



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

and

The House Committee on Housing

Representative Tom Brower, Chair

Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 10:20 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 423

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by

Calvin Ching

Deputy Chief Court Administrator, First Circuit

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

Purpose: 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. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

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

REPRESENTATIVE TOM BROWER, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Hearing Date and Time: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 10:20 a.m.

Room: 423

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) respectfully opposes this measure
3 as it pertains to the DOH only.

4 SB0471 SD2 proposes to establish a new pilot program to address the State's housing
5 and homelessness crisis. This measure proposes an unspecified allocation for the Department
6 of Human Services (DHS) to fund and administer the outreach program, rapid re-housing
7 program, housing first program, family assessment centers, and coordinated statewide
8 homeless initiative.

9 Additionally, this measure proposes an unspecified allocation to the DOH to fund and
10 administer the law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD) program and to establish a long-term
11 rental assistance pilot program to individuals who are over the age of sixty who are homeless or
12 at imminent risk of becoming homeless and to provide housing counseling and landlord
13 assistance to these individuals for obtaining and retaining permanent housing. Further
14 requirements are noted in SD2.

15 Regarding Section 2 of this measure, the DOH takes no position on this section and
16 defers to the DHS regarding the Governor's Executive Budget which includes appropriations to

1 the DHS and DOH for Housing First, rapid re-housing, homeless outreach, and for outreach and
2 counseling services for chronically homeless individuals with severe substance use disorders.

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

12 Section 3 of this measure also includes unspecified funding for the LEAD program. The
13 DOH very much appreciates support of sustained funding as the LEAD program is producing
14 results on Oahu and is preparing to expand to the neighbor islands. Funds for the Oahu LEAD
15 program are already in the DOH base budget and Section 3 of this measure provides additional
16 funds for the LEAD program. The DOH respectfully requests that any additional funds
17 appropriated do not supplant other programs or priorities within the Governor's Executive
18 Budget, including programs and services with the DHS and Governor's Coordinator on
19 Homeless (GCH).

20 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

21 **Offered Amendments:**

22 Delete sections 3, 4, and 5 of this measure.

23

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

February 27, 2019

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

The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair
House Committee on Housing

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

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

Hearing: March 19, 2019, 10:20 a.m.
Conference Room 423, 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. (SD1) Senate Committee on Ways and Means amended the measure by changing the amounts to unspecified amounts, defected the effective date, and made technical amendments. (SD2)

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.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

March 19, 2019

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

The Honorable Representative Tom Brower, Chair
House Committee on Housing

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

SUBJECT: **SB 471 SD2 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 10:20 a.m.
Conference Room 423, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator supports this bill, respectfully offers comments, notes the opposition of the Department of Health (DOH) regarding the establishment of a long-term assistance pilot program, and respectfully requests clarification regarding the establishment of the pilot program.

The Coordinator appreciates the amendments of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Housing, which removed language to establish a short-term rental assistance pilot program for families and required newly established programs to participate in the Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry System (CES) for homeless services and input data into the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

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.

The Coordinator appreciates the legislature’s support for core homeless programs administered by DHS and DOH and notes that funding for a LEAD pilot program on Oahu is included in the DOH base budget and contracts have also recently been executed for pilots on Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii island. In addition, 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

The Coordinator notes that HB116 SD1 appropriates only \$1 for stored property and debris removal services. There is concern that the removal of funding for this item will significantly hinder the State’s ability to address trespassing and unauthorized encampments on 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.) on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii island. 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.).

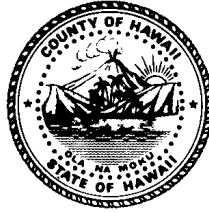
In regard to the long-term assistance pilot program, the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) currently administers a state elderly public housing program for individuals over 62 years of age and includes a preference in its state family public housing program for the elderly and for individuals experiencing homelessness. In addition, HPHA and the Department of Human Services (DHS) currently administer several programs – including Rapid Re-Housing and the state rent supplement program – that provide shallow subsidy support for a broad population, which includes both the elderly and individuals experiencing homelessness. DHS

also administers the Housing First program that provides a deep rental subsidy and intensive case management for chronically homeless individuals and is in the process of procuring services for the Coordinated Statewide Homelessness Initiative (CSHI) that will provide financial assistance for individuals who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. Accordingly, it is unclear whether there is a need for an additional program to provide long-term rental assistance specifically for the elderly.

If this bill proceeds, the Coordinator respectfully requests clarification on the intended duration and scope of the proposed long-term rental assistance pilot program, how the proposed pilot differs from the current state elderly housing program and other related programs, and whether the needs of the target population can better be addressed by increasing the capacity of current programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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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March 15, 2019

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

Representative Tom Brower, Chair
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair
Committee on Housing

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Brower, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Matayoshi, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 471, SD2 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, 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, and hope you will fund the programs at a level that will make a real difference for our community.

SB 471, SD2 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

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 15, 2019

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

Representative Tom Brower, Chair
And members of the Committee on Housing

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 a long, sweeping underline.

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 471, SD 2

TO: Chair Brower, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and Housing Committee Members
Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and Human Services &
Homelessness Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants, Development & Policy Manager

DATE: March 19, 2019 (10:20 AM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** SB 471, SD 2, which appropriates funds 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 funds 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 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.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

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

TO: Representatative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair, Representative Tom Brower, Chair, and Members, Committees on Human Services and Homelessness, and Housing

FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawai'i

Hearing: **Tuesday, 3/19/19; 10:20 AM; CR 423**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of SB 471, SD2 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. 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"**.

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. 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.



SB-471-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 9:49:19 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/19/2019 10:20:00 AM

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

Comments:

TO: The House Committees on Human Services & Homelessness and Housing.
FROM: Mike Goodman, Director, The Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force and Member, Partners In Care Advocacy Committee.
RE: SB471 SD2
HEARING: Joint Committee Hearing on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 10:20 a.m. Conf. Rm. 423

Dear Representative San Buenaventura, Chair and Representative Kakamura, Vice Chair, of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness; Representative Tom Brower, Chair and Representative Matayoshi, Vice Chair, of the Committee on Housing; Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 471.

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.

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.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS	DIRECTORS			MAILING ADDRESS
John Bickel, President	Melodie Aduja	Ken Farm	Stephen O'Harrow	P.O. Box 23404
Alan Burdick, Vice President	Guy Archer	Chuck Huxel	Doug Pyle	Honolulu
Marsha Schweitzer, Treasurer	Juliet Begley	Jan Lubin		Hawai'i 96823
Dylan Armstrong, Secretary	Gloria Borland	Jenny Nomura		

March 17 , 2018

TO: Honorable Chairs San Buenaventura & Brower & HSH & HSG Committee Members

RE: SB 471 SD2 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Support for hearing on March 19

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support SB471 SD2 as it would address our housing problems. 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. If Health does not want it, may we suggest Human Services.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel President



Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair, Representative Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair, Members, House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
Representative Tom Brower, Chair, Representative Scot Matayoshi, Vice Chair, Members, House Committee on Housing

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 471 SD2 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: March 19, 2019, 10:20 am, CR 423

Thank you for hearing **Senate Bill 471 SD2**, which proposes making critical investments to address homelessness in Hawaii. Mental Health America of Hawaii supports this bill.

Mental Health America of Hawaii is a 501(c)3 organization founded in Hawai'i 77 years ago, that serves the community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education and service. Many of our community members suffering from homelessness are also mentally ill and unable to access the mental health treatment that they need due to the instability of their living situation. Homelessness also puts people at risk for mental health issues due to the high level of stress it causes. We need to support programs that both prevent homelessness and directly intervene in it while targeting the diverse types of populations affected by homelessness in our state.

These actions will have a lasting effect on our State and provide a future for our struggling families and individuals who so easily can fall into homelessness.

Thank you for considering my **testimony in support of SB 471 SD2**. Please contact me at trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.

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



Aloha United Way

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Representative Tom Brower, Chair
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Housing

SB 471, SD2, Relating to Homelessness – **SUPPORT with Comments**
March 19, 2019; Hearing Time 10:20 AM; Conference Room 423

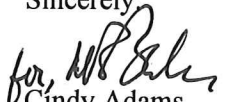
Honorable Chairs, Vice Chairs & Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 471 SD2, 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



SB471 SD2 Outreach, Housing First, LEAD, Rental Assistance Pilot

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS:

- Rep. San Buenaventura, Chair; Rep. Nakamura, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING:

- Rep. Brower, Chair; Rep. Matayoshi, Vice Chair
- Tuesday, Mar. 19, 2019: 10:20 am
- Conference Room 423

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB242 SD2 HD1:

GOOD MORNING CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization of almost 40 non-profit alcohol and drug treatment and prevention agencies.

Many homeless suffer with substance use disorders.

While substance abuse often contributes to homelessness, substance abuse is often involved after homelessness.

Men, women, youth, and families living with mental or substance use issues may need treatment, case management, and discharge planning in addition to financial support (e.g., employment assistance, Housing First programs, targeted rental/housing subsidies) to avoid or escape homelessness. Being homeless, no matter how long it lasts, is a life-altering traumatic event that creates major stress in any person's life, regardless of age.

HSAC supports LEAD, which is supported by a wide range of community/government/agencies to promote public health and safety through diversion approaches from jail towards behavioral health strategies to address the complex issues of homelessness, substance use disorders and mental health issues.

HSAC supports the evolution of these activities:

1. Integrated behavioral health treatment and other recovery-oriented services;
2. Efforts to engage and connect clients to enrollment resources for health insurance, Medicaid, and mainstream benefits (e.g. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), etc.); and
3. Coordination of housing and services that support sustainable permanent housing.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.



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 Human Services & Homelessness and Housing

FROM: Partners in Care (PIC)

HEARING: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 10:20 a.m., Conference Room 423

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Brower, and members of the Committees on Human Services & Homelessness and Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 471 SD2, 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 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.



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

**Testimony presented before the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
& House Committee on Housing
Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 10:20 a.m.
Conference Room 423**

Senate Bill 471, Senate Draft 2

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

Senate Bill 471, Senate Draft 2 appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services and Department of Health 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 through the Department of Health and appropriates funds.

The Young Democrats of Hawai'i stand in **strong support** of passing SB471, SD2.

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

The programs and services supported by SB471, SD2 will supplement coordinated efforts to provide sorely needed housing. Year after year, residents of Hawai'i are having to compromise their standards of living in deference to factors such as fixed or limited income and high cost of living. SB471, SD2 will support Housing First, Rapid Re-Housing, and long-term rental assistance which will increase affordable housing in the state. Housing First and Rapid Re-Housing are programs that have records of success nationwide and throughout the State of Hawai'i and its counties to address homelessness and increase housing opportunities. Appropriating funding especially for long-term rental assistance will provide critical and effective resources to increase the numbers of individuals who will have a place to call home.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of SB471, SD2.

Sincerely,

Executive Committee
Young Democrats of Hawai'i

SB-471-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:24:30 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/19/2019 10:20:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB471. Many in the homeless population can be helped if there are enough funds to assist them.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

SB-471-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 2:02:37 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/19/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tikki Bisbee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: