



Hawai'i Convention Center
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David Y. Ige
Governor

Chris Tatum
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
CHRIS TATUM

Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, February 19, 2020
4:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room #308

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 1945 HD1
RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee on Finance: the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) **supports** House Bill 1945 HD1, which allocates Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) revenues into the Tourism Special Fund and appropriates funds for HTA and the Hawai'i Lodging and Tourism Association (HLTA) to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas, subject to private matching funds.

HB1945 HD1 would help Hawai'i in its efforts to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas across the state. Homelessness is a major issue in Hawai'i, and it impacts both the visitor industry and our residents. We believe a coordinated and focused effort which provides resources and support to address homelessness is a proven approach. If this measure is passed, we will be able to work collaboratively with HLTA, the private sector and community to leverage funding that'll help to address homelessness in our tourist and resort areas, thereby creating a more positive experience for both our visitors and residents.

It is for these reasons that HTA **supports** HB1945 HD1. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony.

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: TRANSIENT ACCOMODATIONS; Modify Earmarks

BILL NUMBER: HB 1945, HD-1

INTRODUCED BY: House Committees on Tourism and International Affairs and Human Services and Homelessness

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Allocates TAT revenues into the tourism special fund and appropriates funds for the Hawaii tourism authority (HTA) and Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas, subject to private matching funds. Requires HTA to report to the 2021 legislature. Earmarks in general decrease transparency and accountability, and should be avoided.

SYNOPSIS: Amends section 237D-6.5, HRS, to add a new earmark on TAT revenues. Beginning on July 1, 2020, \$_____ shall be allocated to the tourism special fund; provided that the Hawaii tourism authority shall use the funds, in conjunction with the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association, to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas; provided further that no funds shall be released unless matched dollar-for-dollar by the private sector.

Requires a report to be submitted 20 days prior to the convening of the 2021 legislature.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2099.

STAFF COMMENTS: As with any earmarking of revenues, the legislature will be preapproving each of the initiatives fed by the tax earmark, so expenses from the funds largely avoid legislative scrutiny, and the effectiveness of the programs funded becomes harder to ascertain. It is also difficult to determine whether too little or too much revenue has been diverted from other priorities in the state budget.

If the legislature deems the programs and purposes funded by this special fund to be a high priority, then it should maintain the accountability for these funds by appropriating the funds as it does with other programs. Earmarking revenues merely absolves elected officials from setting priorities. If the money were appropriated, lawmakers would have to evaluate the real or actual needs of each program.

Digested 2/16/2020



HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM
A S S O C I A T I O N

Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Committee on Finance

House Bill 1945 House Draft 1, Relating to the Transient Accommodations Tax

Chair Luke and members of the Committee, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers — **strongly supports** House Bill 1945 House Draft 1 which allocates funds, from TAT revenues if it is matched by the private sector for homelessness solutions. Specifically, we support that the bill recognizes the continued partnership between the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) and the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association (HLTA) in seeking to implement initiatives to address homelessness in tourism impacted areas throughout the state.

Homelessness is particularly acute in Waikiki and Honolulu, but is prevalent throughout popular public parks, beaches, and facilities used by residents and visitors alike throughout our state. It has a direct impact on the visitor experience, is a source of frustration for local residents, and poses a very difficult and often dangerous existence for the homeless.

The hospitality industry, through our association and member hotels and businesses, has placed a laser-like focus on addressing the many issues around homelessness. Over the past 6 years we have contributed well over \$3 million to non-profit organizations on our largest islands, specifically for homelessness outreach, housing, repatriation, and social services. These funds have come from a collaborative effort put forth by the hospitality industry which include monies from our charity walks on Oahu, Hawai'i Island, Kaua'i, and Maui as well as fundraisers held by our lodging members such as the Hawai'i for Hawai'i Benefit concerts.

We thank the Legislature for consideration of HB1945 HD1 and would like to express our gratitude for passage of a similar measure in 2018. Through ACT 86 (2018) we have worked in close collaboration with the Hawai'i Tourism Authority to utilize the full \$1 million allocated to help homelessness programs across our islands. These funds have been spread statewide, helping organizations such as Catholic Charities and Hope Services on Hawai'i Island; Ka Hale a Ke Ola Homeless Resource Center and Family Life Center on Maui; Ohana Christian Fellowship and Kauai Independent Food Bank on Kauai; and Mental Health Kokua, Corvette Center Ministries, and River of Life Mission on Oahu, to name a few. The private funding for these homelessness programs came primarily from the Visitor Industry Charity Walk, which awarded 104 grants to vetted homelessness programs in 2018 and 2019 amassing over \$795,000 in private

donations. Thanks to the public private partnership established in ACT 86 (2018) these non-profits were able to receive a second contribution from the State of Hawai'i to fulfill their mission of combating homelessness.

In addition to the monies matched from the Visitor Industry Charity Walk, we were able to allocate funds to long-time industry partner and leader in the state's repatriation efforts, the Institute for Human Services, to support their Waikiki Outreach Program, and to two nonprofits in the downtown Honolulu region working hand-in-hand with the Honolulu Police Department to alleviate homelessness in the Chinatown district. The matching funds given to the Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center and the Chinatown Improvement District, were a direct result of the tourism industry's 2019 Visitor Public Safety Conference, where HPD's Chief Susan Ballard asked the hospitality industry for support in their proactive approach to diverting homeless on our streets into social services.

Moving forward, the members of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association will continue to fund-raise and donate money through our Visitor Industry Charity Walk and other endeavors to help the homeless population. We appreciate the support from House Tourism Chair Richard Onishi, who has once again introduced this measure for the industry, to Finance Committee Chair Luke for signing on as an introducer of the measure, and to the leadership of the House of Representatives for helping us make this important public-private partnership a reality. For these reasons we respectfully urge passage of HB1945 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

HB-1945-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:12:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Connie Mitchell	IHS, The Institute for Human Services	Support	No

Comments:

IHS, The Institute for Human Services strongly supports this bill that supports the allocation of \$1,500,000 (to be matched dollar for dollar by private funds) to the tourism special fund established by section 201B-II; provided that the Hawaii Tourism Authority shall use the funds, in conjunction with the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association, to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas.

Resort districts have a unique profile of homelessness that pose an economic threat to our visitor industry and residents who live in those districts on each island. Homeless services providers like IHS are eager to respond to the needs of our community. Our efforts have included using grants awarded by the HLTA to:

- 1) convene a stakeholder meeting to develop a comprehensive Waikiki program to address homelessness that focuses on chronically homeless persons with Mental illness and substance abuse
- 2) continue a responsible Repatriation Program that assisted nearly 200 people return to a place of meaningful support in the past year. A return "home" close to family , friends or social service systems that were familiar to them. In any case, half of each airline ticket is paid for by the individual being relocated, matched with funds IHS provides.
- 3) launch a weekly evening outreach event in Waikiki in partnership with other agencies like Waikiki Health, Project Vision, the VA and Revive and Refresh that has consistently drawn 60-80 people each time augmenting our regular outreach efforts during the day. The event provides an opportunity for many to experience a hot shower, enjoy a hot meal, receive urgent care including dressing changes and medication refills, receive help with virtual documents, applications for employment, transport to shelter and more.
- 4) establish a strong partnership with HPD to help identify vulnerable homeless individuals or those who could benefit from access to treatment.

Other non-profits have focused on unaccompanied youth which are often drawn to "party" areas who are also vulnerable to being trafficked or drawn into the illegal drug scene. So much more needs to be done. We hope that the Legislature will see fit to

allocate the funding to continue these types of programs that cannot be delivered without the designated request being made.

I also want to underscore the fact that all these funds are distributed statewide to numerous homeless service providers that deliver services in resort areas, not just Oahu.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer input.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1945 HD1: RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Finance

FROM: Rob Van Tassel, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawaii

Hearing: Wednesday, February 19, 2020; 4:00 PM; CR 308

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support HB 1945 HD1**, which would allocate TAT revenues to the tourism special fund and appropriate funds to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas. I am Rob Van Tassel, with Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii for over 70 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawaii.

This bill helps fill gaps statewide in homeless services in tourist areas, while requiring that the local service providers provide a 1-to-1 match of their grant. For example, in 2019, Catholic Charities Hawaii's Big Island program received a \$40,000 grant which they matched by obtaining community support from Catholic parishes to participate in the local Charity Walk. They even creatively organized a Pastors' Challenge. This leveraging of funds is an important part of this bill. Local communities must support these homeless services in order to obtain these grants. Kauai and Maui also received grants to help address homelessness on their islands.

CCH gap services provided include deposits, rent, back due utilities, etc. as well as items not usually available from homeless programs such as baby and adult diapers (needed for health as well as dignity), baby supplies, transportation coupons/tickets, etc. Move-in kits and mattresses and bedding when families move into permanent housing are also in demand. For example, one young couple from Kona was homeless with a 2 week old baby. The mother had a C-section birth and was still recuperating from this surgery. Seeing this family at the Convoy of Hope event, CCH and HOPE Services staff collaborated on the spot to find safe shelter for them. They were temporarily sheltered on cots in a transitional home while waiting for space in the Kihei Pua Family Shelter in Hilo. Ultimately, the family was housed in transitional housing back in Kona. CCH was able to use the ACT 86 funds to help fill this family's basic needs including transportation, critical baby supplies (diapers, formula, bottles, etc.) as well as food until they were placed. Families can be moved from unsheltered living to housing with some interim help.

We urge your support for HB 1945 HD1 and **\$1.5 million to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas.** If you have any questions, please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at (808) 373-0356, or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone (808) 373-0356 • bettylou.larson@CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org



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

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

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

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

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 18, 2020

To: Representative Sylvia Luke
And members of the Committee on Finance

Testimony in Support of HB 1945 HD 1 Relating to the Transient Accommodations Tax

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HB 1945 HD 1 Relating to the Transient Accommodations Tax.

Specifically, HYSN supports the allocation of \$1,500,000 to address homelessness in tourism and resort areas. HYSN expresses no opinion on the other funding allocations in the bill.

For the past two years, HYSN has received funds from the Hawaii Tourism and Lodging Association that have supported professional development training for youth workers who provide services to runaway and homeless youth. The funds also provide a portion of the non-federal matching funds required for our federal grants that support outreach, emergency shelter and transitional living services to youth ages 12 – 21. Currently, these grants bring in \$550,000 per year in federal funds to help the most vulnerable segment of our homeless population – our children and youth.

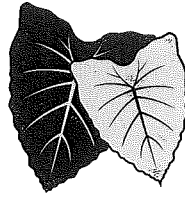
On behalf of the homeless children and youth and their families who will benefit from this initiative, we ask for your support on HB 1945.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Hearing on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 4:00 p.m., Conference Room #308
Regarding HB 1945, HD1, "A Bill for an Act Relating to the Transient
Accommodations Tax"

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I ask that you would **strongly support HB 1945, HD1** to allocate revenues into the tourism special fund and appropriate funds for the Hawaii Tourism Authority and Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas, subject to private matching funds.

Since 1997 Partners in Development Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity has served over 110,000 of at-risk children and families including homeless through its nine programs across the state. PIDF has benefitted from participating in the Visitor Industry Charity Walk and receiving funds from the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association for over five years. These funds have been critical in supporting our Ka Pa'alana Homeless Family Education Program, Tutu and Me Traveling Preschool, Ke Kama Pono Safehouse for adjudicated male teens, We Are Oceania Micronesian support program, and Hui Ho 'omalua statewide foster family program. Without funds such as these, we could not provide the many services that we do for those most needy to positively impact our state. **I humbly and strongly ask that you support HB 1945, HD1.**

Me ke aloha,

Jan E. Hanohano Dill
President

Serving Hawai'i's Families, Living Hawaiian Values



ALOHA MEDICAL MISSION

Bringing Hope and Changing the Lives of the People We Serve Overseas and in Hawai'i

HB1945 HD1

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In Memoriam

Senator Daniel K. Inouye
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Past President

To: Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

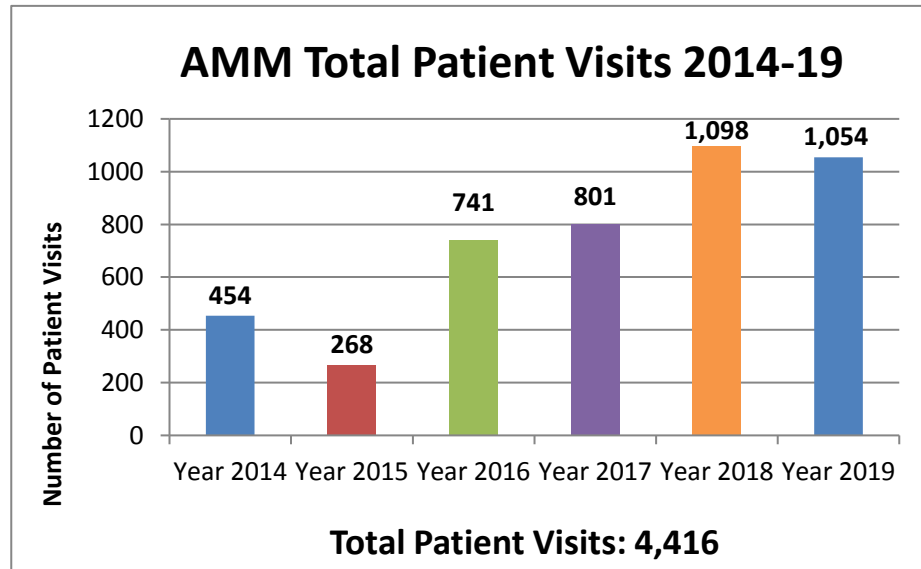
Date: February 18, 2020

Organization Name: Aloha Medical Mission
Program Name: Clinic & Outreach

Aloha, I am Jocelyn Kimura of the Aloha Medical Mission, Hawaii's Only No-Cost Dental Clinic.

We are in favor of House Bill HB 1945 HD1.

The Aloha Medical Mission is home to Hawaii's Only No-Cost Dental Clinic. We serve the 30 percent of the state population that lacks dental insurance and care for about 120 patients a month.



For the houseless, dental care is not usually a priority, which can lead to tooth decay; gum disease; and other health issues. The mouth is the gateway to the body's health! An unhealthy mouth may increase the risk of serious health problems such as heart attack; stroke; poorly controlled diabetes; and preterm labor. We fill the healthcare void by providing FREE interim basic care: including oral examinations; x-rays; fillings; cleanings; extractions; and limited root canals.



The opportunity to see a dental provider brings the patient pain relief and comfort and can allow them to make improvements in their lives as they gain confidence with better oral health. The increase in confidence brings back their smiles and self-esteem. Self-esteem is vital to living a happier and healthier life.

In 2019, this funding assisted the dental program to see 1,054 patients and provide \$855,000 in in-kind dental services. We were honored to have the support of the State and the Visitor Industry Charity Walk's matching program.

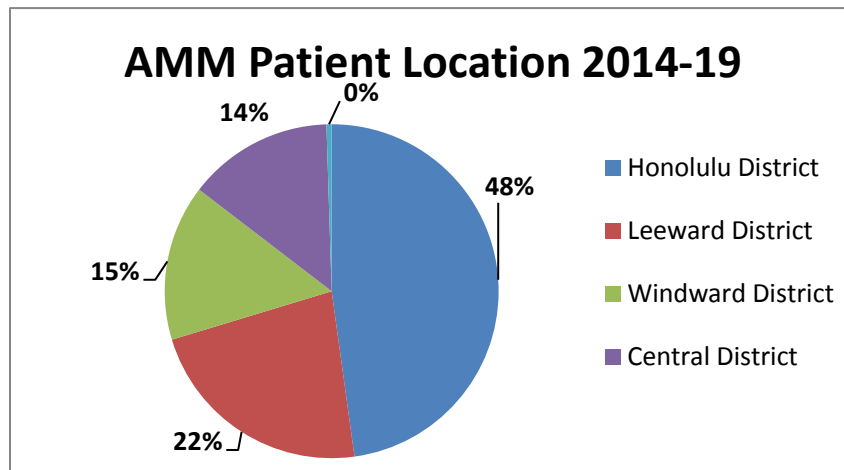
In conclusion, your support of HB 1945 HD1 will allow programs like ours to continue to reach the houseless one by one, offering a change in their oral healthcare that can affect their personal outlook. We, at the Aloha Medical Mission, are committed to improve the lives and the smiles of the underserved and uninsured in our communities.



Outreach Work



Homeless Partnership



Mahalo for your consideration and the opportunity!

Jocelyn Kimura
(808) 380-7668

Aloha Medical Mission is Hawaii's Only No-Cost dental clinic that makes a difference in the lives of families throughout our communities.

LOCAL IMPACT

www.alohamedicalmission.org

or call 808-847-3400

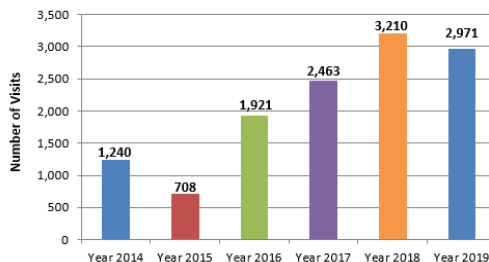
Through community support, dental volunteers, and devoted staff, we have made incredible strides!



Free Dental Services for the Underprivileged Include:

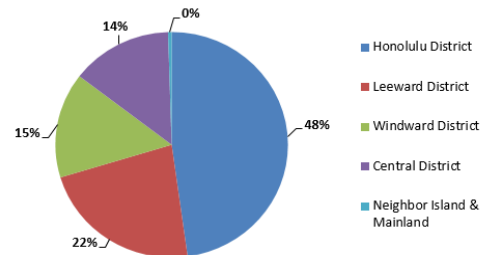
- ◆ A variety of dental procedures –cleanings, fillings, & limited root canals
- ◆ Keiki “First Smile” oral health education/ presentations
- ◆ “Welcome Smile” denture program for women who experienced abuse or incarceration
- ◆ Emergency Dept “Emergen-Teeth” Discharge Program
- ◆ Kupuna & Homeless Outreach

AMM Total Patient Visits 2014-19



Total Visits: 12,513

AMM Patient Location 2014-19



PATIENT TESTIMONIES

"Aloha Medical Mission did an awesome job! The care I receive has made my confidence so much better. My self-esteem has gone from 0-100. I am truly grateful for everyone here!"
- Rayna C.

"My need for a dentist has everything to do with keeping the teeth I have. Aloha Medical Mission is helping me do that."
- Lynn S.

"A smile is very important. I'm happy to get my teeth repaired here. The dental care I receive from Aloha Medical Mission brings me a sense of relief knowing that my teeth are okay."
- Roger K.

"They are very careful when doing things. Everyone makes me feel welcome and the dentist explains everything great and in a way that I can understand. I have a better understanding of being able to continue to maintain good oral care."
- Kimberlee A.

"My smile affected my self-esteem and confidence in a positive way. My oral health is good and it's improved since coming here. They helped me."
- Chris C.

WHAT IT MEANS TO

smile

The Aloha Medical Mission No-Cost Dental Clinic is a volunteer organization based in Honolulu. We provide free dental care to the underserved people in Hawai'i and across the Pacific and beyond.



Self-esteem is vital to living a happier and healthy life. Visiting the dentist has several benefits for overall oral health that leads to a confident smile. Smiling creates a feeling of happiness that relates to good oral health.

The condition of your mouth can have an impact on the way you feel about yourself. Tending to your oral health needs can help you feel confident in your smile. The Aloha Medical Mission is committed to improve the lives and smiles of our underserved and uninsured community in Hawai'i.

The Aloha Medical Mission's No-Cost Dental Clinic performs basic dental procedures, including exams, cleanings, extractions and limited root canals. Once the patient's oral health is deemed stable, they are referred to a low cost comprehensive clinic for annual care.

Since 2002,
ALOHA MEDICAL MISSION
has served over
6,000 dental patients
and provided over
\$8.7 million in dental services.

Let us give you the beautiful, healthy smile you've always wanted.



ALOHA MEDICAL MISSION
dentalclinic



To: Members of the Committee on Tourism & International Affairs
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Chair
Rep. Daniel Holt, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

Hawai'i Alliance for Arts Education, dba Hawai'i Arts Alliance, is writing to you to in support of HB 1945 RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX, which allocates TAT revenues into the tourism special fund and appropriates funds for the Hawaii tourism authority (HTA) and Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas.

One of our education programs, Turnaround Arts Hawai'i, has benefitted from these funds through the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association and its Visitor Industry Charity Walks. Over 1,500 students and teachers have been positively impacted with this support.

Turnaround Arts (TA) Hawai'i is affiliated with the national TA program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Our schools - Kalihi Kai Elementary School [K-5] and Kamaile Academy PCS [PreK-12] – currently are 2 of 79 schools nationwide participating in this program. Turnaround Arts is a partnership program that supports and guides high needs schools as they use the arts to amplify their improvement efforts. It is a two-pronged approach; 1) building high value arts assets in the schools; and 2) strategically leveraging those assets to better achieve broader school improvement goals. At the core, we believe that arts education programming can be strategically used to address persistent and pervasive problems commonly found in high poverty, underperforming schools, especially in the areas of school culture, climate, and engagement. This whole school design supports, builds, and reinforces student and staff success.

Both of our Title I schools have students and families experiencing homelessness. A majority of the students receive free and/or reduced lunch. In addition, all Kamaile Academy students receive free breakfast.

The visual presence of homelessness impacts both schools. A homeless encampment at Wai'anae Boat Harbor is two minutes away from the Kamaile campus. At Kalihi Kai, homeless people camp on the grounds at night. For safety purposes, Kalihi Kai kindergarten classrooms are locked during the day due to the busy adjacent Kalihi Street and questionable individuals hang out at the bus stops located there.

Through the Turnaround Arts Program, students practice and hone skills in creativity, communication, critical thinking, and collaboration. We know that these skills build a foundation in resiliency and confidence that our students will carry with them, as they become contributing citizens in our communities.

Sincerely,
Aaron Salā, Executive Director, Hawai'i Arts Alliance
Teri Skillman, Associate Director, Hawai'i Arts Alliance
Lei Ahsing, Education Director, Hawai'i Arts Alliance



February 18, 2020

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Legislature

Testimony in Support of HB1945 HD1

Dear Representatives Luke, Cullen and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1945 HD1.

The Kohala Coast Resort Association (KCRA) is in support of allocating funding from the transient accommodations taxes to the Hawaii Tourism Authority in partnership with the Hawaii Lodging Tourism Association to address homelessness throughout the state. We know there has been success with repatriation initiatives on Oahu, Maui and Kauai, and look forward to the repatriation program being implemented on Hawaii Island.

Our member properties are actively involved in the annual Visitor Industry Charity Walk, which helps to provide the matching funds from the industry for these important projects. Hope Services Hawaii was one of the primary beneficiaries from our efforts in 2018 and 2019, and we look forward to further opportunities to partner with them and their important efforts to address homelessness on Hawaii Island in the coming years.

KCRA is a collection of master-planned resorts and hotels situated north of the airport which represents more than 3,500 hotel and timeshare accommodations and an equal number of resort residential units. This is approximately 35 percent of the accommodations available on the Island of Hawai'i. KCRA member properties annually pay more than \$20 million in TAT, \$20 million in GET and \$11 million in property taxes.

We encourage your support of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie P. Donoho". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Stephanie Donoho
Administrative Director

HB-1945-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:11:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kauai Food Bank Inc.	Kauai Independent Food Bank	Support	No

Comments:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

Committee on Tourism and International Affairs

Committee on Human services and Homelessness

Kelvin Moniz, Executive Director of Kauai Food Bank Inc. DBA: Kauai Independent Food Bank

3285 Waapa Rd, Lihue, HI 96766 (808) 246-3809

HB1945, Transient Accommodation Tax, 9:00 am at Wednesday, February 12, 2020.

Kaua'i Food Bank Inc. is in full support of Transient Accommodation Tax (TAT) revenues bill, via a tourism special fund, to generate and appropriate funds to be used by the Hawaii tourism authority (HTA) and Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association (HL & TA) to address homelessness on Kauai occurring in tourist and resort areas (-subject to private matching funds).

Kaua'i Food Bank Inc. has a long standing history of providing food and household goods to homeless individuals. We have worked in partnership with the Hawaii Tourism Authority in the past and value the work they do to address homelessness occurring on Kaua'i in our tourist and resort areas. Kaua'i Food Bank Inc. agrees that homelessness has a negative impact on the experience tourists have when visiting Kaua'i. Issues of concern are aesthetics, such as the cleanliness of public bathrooms, and the increased risk to the health and safety of tourists when homeless individuals are seeking accommodations, or money, and choose to occupy areas that are shared with the public. Kaua'i Food Bank Inc. provides food and goods to homeless individuals, and provides supplies and foods to partnering agencies that directly feed, and/or house, homeless individuals. Kaua'i Food bank Inc. knows that local organizations and efforts that provide services to meet the needs of homeless individuals reduces the need for homeless to occupy public spaces, especially tourist areas, and/or approach or harass tourists.

Sincerely,

Kelvin Moniz

Testimony on House Bill No. 1945

Presented to Finance Committee Chair Rep. Sylvia Luke and Vice Chair Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen
And Members of the Committee on Finance
February 18, 2020

By Deborah Spencer-Chun
President & CEO, Adult Friends for Youth

Aloha, I am in strong support of House Bill 1945 Section (1) that allocates funds to Hawaii Tourism Authority in conjunction with Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Associates to implement initiatives to address homelessness in Tourist and Resort areas. There is an urgent need to address the homeless situation in these areas because it eventually leads to crime, drugs and violence against visiting tourist. Despite regular sweeps conducted by HPD, this situation has not deterred the homeless from returning. Adult Friends for Youth has worked with over 50 homeless youth and young adults and continues to follow up in responding to their needs. Many have families and friends who are also homeless and in desperate need of food and shelter. I know this situation will not go away unless we do something about it. It is a topic that has been talked about for years and still we have a long way to go before this issue is resolved. Promoting Hawaii as a beautiful tourist destination can be hindered when homelessness is visible and disregarded. These allocated funds can support the efforts of many to help make a difference in combating the homeless epidemic here in our islands. There is beauty all around when we take care of these needs. It becomes a win, win situation for everyone when we take care of our own.

There are many individuals and families who depend on us make the right decisions. I sincerely hope we don't let them down.

HB-1945-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 12:09:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Madeline Powell	Keiki Cupboard	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Finace Committee & Chair Luke,

I am representing the non-profit Keiki Cupboard here on Maui who has greatly benefited from the grants given to us from the HLTA as matching funds for our Charity Walk. It was such a great surprise to receive the much needed funds to benefit the students in need, of which many are homeless. We are a small group of 8 volunteers that collect and distribute school supplies, shoes, slippers and hygiene supplies to students in need. We have set up "Cupboards" in schools and over the past 10 years, we are now in ALL public schools on Maui! We also send supplies to Molokai & Lanai as well. The cost of setting up a "Cupboard" is approximately \$1500 per cupboard, but once we have it set up, we deliver supplies on an "as needed" basis to the individual schools. The people that distribute the supplies at the school level are teachers and/or councilors who are best equiped to know which students are in need and they are able to give them what they need with out the usual red tape. We have no exact numbers of how many of the students we help are homeless, but if they are in school on Maui, we know they will have access to the tools they will need to succeed.

HB-1945-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 10:36:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
CURTIS TSUZAKI	Corvette Center Ministries	Support	No

Comments:

I am the Founder and President of Corvette Center Ministries, a 501 c (3) organization in the state of Hawaii that helps homeless with housing and programs. I have been receiving state money through HB 1945 for two years which has enabled my organization to create three homes for homeless men and women. Without the funds we would not have been able to do the kind of work we do, which involves housing the homeless and providing mentorship and work programs. In the past year and a half we have helped six men and women who had formerly been homeless. We provide outreach programs to the homeless living on the streets and parks and also partner with other transitional shelters and drug rehab programs which assist the homeless We work with two local businesses who provide vocational training and also encourage our clients with micro business ventures. We also partner with local churches. Our clients can stay up to a year in which time they can become sustainable and pay for affordable housing either in our network or elsewhere. HB 1945 will allow Corvette Center Ministries to continue to offer low cost housing to the homeless and step up efforts to take the homeless directly off the beaches and parks where they currently reside, which has a direct impact on the tourism industry. Please give your support for HB 1945.



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Neighbor Island Board Liaison

February 18, 2020

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

RE: HB 1945 Relating to the Transient Accommodations Tax-IN SUPPORT

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide brief testimony for HB 1945. This bill requests that the legislature authorize an allocation of funds from the transient accommodations tax revenues to the Hawaii tourism authority for the implementation of initiatives, in conjunction with the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association, to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas. These funds would only be released when fully matched by the private sector.

I am the Deputy CEO for Hale Kipa. Our programs, particularly the Youth Outreach (YO!) Program, jointly operated with Waikiki Health, has benefited from this creative way to blend and leverage monies. Our work is focused on providing street outreach, a drop-in Center, case management and other services seeking to help minors and young adults replace homelessness with stable housing, education and employment. Outreach workers canvas the streets (primarily in Waikiki and downtown Honolulu) on a regular basis identifying youth we could assist with basic survival needs and help get reconnected with safe people and placed in safe homes. Our budget tends to be tight and any monies afforded to us from this initiative truly helps us provide these critical services.

Hale Kipa hopes you will look favorably on this bill and allow your monies to match what the private sector also reaps in support of services for our population who is homeless.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, MSW
Deputy CEO, Hale Kipa, Inc.



HB-1945-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 12:48:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carla Houser	RYSE (Residential Youth Services & Empowerment)	Support	No

Comments:

As a homeless youth service provider, we are in strong support of this bill. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1945-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 2:35:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
"Phil" Augustus Acosta	Aloha Harvest	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke & Vice Chair Cullen. My name is Phil Acosta and I am the Executive Director for Aloha Harvest. I am submitting my testimony in strong support of HB1945.

Aloha Harvest is the only organization in Hawaii that does large-scale food rescue. Our mission of rescuing quality excess to feed Hawaii's hungry not only addresses food insecurity, but we also have a significant impact to the State's economy and our environmental resources, which are critical to the tourism industry. In this past year, 2019, we diverted over 1.8 million pounds of food from going to waste. In the process, we helped to feed more than 56,000 of Hawaii's hungry individuals and families, including the following:

29% children

16% Seniors

46% Native Hawaiians

36% working poor

22% homeless

This year, as we celebrate our 20th year anniversary, we are proud to say that we have rescued over 23 million pounds of food from going into our landfills and instead, diverted them to feed those in need. We are a key partner in the community, working with other non-profit organizations to help those in need, to get them off the streets, and back on their feet. We are working together to build a more sustainable and resilient community, which is necessary for a thriving tourism industry.

We could not have done that without the help of over 1,000 food donors and over 300 partner agencies ((with approximately 64% of the businesses and organizations located in Metro Honolulu and Waikiki, within areas most frequented by tourists), along with our generous funders which includes the State of Hawaii and the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Authority. The funds appropriated through the Transient Accommodations Tax Revenues have provided matching funds raised through the Visitor Industry Charity Walk, and have been a tremendous help in allowing us to expand our operations, assist

the most vulnerable in our community, and spread the word about our mission to Waste Less and Feed More. We urge this committee to pass HB1945 . Thank you.

HB-1945-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 4:19:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodee Haole	K.E.L.I.I. FOUNDATION	Support	No

Comments:

The Keiki Education Living Independent Institute (K.E.L.I.I.) support this Bill, we advocate for our At Risk special need young adults that can become homeless.



Friends of the Children's Justice Center of East Hawaii

P. O. Box 6908 ▲ Hilo, HI 96780
Bus: (808) 935-8755 ▲ Fax: (808) 935-8757

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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

Stephanie Oshiro, President
Robin Benedict, Program Coordinator
Friends of the Children's Justice Center of East Hawaii
808-935-8755
P.O Box 6908, Hilo, HI 96720

Wednesday, February 18, 2020

Our organization focus is on meeting the needs of documented abused and neglected children in East Hawaii, and striving to make our public aware of child abuse and child abuse prevention. We work together with community agencies, as the last resource for these children. We strive to ease family stress and give children a sense of normalcy. We have received funding from the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association. Homeless situations are captured in the narrative of our "Special Needs Request" forms. We have frequent requests for beds, bedding, clothing, hygiene items, services and items to meet medical needs, structured care programs, and intersession activities for children who are homeless or in shelter. In some instances, parents are looking for work so that they can find stable housing, and in other cases on the verge of homelessness because of lost employment, or even a homeless teen on the streets, who is a victim of abuse.

Passing HB 1945 would allow continued funding, to meet the critical frontline efforts, which combat homelessness on a daily basis. Here are only a few of the ways we have been able to help:

A homeless family living on pallets. We were able to provide warm clothing for an asthmatic child and a tarp to replace the wall where the child was sleeping, to keep the child safe and warm.

A homeless teenager, who did in-kind services for food and shelter. We were able to work with the school counselor to make sure he had clothing, footwear, school uniforms, and school supplies so that he could finish his last year in high school. He graduated and went on to vocational training.

A single father caring for his young children and in shelter. We were able to pay for a summer program for the children so that he could seek employment and find stable housing.

In all the stories listed above, we partnered with other local community agencies working directly with children and families, as they had exhausted all other resources to meet the requested emergency or special need. When making your decision on HB 1945 please consider the huge positive impact on our homeless community and making a difference.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Oshiro
FCJC-EH / President

Robin Benedict
FCJC-EH / Program Coordinator

HB-1945-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:38:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thelma Akita-Kealoha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I want to give my support to this bill to help people remained housed and to assist homeless families to get into housing. I see so many families struggling to stay housed and asking for housing. I ask for your support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Thelma M. Akita

HB-1945-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 3:32:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill to help us address homelessness in our community. I am a volunteer who has spent many hours trying to help this state solve our homelessness problems, and have previously served as president of the Institute for Human Services and Hale Kipa (youth shelters). I am testifying here in my own capacity.

Our homelessness crisis is complex, expensive, and affects each one of us in many ways. We need sustained sources of funding to help create the funds to address this problem. This bill provides some public support as a carrot for matching private funds, and so incentivizes all of us to be supporting ways to help solve the problems that cause homelessness.

Please pass this bill. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Ellen Godbey Carson

HB-1945-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:45:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joyce Kawakami	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Finance Committee and Chair Luke;

I am the Volunteer Founder and CEO of Feed My Sheep, Inc. On the Island of Maui.

I request that you will support HB1945. Feed My Sheep provides food to several homeless on the Island on Maui. We also work with the Homeless Alliance and I write a column of the Maui News on Homelessness. Even though we do not provide housing we are a direct link to those are in need of housing to the housing resources and do what we can to help people get off the streets on Maui.

We also provide sustenance so that everyone on Maui, the homeless and non-homeless alike, have access to healthy food. This curbs the need for Maui's homeless to beg or panhandle.

In the past year, Feed My Sheep has benefitted greatly by the matching funds that the Hawaii Hotel and Lodging Association provided because of our direct work with Maui's homeless. Please consider the continued support while we on Maui work through solutions that we hope will eventually eliminated homeless on our Island.

Much Mahalo for you kind attention to the matter.

D. Joyce Kawakami, CEO

Feed My Sheep, Inc

PO Box 847

Puunene, HI 96784

HB-1945-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2020 4:33:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

WHO will supervise, keep the HTA and others accountable for dealing with the houseless folks in tourist areas in a respectful and pono way? We've seen the pressure from continent-based hotels and businesses and how they what they do with houseless folks. How will you keep this accountable?

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1945 SD 1

TO: Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the
House Finance Committee

FROM: Heather Lusk
Executive Director, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

DATE: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 4:00 PM Room 308

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** HB 1945 SD1 , which would allocate transient accommodations tax (TAT) revenues into the tourism special fund and appropriates funds for the Hawaii Tourism Authority and the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association (HLTA) to address homelessness in tourist and resort areas subject to private matching funds.

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.

HHRC spearheaded efforts that formed the hui that produced Honolulu LEAD (law enforcement assisted diversion), a collaborative effort with the Honolulu Police Department and, hopefully one day, the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office to steer those who are unsheltered or unstably housed away from the criminal legal system and toward stable housing and needed medical care and social services.

[As the first-year LEAD evaluation has shown](#), intensive outreach and case management can yield beneficial results that would not otherwise be forthcoming in an approach that

HB 1945 SD 1—SUPPORT

Page 2

emphasizes over-criminalization and over-incarceration. As noted by the editorial board of the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, “This kind of sustained outreach is an investment that ultimately yields lasting improvement in the lives of the chronically homeless, and saves public resources as well.” ([“Editorial: A New Approach to the Homeless,”](#) November 5, 2019)

LEAD has now expanded to the other major islands and we hope that the Legislature will continue to favorably view the program’s salutary impacts on underserved populations and the communities in which they live throughout the state.

HHRC remains grateful for the support provided by the HLTA last year, which helped fund these critical LEAD case management services. (Dan Nakaso, [“Funding Boosts Efforts to Reduce Chinatown Homelessness,”](#) *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, July 25, 2019.) Without the funding received we would have been very hard-pressed to provide the level of case management necessary to move people into shelter and to facilitate their health and well-being.

We hope that continued TAT funding will be available to help supplement public efforts to provided needed outreach and case management services to the unsheltered and unstably housed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

LATE

HB-1945-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 7:47:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory Poole	Ohana Christian Fellowship	Comments	No

Comments:

“Your funding made a difference! Without it Ohana Christian Fellowship (OCF) would not have been able to work with and aide the many homeless, addicted and mental health situations located on the island of Kauai. With the Matching funding and in partnership and unity with the Tourism Board, other agencies and the State I believe the impact was deep and as a state we are moving closer to understanding and solving this complicated and difficult situation for the good of all parties. OCF is willing and the funding is imperative so that the work that has begun continues and the community and all involved know somebody cares and safety and a healthy community is a goal and priority. Success is occurring and I would like to encourage you. In Romans 12:1 the Bible records these words “do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” I have seen first hand that this additional funding is providing good and is making a difference! Please continue supporting and funding this effort. You are welcome to call or email anytime for specifics of the lives that have been impacted by good. I believe the funding the State is providing through this program is also a testament to what it should be doing for all citizens and visitors. Once again this is a great program and I want to say thank you! This program and funding is making a difference!” Gregory Poole Pastor Ohana Christian Fellowship

LATE

HB-1945-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 7:51:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Winter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Finance Committee and Chair Luke:

I fully support this bill.

FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN'S JUSTICE CENTER OF OAHU
3019 Pali Highway
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Date: 02/19/2020

LATE

To: House Finance Committee and Chair Luke

Subject: HB1945, Relating to the Transient Accommodations Tax

Hearing Date, Time & Location: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

My name is Jenna Tomas, Program Director for Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Oahu. We are in strong support of HB1945.

Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Oahu (FCJCO) is the nonprofit partner of the Children's Justice Center of Oahu. We support local child victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, sex trafficking, and witnesses to violent crime. We also assist children who have been severely neglected or exposed to drugs. Many of the families that we assist are struggling with poverty. Our organization assists these financially strapped families to help prevent them from becoming homeless, or assist them in escaping homelessness. By providing essential and basic needs for children we can lessen a family's financial burden. We also help provide basic needs for child victims of abuse residing in homeless shelters. Providing assistance to these children in the form of items such as clothing and toiletries, music lessons, or funds for extracurricular activities impacts our community by helping children who have been harmed, heal and become more resilient. Positive outcomes lead to children developing into healthy and contributing members of the community.

In closing, we are in strong support of HB1945 and ask for your assistance in its passing during this legislative session. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 808-445-1873.



Jenna Tomas
Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Oahu
808-445-1873, 3019 Pali Highway Honolulu, HI 96817