

**SB-1227**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 8:04:44 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2019 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patrick F. Hurney	Testifying for Habitat for Humanity Hawaii Island, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 1227: RELATING TO POVERTY

Requires the Department of Human Services to use an integrated and multigenerational approach to delivering human services to reduce the incidence of intergenerational poverty and dependence on public benefits.

Please pass SB1227.

Mahalo

Patrick F. Hurney

**SB-1227**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 8:50:54 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2019 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Deges	Testifying for Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-1227**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 12:40:59 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2019 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Toni Symons- HAPI	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



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

February 7, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 1227 – RELATING TO POVERTY**

Hearing: Friday, February 8, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration proposal that will further the transformation of DHS into an integrated human services delivery system that will be structured to provide benefits through a multi-generational approach. Using a multi-generational 'Ohana Nui approach will support our clients' abilities to achieve their full human potential, improve the well-being of Hawaii's families, and the community at large.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill requires DHS to use an integrated and multi-generational approach to delivering human services to reduce the incidence of intergenerational poverty and dependence on public benefits.

DHS has a large stake in ending poverty in Hawaii. DHS provides benefits and services to one in four Hawaii residents, or nearly 360,000 individuals, and provides medical insurance coverage for nearly one-half of Hawaii's children. DHS provides benefits and services relating to homelessness, education, employment, health care, child care, food security, protective services, and vocational rehabilitation.

DHS is part of the national movement to improve the delivery of human services lead by the National Governors Association, the American Public Human Services

Association, and Ascend of the Aspen Institute, the Urban Institute, and others. DHS is adopting a service integration and multi-generational approach, is redesigning its business processes, and continues to improve its technology systems.

DHS recently completed its first departmental strategic plan to improve overall program outcomes and establish outcome measures of services for children, parents, and families geared to reduce adverse risks and increase protective factors that promote educational attainment and wage progression that lead to economic self-sufficiency. Through service integration and addressing the needs of multiple generations in a family concurrently, efforts and resources will be better targeted to support the well-being of individuals and families. Investment is also being directed to improving the human services workforce by supporting professional development to improve the work environment, encourage retention, and renew employees' dedication to helping Hawaii's vulnerable residents reach their human and economic potential.

Ultimately, the goals of transformation are to improve well-being of individuals, families, and the community, reduce intergenerational poverty, reduce dependence on public benefits, and reduce the human and fiscal costs of poverty. This administration bill will underpin the department's transformation from a siloed service delivery model to an integrated and multi-generational model.

Multiple studies identify the consequences of growing up in poverty: "individuals who grow up in poor families are more likely to be poor in early adulthood;" and "the chances of being poor in early adulthood increases sharply the longer the time spent in poverty in early childhood." See, Robert L. Wagmiller, Jr., and Robert M. Adelman, "Childhood and Intergenerational Poverty: The Long-Term Consequences of Growing up Poor."

The groundbreaking 1988 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study showed clear linkage of the number of ACEs a child experienced to negative health outcomes in adulthood.

Further, a 2015 Swedish study, similarly confirmed the findings of the ACE study using Swedish population data, and concluded that "creating equal opportunities for educational attainment may help to reduce the long-term effect of a disadvantaged

childhood and postpone functional health problems." See N. Agahi, B. Shaw, S. Fors, "Social and economic conditions in childhood and the progression of functional health problems from midlife into old age," *J Epidemiol Community Health* 2014; 0:1–7. doi:10.1136/jech-2013-20369.

Preliminary analysis of data from Hawaii's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) show that a percentage of Hawaii's SNAP recipients experience intergenerational poverty. For those born from 1987-1996 (currently, 21-30 years old), over 35,000 received SNAP benefits in childhood and as adults, or 21 percent of (166,081) the total number of those born from 1987-1996 who received SNAP benefits during their lifetime. For those born, during the period 1977-1986 (currently, 31-40 years old), more than 33,000 received SNAP benefits in childhood and as adults, or 23.5 percent of (140,930) the total number of those born during the period 1977-1986 whoever received SNAP.

Of concern are the individuals in the above age groups who represent parents of young children. To change the trajectory of these families and individuals, DHS must transform its practices and provide services more effectively in a way that will support all family and household members' social capital, educational and economic potential to become self-sufficient, ultimately reducing their dependence on public benefits.

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

**LATE**



**TO: Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services**

**FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)**

**DATE/LOCATION: February 8, 2019; 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 16**

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1227– RELATING TO POVERTY.**

**We ask you to support SB 1227 which requires the Department of Human Services to use an integrated and multigenerational approach to delivering human services to reduce the incidence of intergenerational poverty and dependence on public benefits.**

Poverty across the globe has reached epidemic proportions. In Hawaii, it is no different. As one of Hawaii's social service providers, serving over 18,000 clients annually, we have a vested interest in helping Hawaii's residents to break the cycles of poverty. Over 90% of the clients PACT serves are living in deep poverty. Many factors contribute to poverty: political and economic structures, community conditions, exploitation and the least of which is an individual's choice. We would be remiss in not supporting the department in clarifying their vision for addressing poverty in a way that it is aligned with best-practice and supports those in poverty.

The number of individuals and families whose lives are affected by poverty in Hawaii is disheartening. The existence of intergenerational poverty is prevalent. The costs associated with poverty are also well documented. The long-term effects of poverty on individuals and families, especially children, are harmful and detrimental to the potential for healthy and promising futures.

- Aloha United Way's ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained, Employed) Report notes:
  - 48% of Hawaii's families with children have incomes below the ALICE survival budget
  - 37% of senior households in Hawaii qualify as ALICE.
  - \$72,336 is the average annual Household Survival Budget for a family of four living in Hawaii.
  - Housing represents a Hawai'i family's greatest expense—an average of \$1,362 per month for a two-bedroom apartment (Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development).

- National Center for Children in Poverty notes:
  - Poverty can impede children's ability to learn and contribute to social, emotional, and behavioral problems.
  - Poverty contributes to poor health and mental health.
  - Risks are greatest for children who experience poverty when they are young and/or experience deep and persistent poverty.
  - Poverty is the single greatest threat to children's well-being.

In Marcella Wilson's book *Diagnosis Poverty*, she encourages us to think about "treating poverty as condition that can be treated by proper assessment, standards of care, and quality-control measures. After decades of well-intentioned but ineffective remedies... poverty needs nothing less than a scalable, sustainable, national standard of care to treat the condition of poverty that requires verifiable and accountable coordination among human services, healthcare, education, and government programs."

DHS provides services to nearly one in four Hawaii residents or close to 360,000 individuals on an annual basis. Social service agencies like Parents And Children Together attempt to focus our services on "integrated, multigenerational approach[es] to addressing poverty and dependence of public benefits". It behooves us to support DHS in their mission to continue their Ohana Nui efforts which focus on reducing the time children, families, and individuals spend in poverty and supporting every person's ability to meet their human and economic potential.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 18 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 1227**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.



**SB-1227**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 2:07:32 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/8/2019 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: