

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 27, 2019

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 471 SD 2 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: March 27, 2019, 2:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill; we request clarification and propose an amendment.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to homeless programs, including outreach, rapid re-housing, housing first, family assessment centers, and diversion programs, and the coordinated statewide homelessness initiative. Establishes a long-term rental assistance pilot program for individuals over sixty years old.

DHS seeks clarification regarding the appropriation in Section 2. This measure appropriates \$16,300,000 to DHS to "administer the outreach program, rapid re-housing program, housing first program, family assessment centers, and coordinated statewide homelessness initiative . " The amount and described services are similar to the DHS Executive budget request for homeless services for program ID HMS224:

HOUSING FIRST PROGRAM	HMS	3,750,000A	3,750,000A
RAPID REHOUSING	HMS	3,750,000A	3,750,000A
FAMILY ASSESSMENT CENTER	HMS	1,550,000A	1,550,000A
HOMELESS OUTREACH AND CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES	HMS	1,750,000A	1,750,000A

STORED PROPERTY AND DEBRIS REMOVAL SERVICES FOR STATE LANDS	HMS	5,000,000A	5,000,000A
	TOTAL	15,800,000A	15,800,000A

We request clarification as to whether the amount requested for the highlighted item, Stored Property and Debris Removal Services for State Lands is included in the \$16,300,000 of Section 2. If so, we request section 2 be amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$16,300,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the department of human services to fund and administer the outreach program, rapid re-housing program, housing first program, family assessment centers, stored property and debris removal services for state lands, and coordinated statewide homelessness initiative."

DHS notes that with existing funds, the Homeless Programs Office is in the process of procuring for the coordinated statewide homeless initiative with a projected contract start date of June 1, 2019 ending June 30, 2020.

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



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J. K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 2:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by
Calvin Ching
Deputy Chief Court Administrator, First Circuit

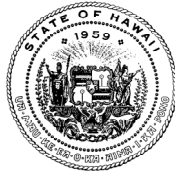
Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill 471, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 Relating to Homelessness.

Purpose: Appropriates funds to homeless programs, including outreach, rapid re-housing, housing first, family assessment centers, and diversion programs and the coordinated statewide homelessness initiative. Establishes a long-term rental assistance pilot program for individuals over sixty years old. (SB471 HD1)

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary **supports** the establishment of this program. The Judiciary’s Community Outreach Court efforts include outreaching in the communities. Through these efforts, we observe the need for coordinated services to better the lives of the homeless individuals and families. The proposed program would share goals with the Judiciary’s growing Community Outreach Court program, which helps homeless persons or near-homeless people to access services and help them get back on track with their lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB0471 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date and Time: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.

Room: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** At this time, the DOH LEAD program does not need any new
2 appropriations.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) respectfully opposes this measure
4 as written and offers recommended amendments.

5 The DOH currently administers the law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD) program.
6 The LEAD program provides an opportunity for diversion from the criminal justice system and
7 into treatment for mental health and substance use disorders. Given that LEAD is not a housing
8 program, the DOH is the appropriate agency to receive funds in support of administering LEAD.

9 Section 3 of this measure includes unspecified funding for the LEAD program. The DOH
10 very much appreciates support of sustained funding as the LEAD program is producing results
11 on Oahu and is preparing to expand to the neighbor islands.

12 Funds for the Oahu LEAD program are already in the DOH base budget and Section 3
13 of this measure provides additional funds for the LEAD program. Additional appropriations
14 beyond the DOH base budget are not needed for the LEAD program at this time.

15 The DOH respectfully requests that any additional appropriated funds do not supplant
16 other programs or priorities within the Governor's Executive Budget, including programs and
17 services to the DHS and the Governor's Coordinator on Homeless (GCH).

18 The DOH does not take a position on the merits of the long-term rental assistance pilot
19 program.

1 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

2 **Offered Amendments:** The DOH respectfully requests the following amendments.

3 Section 3, Page 3, Lines 12 and 13

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the
5 sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the same sum
6 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the Hawaii public housing
7 authority [~~to fund and administer the law enforcement assisted diversion program and~~] to
8 establish and administer a long-term rental assistance pilot program.

SB-471-HD-1

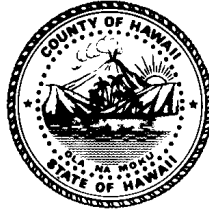
Submitted on: 3/25/2019 5:36:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III	Hawaii County Council	Support	No

Comments:

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

March 25, 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: SB 471, SD2, HD1 Relating to Homelessness

Hawai'i County participates in Community Alliance Partners (CAP), and heavily relies on that organization to identify pertinent bills related to homelessness that are worthy of support. CAP, understandably, has enthusiastically endorsed the comprehensive approach in SB 471, SD2, HD1 and has asked others to join in the effort to win passage.

Homelessness is one of my few priorities for this Session, and I know I would be preaching to the choir if I elaborated on why this issue is so important. Rather than do that, let me simply say that I support SB 471, SD2, HD1 and hope you will fund the programs at a level that will make a real difference for our community.

SB 471, SD2, HD1 proposes to appropriate funds to the outreach program, rapid re-housing program, housing first program, family assessment centers, law enforcement assisted diversion program, and the coordinated statewide homelessness initiative. It also would establish and appropriate funds for a pilot program to provide long-term rental assistance for individuals over the age of 60 who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

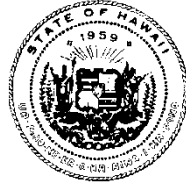
Funding of these essential programs is vital if we are to truly deal with homelessness in our state.

Please act favorably on SB 471, SD2, HD1.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 27, 2019
2:30 PM - Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 471, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Honorable Chair Luke, and Members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 471, SD2, HD1, relating to rental assistance.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports the intent, with comments,** of SB 471, SD2, HD1, which appropriates funds to homeless programs, including outreach, rapid re-housing, housing first, family assessment centers, and diversion programs and the coordinated statewide homelessness initiative. Establishes a long-term rental assistance pilot program for individuals over sixty years old.

The mission of the HPHA is to promote adequate and affordable housing in perpetuity, economic opportunity and a stable living environment, for low-income families and individuals, free from discrimination. The HPHA does not currently have staff with a deep understanding of the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program or homelessness expertise to establish and administer the kind of pilot program that is being discussed in this measure. The HPHA's State Rent Supplement Program assists all of our most disadvantaged populations, including the population that is being targeted for this pilot program.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with the HPHA's testimony regarding SB 471, SD2, HD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

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

Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

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 Network

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

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 2, 2019

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Finance

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 471 SD 2 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 471 SD 2 Relating to Homelessness.

Homeless youth who are living on their own on the streets without support or guidance from their families are the most vulnerable segment of our homeless population. They are children who have not completed their education, lack employment experience, and have not yet learned the skills for adult living.

More than 40% were forced to leave home by their families. Three-fourths have been physically, emotionally, or sexually abused. The average age when they first became homeless is 14. Many trade sex for the resources they need for survival – food, money, a safe place to sleep. They lack adequate food, access to education, and have difficulty meeting health care needs.

Outreach is the first step in helping youth leave the streets for safer and more appropriate living situations. Workers build trusting relationships and convince youth to accept help to leave the streets, while helping them meet their immediate survival needs. Funding for outreach to youth is critically important.

Youth adults ages 18 – 24 face many housing challenges and could benefit from rapid rehousing and rent supplement programs. Typically, they work at low-wage jobs while trying to complete a GED, attend college, or participate in vocational training. This includes young adults who have emancipated

from foster care or are participating in the Imua Kakou Program (voluntary care to age 21). Ensuring that these young adults have stable, safe housing during this critical period can provide the foundation that will enable them to be self-supporting for a lifetime.

By providing an array of services to meet the needs of different segments of our homeless population, we can greatly reduce homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'C'.

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



Aloha United Way

March 25, 2019

Aloha United Way
200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 700
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

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

SB 471, SD2, HD1 Relating to Homelessness – **SUPPORT with Comments**
March 27, 2019; Hearing Time 2:30 PM; Conference Room 308

Honorable Chairs, Vice Chairs & Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 471 SD2, HD1 which will provide funding for proven-effective homelessness services programs that are necessary to reduce homelessness in Hawai'i. SB 471 will also create a pilot rent subsidy program that will fill a critical service gap for kupuna at risk of homelessness due to their fixed incomes and rapidly rising rents. Aloha United Way strongly supports the bill as a critical component of a comprehensive plan to address homelessness in Hawai'i.

The programs funded by SB 471 including the following: **Outreach:** Without outreach services, we could not connect people to the proven effective programs such as Housing First that bring them out of homelessness. **Rapid Rehousing:** Rapid rehousing is designed to help individuals and families exit homelessness quickly and return to permanent housing by providing, rental stipends, assistance in finding housing, and case management services. **Housing First:** Housing First targets chronically homeless individuals and families with disabling conditions (mental health, substance use, and physical disabilities). **LEAD:** LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) is a pre-booking diversion program that grants police officers the discretionary authority to redirect low-level offenders – typically drug-involved and homeless - to case managers if they choose to do so. **Family Assessment Center:** The Kakaako FAC moves families off the streets in 77 days (average). **CSHI:** CSHI (Coordinated Statewide Homelessness Initiative) provides a one-time cash infusion for people on the cusp of homelessness.

In addition to the core homelessness services described above, SB 471 would appropriate \$1.5 million for a **Long-Term Rental Assistance Pilot Program for Kupuna**. Skyrocketing housing costs are an especially serious threat to Hawai'i's kupuna living on fixed incomes. A Long-Term Rental Assistance Pilot Program for Kupuna can address the needs of this especially vulnerable population.

Sincerely:


Cindy Adams
President & CEO



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 471, SD2, HD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Finance
FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: **Wednesday, 3/27/19; 2:30 PM; CR 308**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members, Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of SB 471, SD2, HD1, with one suggested amendment. This is an important bill to allocate appropriations for critical services to end homelessness. 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. Catholic Charities Hawai'i has a long history of working in the areas of affordable housing and homelessness.

Hawaii's network of evidence based programs has begun to turn the tide of homelessness. The statewide Point in Time count (January 2018) showed that homelessness had decreased by nearly 18% since 2016. The 2019 PIT count showed an additional 4% drop. However, these programs must be greatly expanded if Hawaii is to leap from #1 in the nation per capita for homelessness (now tied with New York) to actually ENDING homelessness. Catholic Charities Hawaii urges that **\$14 million be added to the Base Budget of the Department of Human Services to provide stable funding and the ability to scale up successful, evidence based programs to meet the need**. The uncertainty of year to year funding makes it impossible to fully utilize these successful programs that provide multiple paths to permanent housing. From Outreach to Housing First to Diversion from homelessness, to new innovative programs like the Family Assessment Centers, these proven programs can more quickly reduce homelessness with a larger investment. A new report from the Urban Institute (10/2018) that found Rapid Rehousing to be successful in helping families to move into housing units in the private rental market faster than they would on their own and for a lower cost. Most do NOT become homeless again. Findings suggest that **"Rapid Rehousing could be a scalable and cost-effective crisis response intervention that could help communities address homelessness more effectively"**.

Suggested Amendment: In Section 3, funds are appropriated to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to fund and administer the law enforcement assisted diversion program (LEAD). The Department of Health is currently administering this program. **We request an amendment to allocate a \$200,000 appropriation for LEAD to the Department of Health**.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i supports a **\$1.5 million appropriation to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority** to establish and administer a Long-Term Rental Assistance Pilot Program for kupuna. Our vulnerable elders deserve a safe and decent place to live. The most recent Homeless Services Utilization Report (2017) reveals that 1,386 elders (age 60+) were homeless. Ongoing



rental assistance is essential to meet the health and housing needs of our kupuna, and allow them to age in place as a part of our community.

Thank you for addressing these multiple paths out of homelessness. Please contact me at (808) 373-0356 if you have any questions.



PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Continuum of Care

Our mission is to eliminate homelessness through open and inclusive participation and the coordination of integrated responses.

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 471, SD2, HD1: Relating to Homelessness

TO: House Committee on Finance
FROM: Partners in Care (PIC)
HEARING: **Wednesday, 3/27/19; 2:30 pm; conference room 308**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 471, which would provide proven services that successfully end homelessness. Partners in Care (PIC), a coalition of more than 50 non-profit homelessness providers, strongly supports the sections funding homeless services in this bill.

Partners in Care supports an increase in funding for the ongoing programs which have proven successful. We urge you to add **\$14 million to the base budget of DHS** to provide the stable funding needed to expand Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Outreach and Civil Legal Services, Family Assessment Centers, and the Coordinated Statewide Homelessness Initiative (CSHI).

These are evidence based, proven programs that are critical to turning the tide of homelessness. They show strong successes and are the keystones of the network that can end homelessness, if funding is sufficient to reach more homeless people. Not only do these programs lift people out of homelessness into permanent housing, they can also save the state millions of dollars. Research by the UH Center on the Family found that Housing First could save the state an estimated **\$22 million in health care costs alone** for about 300 placed clients. Stable housing is the key.

The Family Assessment Center in Kakaako has been such a success that the Legislature funded a 2nd new center to be developed. This successful model is now being utilized to streamline and enhance the overall shelter system. This Center now moves families off the streets into permanent housing in an average of 77 days (down from 80 days last year)!

Partners in Care urges your consideration of one amendment: In Section 3, allocate the appropriation for the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program (LEAD) to the Department of Health (DOH). DOH is currently administering the program and is working to expand it to the neighbor islands. DOH is the appropriate department to administer these funds, instead of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority as stated in Section 3. We support funding to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority of **\$1.5 million** to establish a pilot program for Long-Term Rental Assistance for elders who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Partners in Care urges your support for the above listed items to respond to the community's priority to end homelessness. Thank you for your consideration of this very important bill.

SB-471-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 8:26:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Goodman	Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force	Support	Yes

Comments:

TO: The House Committee of Finance
FROM: Mike Goodman, Director, The Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force and Member, Partners In Care Advocacy Committee.
RE: SB471 HD1 SD2
HEARING: Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 2:30 PM Room 308

Dear Representative Luke, Chair and Representative Cullen, Vice Chair, and all other Members of the Committee on Finance; thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 471, and to offer suggestions for amendments.

This bill is also strongly supported by Partners In Care, a coalition of fifty homeless service providers and other entities. Members include Aloha United Way; Catholic Charities; The Salvation Army; U.S. Vets and The Institute For Human Services just to name a few.

The programs funded by this bill, all have proven track records. They literally end the homeless crisis every day for individuals fortunate enough to receive services.

- Housing First programs have a 98.7% success rate, serving the most difficult segment of the Homeless population; The chronic, unsheltered street homeless, most of whom are disabled by severe mental illnesses and substance addictions. This program successfully keeps 92.5% of its clients in permanent housing. Housing First also provides a net savings to the State; The UH Center on the Family’s research found that an estimated **\$6,197 per MONTH**, was saved for EACH homeless participant in Housing First, for emergency healthcare alone. When and if Housing First is “scaled up” to serve all 2400 unsheltered chronic homeless, it will save the State well over \$100 million a year in the aggregate, for medical care, homeless sweeps, law enforcement, the judiciary, and repairing damaged property.
- The Kakaako Family Assessment Center operated by Catholic Charities Hawai’i, moves families off the streets in an average of 77 days. 100% of the families served remained in permanent housing so far. Because of this spectacular track record, the 2018 Legislature allocated another \$800,000 to fund a second Family Assessment Center.

- Outreach programs are critical for connecting unsheltered, chronic homeless to housing and resources to escape homelessness. It can take 300 or more contacts to build the trust necessary to get severely mentally ill individuals off the streets.
- The Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program (“LEAD”) is an essential part of reducing the endless cycle of streets to jail and jail to streets, saving the State and counties millions of dollars in the long run.
- Rapid Rehousing rent subsidies, enables families with employed heads of households, to quickly obtain market rental housing. The Urban Institute report released in October of 2018, found this model helped families and veterans move into housing faster and at a lower cost than they would have without the program. Although most families continue struggling financially, the majority don’t become homeless again.
- Data from the Coordinated Statewide Homelessness Initiative shows that families can avoid evictions, and thereby homelessness, with modest assistance. This program played a key role in reducing evictions on Oahu by 25% in 2017.

This Bill Includes One Pilot Program, The Long-Term Rental Assistance Pilot Program for Kupuna.

The U.H. Center of the Family’s Homeless Services Utilization Report for 2017, shows that 1,386 elders over the age of 60 were homeless. Rising rents will make many more homeless who are on fixed incomes. This program is sorely needed.

Suggested Amendments

1. .This bill provides that the rental assistance pilot program for kapuna, will be administered by the Department of Health. We recommend you consult with the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services to determine which agency is better suited to administer the program. Eventually, it will be more efficient to have one agency manage and consolidate ALL State rent subsidy programs.
2. Year after year, bills must be written, introduced and passed by the Legislature to fund these evidenced based, successful core programs. That’s why we ask for an amendment to add the amount appropriated in 2019 to the base budget. This will provide a stable source of funding to ensure these crucial programs continue to exist in the coming years. Hopefully, they’ll eventually be funded at a level sufficient to serve every homeless person in need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-471-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 9:12:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mariah Tanaka	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair and Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Mariah Tanaka

Wednesday, March 25, 2019

Support for S.B. 471, Relating to The Homelessness

My name is Mariah Tanaka, I am a student at UH Manoa, School of Social Work. I strongly support S.B. No. 471, Relating to The Homelessness, which will continue to support programs that aim to alleviate homelessness.

Homelessness is a pressing issue here in Hawaii and so is the need for affordable homes. The programs that exist helps individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Helping them get back on their feet is the initial step for them to become self sufficient once again. Programs such as housing first and rapid rehousing, help to provide guidance and security. Allocations to these programs will continue in the assistance to reduce the homeless population.

I believe that the committee should consider this bill. We urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 471. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



LATE

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

March 27, 2019

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

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

SUBJECT: SB 471 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 2:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator supports section 2 of this bill, respectfully offers comments, and suggests amendments.

The Coordinator defers to the Department of Health (DOH) regarding appropriations for the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds to the DHS and the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) for homeless programs, including homeless outreach, Rapid Re-Housing, Housing First, Family Assessment Centers, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), and the Coordinated Statewide Homelessness Initiative (CSHI). The bill also establishes a long-term rental assistance pilot program in HPHA for individuals over sixty years old and appropriates funds.

The Coordinator appreciates the legislature's support for core homeless programs administered by DHS. The Coordinator notes that the executive budget request includes the following amounts for each year of the upcoming fiscal biennium in Program ID HMS 224 for core homeless services administered by DHS:

- Housing First Program \$3,750,000A
- Rapid Re-Housing \$3,750,000A
- Family Assessment Center \$1,550,000A

- Homeless Outreach and Civil Legal Services \$1,750,000A
- Stored Property and Debris Removal Services \$5,000,000A

As currently drafted, section 3 appropriates funds to HPHA for administration of the LEAD program. The Coordinator notes that LEAD is currently funded and administered by the Department of Health (DOH), and that HPHA is a housing agency that does not currently administer any programs similar to LEAD. Accordingly, the Coordinator respectfully defers to DOH regarding appropriations for the LEAD program.

In regard to the long-term assistance pilot program, the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) currently administers a state rent supplement program that provides a shallow rental subsidy for a broad target population, including elderly individuals over the age of 60. The state rent supplement provides programs a shallow rent subsidy for households that are low-income and would not otherwise be able to cover the full cost of rent on their own. Because the level of funding for the state rent supplement program is capped at a maximum of \$500 per month per household, the program has the ability to address a large number of households and is one of the more cost-effective programs to address homelessness. In addition to directly assisting homeless individuals and families to access housing, the state rent supplement program prevents homelessness for households that – but for the additional funding provided by the program – find themselves at imminent risk of homelessness. Accordingly, the Coordinator respectfully requests that the legislature consider increasing the current level of appropriation for the state rent supplement program as an alternative to establishing a new similar program specifically for elderly individuals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiālae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

LATE

Date: March 26, 2019

To: Chair Rep. Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Rep. Ty Cullen
and Members of the Finance Committee

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Public Policy Advocate
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of SB 471, SD1:
Relating to Homelessness
Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 2:30 p.m., Capitol room 308

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for Senate Bill 471, SD1, which appropriates funds to the outreach program, rapid re-housing program, housing first program, family assessment centers, law enforcement assisted diversion program, and coordinated statewide homelessness initiative. It further establishes and appropriates funds for a long-term rental assistance pilot program.

As part of its mission to advocate for the human-animal bond, the Hawaiian Humane Society works to keep pets and their families together. Those efforts include encouraging pet-friendly housing policies and offering veterinary care and other support to shelters that welcome pet owners in need. Our field services and veterinary care teams regularly do outreach to unsheltered homeless pet owners to offer pet supplies and other assistance.

As a member of Partners in Care, Hawaiian Humane strongly supports SB 471, SD1, and the effort it represents to increase services to Hawaii's homeless population and, in particular, to expand access to permanent housing.

Please pass SB 471, SD1, which shows compassion for the most vulnerable in our community.

Mahalo for your consideration and let me know if I can be of assistance.

LATE

SB-471-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 4:52:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
"Phil" Augustus Acosta	ALEA Bridge	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-471-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 4:19:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alika Campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB 471 as it addresses the critical need to support services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Homelessness is a complex issue that requires a range of interventions and this bill helps to support many of these.

LATE

FIN-Jo

From: lawmoc@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 4:38 PM
To: FINtestimony
Cc: lawmoc@aol.com
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 471 SD2 HD1-- Relating to Homelessness

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in strong support of SB 471, which makes appropriations for critical programs to end homelessness. If we are finally going to turn the tide on Hawaii's homelessness problem, we need to increase our investment in programs that we know work. This bill will fund proven-effective programs such as Outreach, Housing First, and Rapid Rehousing. In addition to creating more low-income housing, and experimenting with new approaches to address this complex problem, we need to do more of what works. Please make these smart investments by passing SB 471. Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. O. Chun

421 Olomana Street #C
Kailua, HI 96734-2275

(H) 808-263-2141

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SB-471-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 9:29:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jase Ishimi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



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 SD2 HD1 in support
Date: March 27, 2019
Location: State Capitol, Room 308

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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, SD2, HD1.

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, SD2, HD1.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Brandee Menino

Brandee Menino, Chief Executive Officer

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



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Chief Executive Officer
Brandee Menino

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SB-471-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 2:02:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments: