

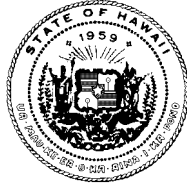
SB-1020-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 9:03:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:



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

February 19, 2019

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 1020 SD 1 – RELATING TO RENTAL ASSISTANCE**

Hearing: February 20, 2019, 10:05 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure, and acknowledges the amendments of the Committees on Housing and Human Services that named DHS as the administering entity. DHS offers comments and proposes additional amendments.

DHS currently provides significant funding for domestic violence services, including emergency shelters for victims of domestic violence and their children. Additionally, DHS financial benefits programs include exceptions to certain program requirements when domestic violence is an issue.

Additional funds for rental assistance will be appreciated. Also, there are instances, when relocation is the best solution for the victim and minor children to gain and attain safety, permanent housing, and to sustain employment; DHS requests that funds appropriated be available for relocation expenses.

While financial management and budget counseling services are appropriate, the immediate priorities in domestic violence cases are safety and stability of the family and children. Having financial management and budget counseling available will be a positive addition, however, it should not be a requirement, as it imposes an additional burden upon

a victim of domestic violence who is seeking safety from abuse. At the very least, completion of the financial management course should not be a primary requirement to receive rental and housing assistance, and a client or program should not be penalized if the recipient of the assistance is offered the course and declines.

DHS further requests clarification if the funding for contracted services for financial education is to be taken from the proposed \$800,000 appropriation. If this appropriation is intended for rental subsidies, DHS will require an additional appropriation to contract the financial management and budget counseling services.

Regarding participation in the coordinated entry system to homeless services and entry of data into the Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS), DHS requests delayed effective dates be inserted for these provisions. The Continuum of Care organizations and the current domestic violence providers, should be given time to consider the appropriateness of the coordinated entry system in cases of domestic violence. This may also entail creation of what is referred to by federal programs as a "comparable database."

Also, federally funded domestic violence programs prohibit and/or limit the type of information that domestic violence organizations are required to share with the HMIS to preserve victim safety. While this appropriation is comprised of state general funds, DHS prefers that data sharing rules be maintained so that protective provisions of federal law also apply to state funded assistance for victims of domestic violence. DHS, homeless services, and domestic violence providers will require additional time to consult and determine how aggregate information (information allowed by federal programs) may be shared by domestic violence providers.

PURPOSE: Requires the department of human services to establish a housing homeless children rental assistance pilot program to assist families with minor children experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic violence. Requires each family member to obtain financial management and budget counseling services. Requires the department of human services to participate in the Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry system for homeless services. Requires inputting of data into the U.S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development's Homeless Management Information System.
Appropriates funds for the pilot program. Requires report to the legislature. (SD1)
Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN
ADMINISTRATOR
BONNIE KAHAKUI
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

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TESTIMONY
OF
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SB1020 SD1

RELATING TO RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB1020 SD1. The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports the intent of the bill and provides comments regarding the exemption language in Section 4, page 3, lines 19 to 21, and page 4, lines 1 to 5:

"The Hawaii public housing authority may procure financial management and budget counseling services without regard to chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, from a United States Department of Housing and Urban Development approved housing counseling agency to assist families receiving rental assistance from the housing homeless children rental assistance pilot program in meeting the financial counseling requirement under section 3 of this Act."

The SPO appreciates that pilot programs of a period of 3 years or less should be authorized an exemption to the procurement code for the purpose of actuating the mission within that period. In order to prevent the department from procuring exempt contracts for a period of performance beyond the pilot, the SPO recommends the following verbiage be added to Section 4.

"The Hawaii public housing authority may procure financial management and budget counseling services without regard to chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, from a United States Department of Housing and Urban Development approved housing counseling agency to assist families receiving rental assistance from the housing homeless children rental assistance pilot program in meeting the financial counseling requirement under section 3 of this Act. The Hawaii public housing authority may procure financial management and budget counseling services without regard to chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes where the period of performance of these contracts does not exceed the 3-year term of the pilot program."

The Hawaii Public Procurement Code (code) is the single source of public procurement policy to be applied equally and uniformly, while providing fairness, open competition, a level playing field, government disclosure and transparency in the procurement and contracting process vital to good government.

Public procurement's primary objective is to provide everyone equal opportunity to compete for government contracts, to prevent favoritism, collusion, or fraud in awarding of contracts. To legislate that any one entity should be exempt from compliance with both HRS chapter 103D and 103F conveys a sense of disproportionate equality in the law's application.

Exemptions to the code mean that all procurements made with taxpayer monies will not have the same oversight, accountability and transparency requirements mandated by those procurements processes provided in the code. It means that there is no requirement for due diligence, proper planning or consideration of protections for the state in contract terms and conditions, nor are there any set requirements to conduct cost and price analysis and market research or post-award contract management. As such, Agencies can choose whether to compete any procurement or go directly to one contractor. As a result, leveraging economies of scale and cost savings efficiencies found in the consistent application of the procurement code are lost. It also means Agencies are not required to adhere to the code's procurement integrity laws.

The National Association of State Procurement Officials state: "Businesses suffer when there is inconsistency in procurement laws and regulations. Complex, arcane procurement rules of numerous jurisdictions discourage competition by raising the costs to businesses to understand and comply with these different rules. Higher costs are recovered through the prices offered by a smaller pool of competitors, resulting in unnecessarily inflated costs to state and local governments."

When public bodies, are removed from the state's procurement code it results in the harm described above. As these entities create their own procurement rules, businesses are forced to track their various practices. Moreover, a public body often can no longer achieve the benefits of aggregation by using another public body's contract because different state laws and regulations may apply to the various public bodies making compliance more difficult.

Each year new procurement laws are applied to state agencies causing state agency contracts to become more complex and costly, while other public bodies, such as agencies with strong legislative influence, are exempted. Relieving some public bodies from some laws by exempting or excluding them from compliance with a common set of legal requirements creates an imbalance wherein the competitive environment becomes different among the various jurisdictions and the entire procurement process becomes less efficient and costlier for the state and vendors.

Thank you.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 20, 2019

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

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

SUBJECT: SB 1020 SD1 – RELATING TO RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Hearing: Wednesday, February 20, 2019, 10:05 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports the intent of this bill, and respectfully offers comments.

The Coordinator appreciates the amendment of the Senate Committees on Housing and Human Services to require participation in the Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry System for homeless services, and for the provider of the pilot program to input data into the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The Coordinator notes that there are separate Coordinated Entry System processes to recognize the safety needs of individuals impacted by domestic violence.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish a housing homeless children rental assistance pilot program. The bill also requires each family member to obtain financial management and counseling services, appropriates funds for the pilot program, and requires DHS to report to the legislature.

As currently drafted, the housing homeless children rental assistance pilot program is restricted to families with minor children experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness due to domestic violence. According to the 2018 statewide Point in Time count, 318 individuals statewide reported that they were victims of domestic violence. Of this number, over half (54%) were unsheltered and living in a place not suitable for human habitation. Nationally,

many families experience homelessness when they are fleeing domestic violence or family conflict, and more than 80% of women with children who experience homelessness have experienced domestic violence.¹

In its Committee Report on this bill, the Senate Committees on Housing and Human Services noted that *“all families, not only families with children who are experiencing domestic violence, stand to benefit from the pilot program proposed by this measure and that this program should therefore be expanded to encompass all families.”* The committees added that supportive services, such as job training and childcare, are also needed to ensure housing stability.

The Coordinator notes there are a number of current programs, such as the DHS Rapid Re-Housing program or HPHA state rent supplement program, which provide similar shallow subsidy support for a broad population that is not limited solely to those experiencing domestic violence. In particular, the Rapid Re-Housing program provides case management in addition to financial assistance, and is focused on transitioning participants from homelessness to stable housing. The Rapid Re-Housing program appears to align with the intent of the Senate Committee on Housing and Human Services to support a program that assists a broader population, and also includes appropriate supportive services.

In addition, the Governor’s executive budget includes a request for a general fund appropriation of \$570,000 and a federal ceiling increase of \$1,330,000 to provide shelter after-care services for homeless families with minor children to assist with a transition to stable housing after exiting shelter. This funding request will leverage federal funds for the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program for shelter after-care services and is consistent with the State’s strategic plan and framework to address homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

¹ Aratani, Y. (2009). Homeless Children and Youth: Causes and Consequences. National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia University.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Rick Collins, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of West Hawaii

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center

Hawaii Student Television

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native

Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

February 18, 2019

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1020 SD 1 RELATING TO RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB1020 SD 1 Relating to Rental Assistance.

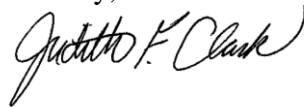
Survivors of domestic violence often experience homelessness. This primarily affects women and children, specifically those who have limited economic resources and no access to safe housing and networks of social support. Sixteen percent (16%) of homeless persons are victims of domestic violence. Approximately half of homeless women report that domestic violence was the immediate cause of their homelessness.

A rental assistance pilot program can allow survivors of domestic violence to obtain and maintain stable housing and minimize the effects of the trauma that the victims, especially children, have experienced. Domestic violence can have a profound impact on a child's brain development, academic performance, mental health, and ability to form trusting relationships.

HYSN recommends expanding eligibility for the program to include families with minor children who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness due to unplanned health care expenses or other emergencies. We would also support shallow rent subsidies for working poor families whose income is inadequate to pay the current costs of rental housing.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



SB-1020-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 12:12:31 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

RE: SB1020

Hearing: Wed, 2/20/19; 10:05 am; Rm 211

To: Committee on Ways and Means; Chair; Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair, Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

From: Mike Goodman, Director, The Hawaii Kai Homeless Tas Force; Member of Partners In Care

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of **SB1020**

This bill provides crucial funding for a rental assistance pilot program which as a practical matter, will primarily serve women with children who are forced to flee their homes because of domestic violence.

We propose the following amendments:

First; This should be a permanent program, not a pilot. When someone becomes homeless because they're fleeing domestic violence, the reason they don't have a home is almost always because they can't afford to rent a place on their own; The violence that made them flee may be a sociological problem, but the cause of their homelessness is purely financial, and money is always the solution. It's therefore axiomatic that rent-subsidies will work 100% of the time. Therefore, if this program is worth doing (and it is) it should be permanent.

Second: AS WITH THE OTHER RENT SUBSIDY BILLS, WE THINK THIS SHOULD BE CONSOLIDATED WITH SIMILAR BILLS, AND ALL RENT SUBSIDIES SHOULD BE MANAGED BY A SINGLE DEPARTMENT.

It simply doesn't make sense to have so many different rent subsidy bills, funding so many rent subsidy programs, each with narrowly defined beneficiaries. If we keep going down this road, we'll need a limitless variety of bills and programs to address the infinite variety of personal catastrophes that cause homelessness.

We would need a separate bill and rent-subsidy program for parents with children fleeing domestic violence who also have cancer; Another rent subsidy program for families with children who have special needs and are fleeing domestic violence, and yet another program for handicapped parents with children who are fleeing domestic violence, another for hanai parents and so on and so on.

It makes much more sense to combine everything into a single rent-subsidy appropriation bill, which defines a bona-fide beneficiary as pretty much anyone in need, to fund a single rent subsidy program, to be administered by a single department. Then, the Legislature can specify that families with minor children experiencing domestic violence are to be given priority over families without minor children who are not experiencing domestic violence, etc. etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-1020-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 9:14:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Gilbreath	Testifying for Hawaiian Community Assets	Support	No

Comments:

As the State's largest HUD-approved housing counseling agency, we strongly support SB1020. Our organization has experience providing homeless families with children financial management counseling as well as individual development accounts and loans to help with obtaining and sustaining permanent housing.



February 18, 2019

Senator Donovan Delacruz, Chair Ways and Means
Senator Keith-Agaran, V-Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 1020, SD 1 Relating to Homelessness

Dear Senators Delacruz, Keith-Agaran, Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Gail Breakey, Chair of the Board of Directors, United Church of Christ Transition House, a program for survivors of domestic violence, testifying in support of SB 1020. This bill will provide rental assistance for a gap group within the homeless community that are not financially stable enough to retain housing but have no other underlying issues.

Fear of homelessness is a major reason why many survivors of domestic violence fear to leave violent situations. The UCCTH provides transition housing for up to one year for survivors. During this time a major challenge is to assist them in finding on-going housing. This has become increasingly difficult in recent years due to the housing crisis and ever-increasing costs of rent. The pilot project will allow shallow, but long-term, rental subsidies meant to stabilize families that are not facing issues such as drug abuse or mental health crisis. Coupled with the financial case management the program would provide, this program will be essential to the families we serve

All homeless families, not only those with children who are at risk for homeless as a result of domestic violence, stand to benefit from this program. Therefore, the program should be expanded to encompass all families with a priority placed on those families who are experiencing domestic violence. Providing long-term, shallow rent subsidy is essential to serve this gap group of homeless children and their families over a longer period of time as they adapt to a new environment than the short-term, emergency assistance current programs allow.

The provisions of this bill will assist gap groups of families that may otherwise become or remain homeless. We urge you to consider and fund Senate Bill 1020. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Gail Breakey, Board Chair
United Church of Christ Transition House



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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TO: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members,
Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pedro Haro, Advocacy Director, PHOCUSED

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of SB1020 SD1, RELATING TO
RELATING TO RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Hearing: February 20, 2019 at 10:05 am
Conference Room 211

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Bill 1020, SD1 **with suggested amendments**. I am Pedro Haro, Advocacy Director for PHOCUSED.

PHOCUSED is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to increasing the safety for, visibility of, and investment in the children and adults in Hawaii who are marginalized, impoverished, and under-served. Our organization has been a leading voice in advocating for our homeless populations since our formation, as the membership of PHOCUSED and our Board of Directors represent many of the major providers of human services across our state.

This bill will accomplish important inter-related solutions to reach a gap group within the homeless community that are not financially stable enough to retain housing.

PHOCUSED, as the former Administrator of the Families Coordinated Entry System, identified a gap group of homeless families; there are a large number of children and their families who are homeless due to economic reasons and do not need traditional case management (low-vulnerability, non-chronic). Coupled with the financial case management the program would provide, this program will be essential to homeless children and their families who are homeless simply because they are struggling economically. The pilot project will allow shallow, but long-term, rental subsidies meant to stabilize families that are not

PHOCUSED is a membership and advocacy organization for health and human services in Hawaii, which works together with community stakeholders to collectively impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our state. Our commitment to the people is reflected in our name – Protecting Hawaii's 'Ohana, Children, Under-Served, Elderly, and Disabled. We are guided by the shared commitment of our members to protect the interests of Hawaii's people and the sector which seeks to provide them with quality programs and services.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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facing issues such as drug abuse or mental health crisis. All family members, including children, will receive guidance from a financial case manager.

We also agree with the Senate Committees on Housing and Human Services that all families, not only those with children who are homeless as a result of domestic violence, can benefit from this program. Therefore, **we believe the program should be expanded to encompass all families with a priority placed on those families who are experiencing domestic violence.**

As we continue to see the tide changing in the amount of homeless individuals and families, we have the responsibility to identify and assist gap groups that are at risk of being left behind. The programs in this bill will assist those gap groups of homeless families that may otherwise fall through the cracks. We urge you to please consider and pass Senate Bill 1020, SD1.

PHOCUSED is a membership and advocacy organization for health and human services in Hawaii, which works together with community stakeholders to collectively impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our state. Our commitment to the people is reflected in our name – Protecting Hawaii's 'Ohana, Children, Under-Served, Elderly, and Disabled. We are guided by the shared commitment of our members to protect the interests of Hawaii's people and the sector which seeks to provide them with quality programs and services.