

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB0471 SD1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date and Time: Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

Room: 211

1 **Fiscal Implications:** \$1,700,000 General Fund appropriation to the Department of Health.

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

3 SB0471 SD1 proposes to establish a new pilot program to address the State's housing
4 and homelessness crisis. This measure proposes an allocation of approximately \$16.3M for the
5 Department of Human Services (DHS) to fund and administer the outreach program, rapid re-
6 housing program, housing first program, family assessment centers, and coordinated statewide
7 homeless initiative.

8 Additionally, this measure proposes an allocation of approximately \$1.7M to the DOH to
9 fund and administer the law enforcement assisted diversion program and to establish a long-
10 term rental assistance pilot program to individuals who are over the age of sixty who are
11 homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless and to provide housing counseling and
12 landlord assistance to these individuals for obtaining and retaining permanent housing. Further
13 requirements are noted in SD1.

14 The DOH is the inappropriate agency for the long-term rental assistance pilot program
15 described in Section 3 of this measure. With the exception of the Hawaii Special Supplemental
16 Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC), the DOH does not currently
17 run means-tested housing programs. The DOH would need to acquire that expertise somehow
18 and along the way, resulting in a likely sub-optimal long-term rental assistance pilot program for
19 kupuna.

1 The DOH is without significant experience in the following relevant areas: zoning
2 ordinances, federal and state housing laws, and income and asset verification, nor matters
3 outside the scope of population health management and believes that other programs are more
4 experienced and appropriate in operating a housing program or a direct subsidy program.

5 Section 3 of this measure also provides a measure of funding for the law enforcement
6 assisted diversion (LEAD) Program. The DOH very much appreciates the Committee and the
7 shelter coalition providers for support of sustained funding as it is producing results on Oahu
8 and is preparing to expand to the neighbor islands. Funds for the Oahu LEAD Program are
9 already in the DOH base budget and Section 3 of this measure provides additional funds for the
10 LEAD Program. The DOH respectfully requests that any additional funds appropriated do not
11 supplant other programs or priorities within the Governor’s executive budget, including
12 programs and services with the DHS and Governor’s Coordinator on Homeless (GCH).

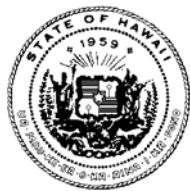
13 As a result, the DOH respectfully urges the Senate to defer this measure for further
14 discussion amongst agency partners and community stakeholders.

15 The DOH asks for the Legislature’s support of the Governor’s Executive Budget request
16 which includes appropriations to the DHS and DOH for Housing First, Rapid Rehousing,
17 homeless outreach, and for outreach and counseling services for chronically homeless
18 individuals with severe substance use disorders.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

20 **Offered Amendments:** If the Legislature wishes to move this measure forward, then we
21 respectfully request the committee to amend the measure to clarify that the pilot program is a
22 Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program focused on homeless individuals and insert the
23 following amendment.

24 “The department of health shall contract with appropriate service providers in each
25 county to implement this program, based on requirements developed by each county.”



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

February 27, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 471 SD 1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: February 28, 2019, 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill; we request clarification and propose a potential amendment. We appreciate the amendments by the Committees on Human Services and Housing.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate 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. Establishes and appropriates funds for a short-term rental assistance pilot program and a long-term rental assistance pilot program.

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

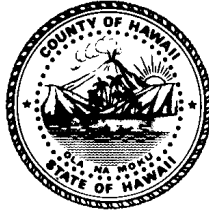
We request clarification as to whether the amount requested for the highlighted item, Stored Property and Debris Removal Services for State Lands is included in the \$16,300,000 of Section 2. If so, we request section 2 be amended to read as follows:

"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.

County of Hawai'i
Council District 9 -
North and South Kohala



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Chair: Committee on Agriculture,
Water, Energy, and Environmental
Management

Vice Chair: Committee on Finance

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 9
25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 26, 2019

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Submission via online testimony

RE: **Support of SB 471**

Hearing Date/Time: February 28, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

Dear Senators:

As the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Water, Energy, and Environmental Management for the Hawai'i County Council, and the Vice Chair of the Committee on Finance, I thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in SUPPORT of SB 471**. It is critical that funds be appropriated, programs be established, and others continued that target and aid our homelessness statewide. With the ever-increasing cost of living in Hawai'i, we need programs that will provide successful avenues to reduce homelessness in Hawai'i.

Please feel free to contact me should you need to discuss my position and knowledge of this matter further.

Sincerely,

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
Hawai'i County Council, District 9

SB-471-SD-1

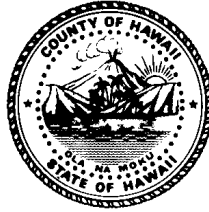
Submitted on: 2/26/2019 5:53:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	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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February 27, 2019

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 471, SD1 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, SD1, 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, SD1, and hope you will fund the programs at a level that will make a real difference for our community.

SB 471, SD1, 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.

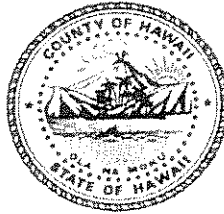
Please act favorably on SB 471, SD1, and even more importantly, consider including funding for these core programs in the Senate version of the State budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

MITCHELL D. ROTH
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DALE A. ROSS
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL NO. 471, SD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 28, 2019, 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Honorable Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means. The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill No. 471, SD1.

This measure 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. Establishes and appropriates funds for a long-term rental assistance pilot program.

These funds are critical to proactively address, prevent and move toward ending homelessness in our state.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i SUPPORTS the passage of Senate Bill No. 471, SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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

February 26, 2019

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 471 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 471 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 a stylized "C".

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

SB-471-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 10:56:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Deges	Testifying for Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation	Support	Yes

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 471, SD 1

TO: Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants, Development & Policy Manager

DATE: February 28, 2019 (10:30 AM)

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** SB 471, SD 1, which appropriates \$16.3 million for the Department of Human Services to fund and administer the homeless outreach program, rapid re-housing program, housing first program, family assessment centers, and coordinated statewide homeless initiative. Additionally, it appropriates \$1.7 million for the Department of Health to fund and administer the law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD) program and to establish and administer and long-term rental assistance pilot program for those kupuna over the age of 60 and are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

HHRC works with many individuals who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those relating to substance use and underlying mental health conditions.

We are a proud member of [Partners in Care](#) (PIC)—a coalition of more than 50 organizations working to address homelessness. Homelessness is a complex problem. No one entity can address the problem on its own and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. PIC is a planning, coordinating, and advocacy alliance that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill needs within Oahu's Continuum of Care for homeless persons.

HHRC is also a member of the [LEAD Hawai'i Hui](#) that has been [implemented on a limited basis on Oahu](#). LEAD was intended to demonstrate that non-coercive and non-punitive approaches

to currently illegal activities such as drug use and other activities that individuals engage in to obtain funds to purchase drugs (e.g. car prowls, mail theft, prostitution, shoplifting) can be more effectively and humanely addressed outside of the criminal justice system. LEAD offers individualized case management services. The types of services accessed are entirely determined by individual participants and their case manager.

LEAD should be expanded to other counties in Hawai'i. The funding in this measure will help ensure that other counties will be able to administer a model that can help transform public responses to behavioral health issues and social determinants of health that are now overly reliant on criminalization and incarceration. Continued criminalization perpetuates institutional stigma that is averse to individual and public health.

Last month, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [issued a report that surveyed the deleterious long-term effects of incarceration on a person's health](#):

People who are incarcerated face greater chances for chronic health conditions, both while confined and long after their release. Incarceration exposes people to a wide range of conditions, such as poor sanitation and ventilation and solitary confinement, that are detrimental to long-term physical and mental health. After release, previously incarcerated individuals often face higher mortality rates and experience limited opportunities for gainful employment, stable housing, education, and other conditions needed for good health.

As a general matter, Hawai'i should increase its capacity to provide low-threshold, evidence-based care and medical treatment for those who need it apart from the criminal justice framework. The [final report of the HCR 85 Task Force on Prison Reform](#), which called for "a new and more sustainable correctional model" that employs "greater use of community-based alternatives to incarceration," noted the unsustainability of continued over-incarceration:

"If we continue on the path we have been on for the past four decades, we can expect the same poor outcomes and high recidivism rates we have experienced in the past, and our communities will not be safer despite the hundreds of millions of dollars we will spend on corrections."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



Habitat
for Humanity®
Hawai'i Island

*Building houses,
building hope*

Deacon Michael Ross
Board President

Dr. AnnMarie Muramoto
Vice President

Anthony Cann
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Melanie Lucas

Napua Kekauoha-Chartrand

Ron Lloyd

Steve Machesky

Patrick F. Hurney
Executive Director

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Community Partner

February 26, 2019

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 28, 2019 10:30a.m.
Conference Room 211

SB471 – Relating to Homelessness

Aloha Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

I am submitting testimony on behalf of Habitat for Humanity Hawaii Island (HFHHI), one of a few affordable housing organizations on the Big Island, to **SUPPORT SB471**

SB 471 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. Establishes and appropriates funds for a long-term rental assistance pilot program.

These funds are critical to prevent and end homelessness in our state.

Mahalo for your time, leadership and consideration. Please contact me directly at 808.937.7443 or pat@habitat-hawaii-island.org should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely

Patrick F. Hurney
Executive Director



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 471, SD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair,
and Members, Committee on Ways and Means
FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: Thursday, 2/28/19; 10:30 am; CR 211

Chair Ruderman, Chair Chang, and Members, Committee on Human Services, and Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of SB 471, SD1 making 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. 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 **\$16.3 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 and veterans 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, although many struggle with ongoing housing affordability, like many other low-income renters. Their findings suggest that **“Rapid Rehousing could be a scalable and cost-effective crisis response intervention that could help communities address homelessness more effectively”**.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i also urges that **\$1.7 million be appropriated to the Department of Health to continue/expand to the Neighbor Islands the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program and to establish a new 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. Many more face homelessness as rents increase. 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 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.



SB-471-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 10:45:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2019 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of WAM,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 471, which makes appropriations for critical programs to end homelessness. We need to increase our investment in programs that we know work, and fund proven-effective programs such as Outreach, Housing First, and Rapid Rehousing. In addition, we must creating more low-income housing, and explore innovative approaches to address this complex problem.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for this bill.

-Phil Acosta

ALEA Bridge

Executive Director



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 SD1: Relating to Homelessness

TO: Committees on Ways and Means

FROM: Partners in Care (PIC)

HEARING: Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 471 SD1, 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. Partners in Care (PIC)—a coalition of more than 50 non-profit, homelessness providers—strongly supports the bill as a critical component of a comprehensive plan to address homelessness in Hawai'i.

If we want to turn the tide on homelessness, two things are key: (1) we need to continue to improve the efficiency with which we use our resources; and (2) we need to make sufficient resources available on a consistent basis.

With respect to improving efficiency, we've seen significant improvements in recent years. Years ago, a family facing homelessness would arrive at service provider's door and receive whatever the provider had to offer whether or not it was the best suited service for the situation. Or the family might be sent away with only a list of other providers and a prayer that one of them could help. Today, regardless of which provider's door they knock on, families are assessed and matched with the services and providers that can best address their particular situation.

Efficiency is critical, but even the most efficient system cannot address a problem of this magnitude without consistent commitment of sufficient resources. Last year, the legislature demonstrated the type of investments we need to be making to address Hawai'i's housing and homelessness crisis, appropriating \$30 million for the Ohana Zones program and \$13.5 million for core homelessness services programs—a \$43.5 million combined investment. SB 471 does not ask for additional funding for Ohana Zones, but it does request an increase in funding for core homelessness services—\$16.5 million. Additionally, Partners in Care supports a \$1.5 million appropriation for a gap-filling kupuna rental assistance pilot program, which would bring the total to \$18 million. Ideally, this level of funding would be added to the base budget to provide stability in funding that would allow service providers to plan long term and more efficiently use these resources.

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. Outreach teams connect those on the streets—youth, families, kupuna, adults, and people suffering from mental illness—to all available

PARTNERS IN CARE, OAHU'S CONTINUUM OF CARE

200 North Vineyard • Suite 210 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 • www.PartnersinCareOahu.org

housing options: Emergency Shelters, Transitional Shelters, Housing First, Rapid Rehousing with rent stipends, and/or treatment (i.e., substance use). For many chronically homeless mentally ill persons, it can take 50 or more individual outreach contacts spread out over several months or even years to build up trust and move them off the streets. Outreach teams may also do wound care, distribute hygiene kits or snacks, and offer to obtain identification documents.

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. The Urban Institute released a 2018 report that found Rapid Rehousing to be successful in helping families and veterans 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, although many struggle with ongoing housing affordability, like many other low-income renters. According to the report, “Rapid Rehousing could be a scalable and cost-effective crisis response intervention that could help communities address homelessness more effectively.” This is a program that works, and it should be consistently and adequately funded.

Housing First: Housing First targets chronically homeless individuals and families with disabling conditions (mental health, substance use, and physical disabilities). It provides subsidized housing, case management services, and other support services. According to a UH Center on the Family study, Housing First saves an estimated \$6,197 per month in health care costs alone, for each homeless participant in Housing First. For a projected 301 participants, that could add up to over \$22 million each year in savings. On average nationally, the Housing First program has kept its clients in permanent housing 85 percent of the time, and local data suggests an even higher success rate in Hawaii.

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. Twenty-eight percent of Hawaii’s unsheltered homeless individuals identify as having substance use disorders. A pilot project funded by the Legislature in 2017 is showing promise in breaking the ineffective, destructive, and expensive revolving cycle of arrest, incarceration, release, and back to addiction and the streets. In 2018, the program was expanded from Oahu to Maui and Hawai’i Island.

Family Assessment Center: The Family Assessment Center (FAC) in Kakaako has had tremendous success. . The Kakaako FAC moves families off the streets in 77 days (average). One-hundred percent of the families have remained in permanent housing. The much-needed capacity provided by the FAC in Kakaako is also needed on neighbor islands and in other areas of Oahu, and the 2018 legislature appropriated funding for an additional FAC on a neighbor island.

CSHI: CSHI (Coordinated Statewide Homelessness Initiative) provides a one-time cash infusion for people on the cusp of homelessness. In just eighteen months of operation in 2016, at a total cost of \$3.7 million, CSHI helped 4,944 individuals retain housing or obtain a housing placement. The program was credited as playing a significant role in a 25% reduction in evictions on Oahu. According to judges, property managers, and eviction attorneys, the program had a dramatic and immediate effect on the prevention of evictions. In 2018, a \$1.5 million appropriation was made for this program, and it is among the programs SB 471 would provide funding for.

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. The program could provide rental assistance of up to \$1,000 per month, such that Kupuna in the program would pay 50% of their income toward rent, which could keep kupuna in their housing and off the street.

To support these key components of a comprehensive plan to address homelessness, Partners in Care urges the passage of SB 471. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

SB-471-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2019 9:02:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angel Hernandez	Testifying for HOPE Services Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

I support the allocation of funding for homelessness programs in the base budget to provide yearly continuity for agencies to service one of our most vulnerable population and strengthen the overall community.

SB-471-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 11:23:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2019 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

As someone who has worked with runaway, homeless, and street identified youth and young adults for over 20 years I have seen too many of them "graduate" in to adult homelessness and lack the skills and resources to transition back. SB 471 provides for important funding for a much needed range of homeless services. As you know, homelessness is a complex issue and there is no "one size fits all" solution so it is imperative to have stable funding for a full spectrum of services. On a very basic level the solution to homelessness is housing, but each subpopulation may need a different approach/intervention; what works for single adults may not be the right fit for families or the elderly, and what works for vets is probably not developmentally appropriate for youth. Please support SB 471 so that we can provide as full a spectrum of services as possible.

SB-471-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 12:04:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
RiSean Tinsley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

SB-471-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 2:37:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Normann	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB471 SD1. Homelessness is a significant concern throughout the State. We should not be proud of the fact that we lead the nation in homelessness, per capita. In order to continue to help house the homeless, we as a state -- and you as legislature -- must continue to fund these essential homeless programs.

SB-471-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 4:54:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toni Symons- HAPI	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB471 SD1 and appreciate that the committee is hearing this important bill today.

SB 471 SD1 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 will also establish and appropriates funds for a long-term rental assistance pilot program.

These funds are critical to prevent and end homelessness in our state. I hear from homeless families every single day who need housing. Without this funding we will not be able to continue the work we do to house our most vulnerable populations. We must end homelessness in Hawaii!

I appreciate all of the Committees consideration.

Toni Symons

SB-471-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 10:16:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendi M Okazaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

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.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

SB-471-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2019 7:37:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christian Lamb	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Bill SB471, as a big step forward in ending homelessness on the Big Island of Hawaii. Thank you for your consideration of this Bill.



SB-471-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2019 10:40:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Goodman	Testifying for Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force	Support	No

Comments:

TO: The Committee on Ways and Means
FROM: Mike Goodman, Director of the Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force, Member, Partners In Care
FOR: Hearing, Thursday February 28, 2019, Room 211, 10:30 AM
RE: SB471

Senator Donovan, Chair, Senator Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and all Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB471.

I'm Mike Goodman, Director of the Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force, and a member of Partners in Care (PIC), which is a coalition of more than 50 non-profit homelessness providers. Members include The Salvation Army, Aloha United Way, Hawaii Harm Reduction, The Institute for Human Services, U.S. Vets and Many others.

The Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force and PIC supports this bill.

The core homeless services programs funded by this bill, which have proven track records, literally end the homeless crisis for individuals who are fortunate enough to receive services. In fact, if these programs were "scaled-up" so that everyone could be served, we would not longer have a homeless crisis in the State of Hawaii. We must continue funding these core programs, and eventually increase funding in order to end the homeless crisis.

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. 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** in health care costs alone, was saved for EACH homeless participant in Housing First. This program successfully keeps 92.5% of its clients in permanent housing. If this program was scaled up to serve all 1600-2000 chronic homeless, it would literally save the State hundreds of millions of dollars each year in the aggregate, for medical care, homeless sweeps, law enforcement, the judiciary, and repairing damaged property.

The Kakaako Family Assessment Center (“F.A.C.”), 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. Because of this spectacular track record, the 2018 Legislature allocated another \$800,000 to fund a second Family Assessment Center. This could serve twice as many clients.

Outreach is critical for connecting unsheltered, chronic homeless to housing navigation and resources to escape homelessness. For severely mentally impaired homeless people, it can take 300 or more contacts to build the trust necessary to get them 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. This will also save the State and counties millions of dollars in the long run.

Data from the Coordinated Statewide Homelessness Initiative (CSHI) 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.**

Rapid Rehousing rent subsidies, quickly enables homeless families with employed heads of households, to obtain market rental housing. The Urban Institute report released in October of 2018, found this model worked to help families and veterans move into housing faster and for a lower cost. Although families continue to struggle financially, the majority do not become homeless again. These findings suggest that Rapid Rehousing could be a cost-effective intervention at a large enough scale to re-house ALL newly homeless families in less than a month.

Two pilot programs would address the gaps in exiting programs:

Short- Term Rental Assistance Pilot Program to Families; Half of Hawaii’s working households don’t earn enough to provide for their basic needs, and have little or no savings. An emergency can easily force them into homelessness. By combining modest subsidies with financial counseling, this pilot could help stabilize families who face the prospect of homelessness.

Long-Term Rental Assistance Pilot Program for Kupuna; The U.H. Center of the Family’s Homeless Services Utilization Report 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.

Year after year, bills have to be written, introduced and passed by the Legislature to fund these core programs. That’s why we ask for an amendment to add the \$16.5 million yearly appropriation to the Base Budget. This will provide a stable source of funding and perhaps, the ability to scale up successful, evidence-based programs.

One reason homelessness is still a major crisis, is these core programs, with proven track records, are not operating at a sufficient scale to serve the estimated six to seven thousand homeless in our State. Although this bill doesn't solve the problem of scale, it keeps these crucial programs going for another year. Hopefully, we can increase their scale in the future. We also must coordinate and consolidate these proven interventions, with robust plans to create enough permanent supportive housing at a sufficient level to end the homeless crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-471-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2019 11:49:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kim krell	Testifying for Big Island Substance Abuse Council	Support	No

Comments:

Please, support SB471

LATE

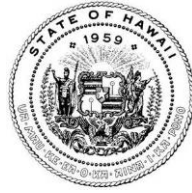
SB-471-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2019 1:12:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vicki L. Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



LATE

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 28, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

SUBJECT: SB 471 SD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Thursday, February 28, 2019, 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator supports this bill and suggests an amendment. The Coordinator appreciates the amendments of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Housing.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds to the DHS and Department of Health (DOH) 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 DOH and appropriates funds.

Homelessness remains one of the most pressing challenges facing Hawaii, and the State has adopted a comprehensive framework to address homelessness that focuses on three primary leverage points – affordable housing, health and human services, and public safety. The Coordinator works closely with DHS, DOH, and other state agencies to implement this framework. In particular, housing-focused services – such as Housing First, outreach, civil legal services, and Rapid Re-Housing – have contributed to recent reductions in the number of homeless individuals statewide. Between 2017 and 2018, the number of homeless individuals in Hawaii decreased by 690 individuals (9.6%). The decrease was one of the largest numeric decreases in homelessness in the country, only exceeded by decreases in California, Florida,

and Michigan. This recent decrease is the second consecutive decrease in homelessness in Hawaii – representing an overall 18% reduction since 2016.

If this bill proceeds, the Coordinator respectfully requests an amendment to Section 2 to include language regarding the Stored Property and Debris Removal program for State lands. DHS currently has a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Transportation (DOT) that enables DOT to oversee property storage and debris removal activities statewide for all state lands. In 2018, property storage and debris removal efforts addressed unauthorized encampments and other related violations (e.g. unpermitted structures, sidewalk obstruction, etc.) in all four counties, including areas under the jurisdiction of DOT, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, University of Hawaii, Department of Education, Department of Agriculture, Department of Accounting and General Services, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Hawaii Housing and Finance Development Corporation, Agribusiness Development Corporation, Hawaii Community Development Authority, Hawaii Public Housing Authority, and other State agencies. During the same period, 423 homeless individuals encountered during these enforcement and cleanup efforts were placed in shelter, housing, or other long-term placements (e.g. residential treatment, medical respite, etc.). The Coordinator notes that the level of funding requested for the Stored Property and Debris Removal Program is \$5,000,000 annually.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

LATE

SB-471-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2019 9:21:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandon W Duran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am writing in strong support of SB 471 SD1. Let's keep funding services and programs that have proven to be effective in reducing homelessness in Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-471-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2019 6:12:46 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB471. The homeless need all the help they can get. Compassion aside, it will also help to reduce the “home **Late** problem” businesses regularly complain about.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei



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 in support**
Date: February 28, 2019
Location: State Capitol, Room 211



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.

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**.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brandee Menino,
Chief Executive Officer

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



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Brandee Menino

LATE

SB-471-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2019 4:31:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joe Gabel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe this bill would help provide necessary, critical support for a largely marginalized and underserved population. Thank you for hearing this important legislation and for the opportunity to submit testimony.