremely important because preventing someone from becoming homeless, is far easier, and less expensive than putting that person's life back together and rehousing them after they become homeless.

In particular, *our* kapuna, many of whom are physically frail, are more likely to suffer permanent damage from the adverse health affects associated with homelessness.

**I propose only one amendment.**

The pilot program be expanded to include handicapped persons not currently served by other programs. Just like our kapuna, they live on fixed incomes and are often physically vulnerable.

*Thank you for the opportunity to testify.*



Young Democrats of Hawai'i  
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

**Testimony presented before the House Committee on Housing & House Committee on Human  
Services & Homelessness  
Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 423**

**Senate Bill 1031, Senate Draft 2**

Dear Chair Brower, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Matayoshi and Vice Chair Nakamura and members of the Committees:

Senate Bill 1031, Senate Draft 2 establishes the long-term rental assistance pilot program to be administered by the Department of Health and appropriates funds for the pilot program.

The Young Democrats of Hawai'i stand in **strong support** of passing SB1031, SD2.

In January 2019, the Young Democrats of Hawai'i (YDHI) conducted a member-wide survey to identify and prioritize important issues facing young people today. Our membership identified increasing our state's affordable housing supply as one of the top three issues.

Piloting a program to address long-term rental assistance will aid in efforts to increase affordable housing in the state. SB1031, SD2 will address the problems in affordable rentals for persons over the age of sixty through the pilot program and that they will not pay more than 50% of their income for rent and to provide housing counseling and landlord assistance to retain permanent housing. Addressing and assisting the state's vulnerable populations, such as our kupuna, through the pilot program will allow for services to work in concert to ensure all aspects to sustain affordable rental and permanent housing are met. Appropriating funding especially for long-term rental assistance will provide critical and effective resources to increase the numbers of individuals who will have a place to call home.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of SB1031, SD2.

Sincerely,

Executive Committee  
Young Democrats of Hawai'i

**SB-1031-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2019 9:23:12 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/19/2019 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: