



# PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Continuum of Care

**LATE**

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

## Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1554, HD2: Relating to the Department of Human Services Operating Budget

TO: House Committee on Finance  
FROM: Partners in Care (PIC)  
HEARING: **Monday, 3/11/19; 2:45 pm; conference room 016**

Dear Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members, Committee on Human Services

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB1554, HD2, which would provide proven services that successfully end homelessness. Partners in Care (PIC), a coalition of more than 50 non-profit homelessness providers, strongly supports the sections funding homeless services in this bill.

### **Partners in Care supports an increase in funding for the ongoing programs in HMS 224:**

Item 1--HMS 224: Homeless Services: includes funding for Housing First, Rapid Re-housing, Family Assessment Center (Oahu), Family Assessment Center (new center), Homeless outreach and civil legal services.

Item 15 –HMS 903: General Support for Self-Sufficiency Service: Aftercare services for homeless families with children.

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

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

All the homeless programs funded in this bill are critical to keep moving forward. The one new item to be funded, Aftercare Services, is also extremely important to ensure that families who move into permanent housing can successfully remain there. This is essential since 60% of the individuals in shelters are children. We must ensure these families can maintain a stable home environment.

Partners in Care urges your support for the above listed items in the budget of the Department of Human Services. Thank you for your consideration of this very important bill.