

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 Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1451 HD2 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Thursday, February 27, 2019, 11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and the proposed amendments of Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2018.

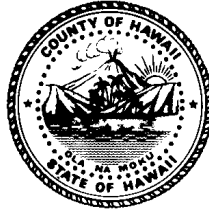
PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to extend the Ohana Zones Pilot Program to June 30, 2022 and the Emergency Department Homelessness Assessment Pilot Program and the Medical Respite Pilot Program to June 30, 2020.

DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO) is in the process of executing contracts for the emergency department homelessness assessment pilot program and medical respite pilot program with the identified provider. The proposed expiration date of June 30, 2020 for the emergency department homelessness assessment pilot program and medical respite pilot program will be beneficial as additional time is needed for the pilots to become fully operational. Accordingly, the due dates for the report will benefit from an extension and provide more accurate data.

HPO has included in its contract the ability to continue services with no cost extension of unexpended funds in anticipation of an amendment to Act 2019, SLH 2018.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony of 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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February 26, 2019

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

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

RE: HB 257, HD1 and HB 1451, HD2 Relating to Homelessness

The County of Hawai'i fully supports HB 257, HD1, and HB 1451, HD2, since each would extend the three- year pilot projects dealing with homelessness by an extra year. HB 257, HD1 is the better bill because it has the added provision that would broaden the scope of the Ohana Zones Pilot Program by allowing for partnerships on private land. This added flexibility is critical, and likely would provide an opportunity to expedite the construction of appropriate housing for individuals experiencing homelessness.

The Sacred Hearts and Hale Iki emergency housing projects on the Island of Hawai'i are a direct result of two separate government and private sector partnerships that led to the creation of thirty temporary housing solutions for survivors of the recent Kilauea eruptions.

Hawai'i County asks that you vote "Yes" on HB 257, HD1, and HB 1451, HD2, but we urge that authorization of partnerships utilizing private land be included in whatever vehicle is forwarded to the full House for action. The added flexibility would be a positive way of implementing the pilot project and maximizing its potential for success.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Members, House Finance Committee
Paula Yoshioka

From: Paula Yoshioka, Vice President, Government Relations and External Affairs, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 26, 2019,

Hrg: House Finance Committee Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 11:00 PM in Room 308

Re: Strong support for H.B. 1451 H.D. 2, Relating to Homelessness

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a not-for-profit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, 66 health care centers and labs, and more than 1,600 physicians statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of H.B. 1451 H.D. 2, which provides for a no cost extension for the emergency department (ED) assessment and medical respite pilot programs currently being administered through Care Coordination at The Queen's Medical Center – Punchbowl. Last year, the 2018 Legislature passed Act 209, which established these pilot programs. Preliminary data has demonstrated their success in reducing strain on our health care system; our request for an extension to June 30, 2020 is to demonstrate the full value of these pilots.

Hawai'i has the highest per capita rate of homelessness in the nation, with roughly 5,000 homeless individuals heavily distributed on Oahu and concentrated in Honolulu and on the Waianae Coast.^{1,2} As an island state, our geographical and isolated position presents unique challenges in serving a homeless population that is densely concentrated. As the primary health system serving this population, by focusing resources for maximum access to this population, we are able to see over 400 unique homeless patients per month and provide them with the care they need.

The ED assessment pilot program is currently operating through the Queen's Care Coalition (QCC). The QCC identifies homeless patients with the highest utilization of emergency services

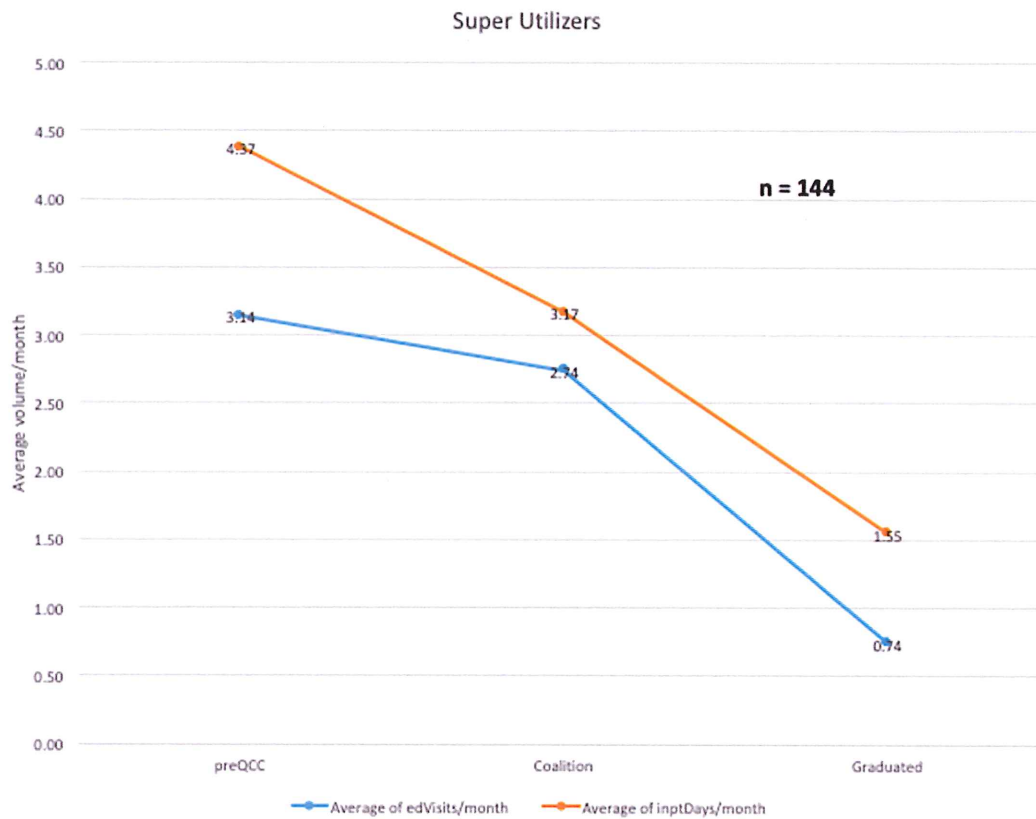
¹ The Department of Housing and Urban Development, "The 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress", December 2017

² State of Hawaii, Homeless Point-in-Time Count, January 22, 2017

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.



and works aggressively to provide care and the right resources. The QCC navigates approximately 225 homeless patients annually, providing them coordinated care and connecting them to community resources such as supportive housing services, social services, behavioral health, etc. to address underlying issues that may stem from their unique circumstances.



Since the start of the QCC in January 2018, the graph (above) illustrates a significant decrease in average volume per month by super utilizers coming to the Queen's Emergency Department. The chart shows utilization per month, per super utilizer three months pre-intervention and three months post-intervention. As we continue to develop and deploy the QCC Team, there is the potential for efforts to be replicated on the neighbor islands for greatest reach and reduced costs and strain on the health care system. An upwards of 64% of all hospital visits by the homeless are at Queen's, where care is delivered at partial or no reimbursement. High utilization of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Emergency Department (ED) resources by homeless individuals also impacts Hawaii's Medicaid program.

Queen's is proud to partner with to the Institute for Human Services on Tutu Bert's House and Ka Uka Respite House to provide Medical Respite services. Both of these facilities provide a stable and transitional supervised environment for homeless patients who have been discharged from Queen's and may need additional time to heal in a more appropriate level of care setting. The need for Medical Respite care for individuals experiencing homelessness is a critical part of

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THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

the continuum of care for this population. Once individuals experiencing homelessness are ready for discharge from a hospital, many times they do not have a place to go to complete their post-acute care recover. Medical Respite facilities not only provide emergency shelter, they also serve as a “place of healing”. Eligible guests are able to recover from acute conditions of medical, surgical or psychiatric nature.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.



O'ahu County Democrats
oahudemocrats.org



Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Finance Committee,

RE: HB 1451 HD1, Relating to Homelessness

I write in support of House Bill 1451, House Draft 2. This bill extends the sunset dates on the Ohana Zones Pilot, the Emergency Department Homelessness Assessment Pilot, and the Medical Respite Pilot Programs.

The 2018 Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i speaks on the moral urgency of our homeless crisis. It compels us to *"fight for robust funding to end homelessness in our cities and counties once and for all, through targeted investment to provide the necessary outreach, social series, and housing options for all populations experiencing homelessness."*

We must do all that we can to hasten housing security for our thousands of houseless individuals, many of home are houseless families. The Ohana Zones concept is fundamentally sound and should continue in the medium-term; it is a targeted, incremental step towards our great vision of housing security for all Hawai'i people. The Assessment Pilot is necessary for developing homeless policy 'to proper scale.'

Furthermore, we need Medical Respite because so many of our homeless have chronic or life-threatening conditions (as an aside, the leading driver of real estate foreclosure in Hawai'i is medical debt), and cannot heal in the heat and on the streets. Notably, medical respite diverts patients from emergency and urgent care, which leads our preventable E.R. trips. Such trips, necessitated by the lack of access or delayed treatment, drives up the cost of healthcare for the working, housed class and disproportionately consumes our scarce monies for social welfare (the latter in accordance with the Pareto principle).

These pilot programs are first steps towards a wiser, more humane chapter in Hawai'i history. I commend Representative Belatti for her compassion and kokua in taking up this matter. I thank the House Committee on Finance for performing its due diligence in considering this tactical measure.

Members, please vote 'aye' on H.B. 1451 HD2.

Respectfully,

Dylan P. Armstrong, Vice Chair
O'ahu County Committee, O'ahu County Democrats

HB-1451-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 10:54:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1451-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 4:16:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB1451. The homeless need all the help they can get. Compassion aside, it will also help to reduce the "homeless problem" businesses regularly complain about.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei



LATE

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 27, 2019

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

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

SUBJECT: **HB 1451 HD2 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 27, 2019, 11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator supports this measure, and appreciates the amendment of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce to extend the Ohana Zones Pilot Program from June 30, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to extend the Emergency Department Homelessness Assessment Pilot Program and the Medical Respite Pilot Program to June 30, 2020, and to extend the Ohana Zones Pilot Program to June 30, 2022.

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 multiple state agencies and homeless service providers to implement this framework through the delivery of housing-focused services like Housing First and Rapid Re-Housing, as well as outreach and treatment services for unsheltered homeless individuals experiencing severe mental illness and/or addiction. The coordinated efforts to implement the State's framework to address homelessness have made progress in reducing 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.

The Coordinator recognizes the critical intersection between healthcare and homelessness, and notes that the Queen's Medical Center has an established Emergency Department Homelessness Assessment and Medical Respite program and has demonstrated the ability to provide a privately funded match for government funding. DHS is actively engaged in contract negotiations with the Queen's Medical Center to implement the two pilot programs described in this measure.

However, since the two pilot programs have not yet been initiated and to avoid the lapse of non-recurring funds appropriated by Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, the Coordinator supports extending the sunset date for the pilot program for one year. If the sunset date for the pilot programs are not extended, there will not be enough time for the Queen's Medical Center to implement the pilots and DHS will be unable to sufficiently evaluate the effectiveness of the programs and make recommendations to continue, modify, or terminate either program.

In regard to the Ohana Zone pilot program, the Coordinator is supportive of additional efforts to address homelessness and, in particular, to expand the availability of permanent supportive housing resources. A report regarding the current allocation of Ohana Zone funds was submitted to the legislature in December 2018, and can be found online at: http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/2019-HRS-346-3819_Report-Re-HICH-Act-209-2018-Re-Ohana-Zone-Medical-Pilots.pdf. The extension of the sunset date for the Ohana Zones pilot program will allow for a full three-year evaluation of programs funded through the pilot.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.