



*The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i*

**Testimony to the Thirty-Second Legislature, 2023 Regular Session**

**House Committee on Finance**  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Friday, February 24, 2023, 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference

by:  
Brandon M. Kimura  
Deputy Administrative Director of the Courts

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 1397, H.D. 1, Relating to Supportive Housing.

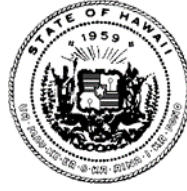
**Purpose:** Establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

**Judiciary’s Position:**

The Judiciary testifies in support of the intent of this measure, which includes strategies to improve public safety and address significant challenges to public systems. In particular, the proposed supported services of mental health and substance use counseling are resources in high demand and low supply.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 22, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 1397 HD1](#) – RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.

Hearing: Friday, February 24, 2023, 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure, suggests an extended effective date to facilitate planning, and defers to the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, and the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation in this measure not replace or adversely impact priorities identified in the executive budget and Governor's Messages.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to establish a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS). The bill appropriates funds and establishes positions. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

DHS appreciates the amendments made by the Committees on Housing and Health & Homelessness:

- (1) Clarifying that the \$500 monthly project-based rent supplemental payments to project owners are for units that are rented to eligible residents participating in the Supportive Housing Pilot program to assist the project owners maintaining rentals at

- levels affordable to eligible households with incomes at or below third percent of the area median income;
- (2) Clarifying that the SOHHS shall administer payments for supportive services under the Supportive Housing Pilot Program;
  - (3) Changing the appropriations to unspecified amounts; and
  - (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The Department agrees that there is a need for significant public financing of supportive housing since the free market is not generating the essential inventory despite the need. Additionally, there is a critical need for rental subsidies and services to support households with acute needs to maintain housing over time. While a one-time appropriation can support upfront housing construction, sustained funding is needed to ensure continued rental subsidies and supportive services for clients served by the pilot program.

The bill proposes that supportive services funding for the pilot be matched with federal Medicaid funds. The Med-QUEST Division (MQD) is currently piloting the Community Integration Services (CIS) program, which provides pre-tenancy and tenancy supports to households experiencing or at risk of homelessness. However, participation in CIS is limited to households currently enrolled in a Quest Integration (QI) managed care plan, and the CIS program cannot use Medicaid funds to pay for rent. If this measure proceeds, DHS will continue discussing with the SOHHS and other stakeholders how the CIS program could support households participating in the proposed supportive housing pilot.

DHS notes the difference between supportive housing, as described in this measure, and the Housing First program, the permanent supportive housing (PSH) program currently administered by the DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO). The Housing First program specifically serves “chronically homeless” individuals and families as required by section 346-378, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The State’s Housing First program is very successful, with a retention rate of 94%, reflecting the percentage of participating chronically homeless individuals and families who remained in their permanent housing placement with the assistance of rental subsidies and supportive services.

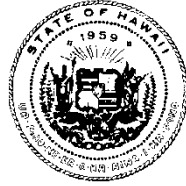
In addition, as drafted, this measure intends to serve “individuals with special needs,” a broader population than the State’s Housing First program that serves “chronically homeless”

individuals and families. The measure contemplates a supportive housing strategy that combines housing and supportive services for a wide range of households with acute needs and is not limited to those experiencing homelessness. For example, supportive housing may serve survivors of domestic violence, individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and the elderly.

Therefore, developing a broader supportive housing program to serve individuals with special needs will require additional resources and time to plan amongst agencies, communities, and stakeholders; consequently, DHS suggests an extended effective date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 17907  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of  
**Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director**  
**Hawaii Public Housing Authority**

Before the  
**House Committee on Finance**

10:00 a.m., February 24, 2023  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Room 308

In consideration of  
**HB 1397, HD1**  
**RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

Honorable Chair Yamashita, and Members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning House Bill (HB) 1397, HD1, relating to supportive housing.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** the enactment of HB 1397, HD1, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions.

The HPHA believes in increasing and maintaining supportive housing opportunities for individuals with special needs and hopes to assist in this supportive housing pilot program. The HPHA stands ready and looks forward to assisting the Legislature in this endeavor and looks at this measure as an opportunity to be part of the overall solution needed to address all housing related issues in Hawaii.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with its testimony regarding HB 1397, HD1. We thank you very much for your dedicated and continued support.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
February 24, 2023

The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
The Thirty-Second Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Yamashita and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1397 HD1 RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB1397 HD1**, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

Supportive housing will massively benefit members of the Intellectual/Developmental Disability community (I/DD), which is disproportionately houseless. An increase in housing that is accessible to vulnerable special needs populations can be essential to ensuring those with I/DD are able to live safely and independently.

The support systems included in this pilot program also increase long-term benefits for populations in need of housing. Specifically, we would like to highlight the responsibility to, when possible, maximize the possibility of employment (page 5, lines 8-9). Under Hawai'i's Employment First commitment, the importance of I/DD individuals being able to work is highlighted. Finding employment can increase I/DD independence and integration into the community, benefitting both the individuals and strengthening the community as a whole.

This pilot program will ensure that our community is supported with accessible decent housing, increasing their quality of life, encouraging independence, and promoting community participation.

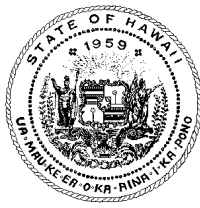
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of HB1397 HD1**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu*  
1177 Alakea Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**TOMMY JOHNSON**  
DIRECTOR

**Melanie Martin**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Michael J. Hoffman**  
Acting Deputy Director  
Corrections

**William F. Oku**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1397, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO SUPPORTING HOUSING.

by

Tommy Johnson, Director

House Committee Finance  
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

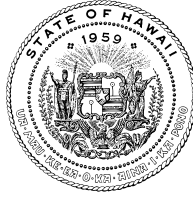
Friday, February 24, 2023; 10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and via Video Conference

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) offers comments on House Bill (HB) 1397, House Draft 1, which seeks to establish a supportive housing pilot program for individuals with special needs within the Office of Homelessness and Housing solutions and appropriate funds to support these purposes and the positions that will be needed to carry out this measure.

PSD has previously stated this measure will address several categories of persons facing various housing challenges statewide. Individuals transitioning from incarceration experience additional barriers, including mental health issues, which compound their difficulties to avoid homelessness and secure appropriate and affordable housing. This lack of access adds to the population who remain incarcerated past their minimum sentences and makes the transition to reenter the community much more difficult. PSD will work closely with the Governor's statewide offices on homelessness and housing solutions and other entities, including Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, on the initiative proposed in HB 1397, House Draft 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on HB 1397, House Draft 1.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of **James Koshiba**  
Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness  
Before the  
**House Committee on Finance**  
February 24, 2023  
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 308  
In consideration of  
**House Bill 1397 HD1**  
**RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB1397 HD1 and to offer comments.

This bill is aligned with the Governor's priorities on homelessness, which include an emphasis on supportive housing to reduce unsheltered homelessness.

The program proposed by this bill would provide an important complement to existing permanent supportive housing programs that reduce homelessness, such as the Housing First program, which is focused on "chronically homeless" individuals, i.e., individuals who have a diagnosed physical disability, mental illness, or addiction and who are verified as having been "homeless continuously for at least twelve months or, homeless on at least four separate occasions in the last three years..." (HRS §346-378).

Many individuals experiencing homelessness may not meet the definition of "chronically homeless." Others meet the definition, but cannot obtain or retain the necessary documentation, such as verification of their diagnosis or the duration of their "chronicity" needed to qualify. In addition, anyone who is homeless, but enters a hospital, treatment program, or jail for ninety days or more no longer qualifies as "chronically homeless," even if they still have no housing upon discharge and are therefore returned to the street. Supportive housing not limited to "chronically homeless" individuals, as proposed in this bill, can help fill these gaps.

With regard to Section 2.(c) and the development of supportive housing projects, I defer to the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation. I applaud the targeting of households at or below thirty per cent of area median income, as those experiencing homelessness typically fall within this income range.

With regard to Section 2.(d) and the creation of a project-based rent supplement program, I defer to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. However, I would note that a rent supplement capped at \$500 per month may be insufficient to meet the bill's dual aims to provide, "rentals at levels affordable to eligible households with incomes at or below thirty per cent of the area median income...[and] provide project owners with limited rates of return on their investments in rental housing accommodations..." This



would be particularly difficult as costs of financing, operating, and maintaining housing changes over time. A more flexible approach might be to amend the language in Section 2.(d) to read:

“The Hawaii public housing authority shall implement project-based rent supplement payments ~~of no more than \$500 a month, to project owners for units that are rented to eligible residents participating in the supportive housing pilot program. The project-based rent supplement payments shall be used~~ to assist project owners in maintaining rentals at levels affordable to eligible households with incomes at or below thirty per cent of the area median income ~~by providing owners with project-based rent supplement payments,~~ which, together with rental payments received from eligible tenants, will provide project owners with limited rates of return on their investments in rental housing accommodations.”

With regard to Section 2.(e), since contracts for services often fall under Chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I would request that the language in this section be amended to read:

“The statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions shall be exempt from chapters ~~103D and 103F~~, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in selecting a qualified nonprofit organization to administer the supportive services payments and may, without regard to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, establish rules and qualification standards for participants of the supportive housing pilot program.”

I defer to the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division on the feasibility and scalability of utilizing Medicaid funds to match state funds for supportive services.

With regard to Section 2.(g), I would note that implementation of this pilot program may require new construction, followed by inter-agency coordination to place individuals into housing, provide supportive services and rent supplements, and gather data on results *after* tenants have sustained their housing for some time. Therefore, I would request lengthening the effective dates related to implementation and reporting as follows:

“(g) The Hawaii housing finance and development corporation, Hawaii public housing authority, and statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions shall submit a joint interim report of findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, regarding the supportive housing pilot program to the legislature by December 1, 2024, and a final report of findings and recommendations by December 1, 2025.”

Mahalo for your consideration.

James Koshiba  
Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM  
**HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO:

677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 587-0620  
FAX: (808) 587-0600

Statement of  
**DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA**  
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

February 24, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 308

In consideration of  
**H.B. 1397 HD1**  
**RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.**

HHFDC agrees that supportive housing is an innovative solution to house special needs populations, which includes the chronically homeless, individuals with disabilities, those transitioning from incarceration, and those suffering from substance abuse. HHFDC also understands that supportive housing has been proven to significantly reduce costs and use of our public systems as well as strengthen and enhance our local communities.

HHFDC **supports** H.B. 1397 HD1, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (the Office) and facilitates coordination and cooperation among state housing agencies to assist the Office with implementation. The pilot program contemplates the development of rental housing project(s) in which some or all of the units are targeted to special needs households who require supportive services and have incomes at or below 30% of the area median income (AMI).

This measure covers the basic components that are critical for a PSH project to be successful – a onetime appropriation for the development and construction of the PSH project and funding streams to cover the other annual costs associated with this type of facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830  
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882  
aarp.org/hi | [aarphi@aarp.org](mailto:aarphi@aarp.org) | [twitter.com/AARPHawaii](https://twitter.com/AARPHawaii)  
[facebook.com/AARPHawaii](https://facebook.com/AARPHawaii)

**The State Legislature  
House Committee on Finance  
Friday, February 24, 2023  
Conference Room 308, 10:00 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair

RE: Support for H.B. 1397, HD1 Relating to Supportive Housing

Aloha Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

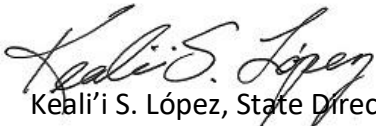
My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social impact organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the issues that matter most to older adults and their families.

**AARP supports H.B 1397 HD1** which establishes a supportive housing pilot program with the goal of increasing and maintaining supportive housing opportunities for individuals with special needs.

We appreciate this rare opportunity for the State to focus on creating supportive housing services especially for the extremely low income households who are at or below 30% AMI. Affordable supportive services have been the missing component in keeping residents with special needs to reside in a safe and clean residence and reducing homelessness in the state. Having services such as mental health, substance abuse counseling and activities of daily living support would benefit vulnerable and at risk residents including Hawaii's kūpuna, and allow them to maintain their independence and quality of life.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support **H.B. 1397, HD1.**

Sincerely,

  
Keali'i S. López, State Director

**HB-1397-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 11:17:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kevin Carney	Affordable Housing Connections LLC dba AHC Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Committee on Finance, on behalf of AHC Hawaii, I am submitting testimony in support of HB1397 HD1.

Kevin R Carney

President & Principal Broker (RB-16444)



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

### TESTIMONY: SUPPORT HB 1397 HD1: RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

TO: House Committee on Finance  
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
Hearing: **Friday, 2/14/23; 10:00 AM; Videoconferenc**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members, Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in Strong Support of HB 1397 HD1**, which would establish a supportive housing pilot program in the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions. I am Rob Van Tassell, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners In Care (PIC).

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 75 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, people experiencing homelessness, and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Catholic Charities Hawai'i has a long history of working in the areas of affordable housing and homelessness.

**This is a key bill for planning future housing and services to vulnerable populations in our state.** Supportive housing is a growing need not only to address homelessness but also for the growing number of elders, developmentally disabled and other people who need housing and coordinated services. The lack of a supportive housing system not only impacts on the ability of these individuals to live independently and positively in the community, but it can result in **costly institutional care and other high public costs.** The 2018 report that evaluated Honolulu's Housing First program (Pathways Project) found that **health care costs decreased by 76%, resulting in a cost savings of \$4,247/per person/per MONTH.** Incarceration costs showed a decrease of 40%-60%. Stable housing with regular services enables more preventative and ongoing care which can shift medical needs from the ER to regular out-patient settings.

This is a comprehensive bill that addresses one of our state's toughest community problems—homelessness. The rental subsidies, services and construction funds for affordable rentals in this bill are 3 key elements for success. This bill provides an even greater opportunity for success by establishing the Supportive Housing Pilot Program within the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS). The SOHHS can provide the collaboration and oversight to take this big step forward! By coordinating with state, county and community agencies, as well as developers, the SOHHS would have the tools needed to build successful supportive housing models. Developing successful models through this pilot program will benefit not only houseless individuals but other vulnerable populations who need these types of affordable housing with ongoing services.

The price may seem big, but our emergency rooms, hospitals, jails, prisons, and our streets are overwhelmed. By working to end homelessness, great savings can be achieved. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at [alohabettylou@hotmail.com](mailto:alohabettylou@hotmail.com) or (808) 373-0356 if you have any questions.





## **HB1397 HD1 Supportive Housing Pilot Project**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Friday, Feb 24, 2023 10:00: Room 308

### **Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB1397 HD1:**

*ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies and recovery services.*

Connection, support, sobriety, employment, and quality of life—these are all significant outcomes for people in recovery.

**Supportive Housing (SH) is community-based housing targeted to low-income households with that combines housing with case management and wrap around care.**

**A wide range of housing options are needed because recovery is unique to each person.**

The Hawai'i Supportive Housing Work Group was formed by the Hawaii Interagency for Homelessness through funding by the 2022 Hawaii State Legislature to establish a broad stakeholder group that could benefit from supportive housing, by pairing a housing unit with a rental subsidy and supportive services that fit the residents' needs.

- **This combination enables housing stability for community members with higher needs who may not be able to stay housed with a housing unit alone.**
- Local and national studies demonstrate the benefits of supportive housing on individual residents, our public systems, and our entire community.

SH is not formal treatment but has elements similar to treatment in that they involve peer support and other addiction recovery aids.<sup>1</sup> It's important to have various housing options for people because recovery is unique to each person.

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<sup>1</sup> SAMHSA Affordable Housing Models and Recovery <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/hpr-resources/affordable-housing-models-recovery>

## **SAMHSA's Definition for Homeless towards Recovery<sup>2</sup>**

1. Choice - Making informed, healthy choices that support physical and emotional wellbeing.
2. Home—A stable and safe place to live.
3. Purpose—Meaningful daily activities, such as a job, school, volunteerism, family caretaking, or creative endeavors, and the independence, income and resources to participate in society.
4. Community—Relationships and social networks that provide support, friendship, love, and hope.

**Supportive Housing (SH) helps to develop and provide housing and related supportive services for higher needs people moving from homelessness to independent, supportive living.**<sup>3</sup> Program funds help homeless people live in a stable place, increase their skills and their income, and gain more control over the decisions that affect their lives.

**Services include housing subsidies, transitional housing, outreach, case management, childcare, social skills development, job training/placement, health care, and transportation.** Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) can help with funding. Supportive housing combines non-time-limited affordable housing assistance with wrap-around supportive services for people experiencing homelessness, as well as other people with disabilities including substance use disorders and mental health disorders.

**Study after study** has shown that supportive housing not only **resolves homelessness** and increases housing stability, but also improves health and **lowers public costs by reducing the use of publicly-funded crisis services, including shelters, hospitals, psychiatric centers, jails, and prisons.**

- The SH model has been demonstrated to permanently keep the majority of persons who enter the program from ever becoming homeless again.
- A primary goal to address those significant challenges to help people avoid future episodes of homelessness.
- It's a higher level than a shelter that often limits the hours when a person can be onsite resulting in homeless individuals wandering through the neighborhood during the day.

## **Core Components**

**Supportive housing links decent, safe, affordable, community-based housing with flexible, voluntary support services designed to help the individual stay housed and live a more productive life in the community.** There is no single model for supportive housing's design.

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<sup>2</sup> SAMHSA's Working Definition of Recovery. <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content//PEP12-RECDEF/PEP12-RECDEF.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> HUD Exchange SHP Supportive Housing Program <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/shp/>

There are three approaches to operating and providing supportive housing:<sup>4</sup>

1. **Purpose-built or single-site housing:** Apartment buildings designed to primarily serve tenants with the support services typically available on site.
2. **Scattered-site housing:** People lease apartments in private market or general affordable housing apartment buildings using rental subsidies. They can receive services from staff who can visit them in their homes as well as provide services in other settings.
3. **Unit set-asides:** Affordable housing owners agree to lease a designated number or set of apartments to tenants who have exited homelessness or who have service needs, and partner with supportive services providers to offer assistance to tenants.

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

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<sup>4</sup> United States Interagency Council on Homelessness: Supportive Housing. <https://www.usich.gov/solutions/housing/supportive-housing/>





The Institute for Human Services, Inc.  
Ending the Cycle of Homelessness

**TO:** Honorable Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita  
Chair, House Committee on Finance  
  
Honorable Rep. Lisa Kitagawa  
Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance

**FROM:** Connie Mitchell, Executive Director  
IHS, Institute for Human Services, Inc.

**RE:** HB1397 – RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

**HEARING:** Friday, February 24, 2023 at 10:00 AM.

**POSITION:** IHS supports the passing of HB1397 with comments.

IHS, the Institute for Human Services has been providing emergency shelter services to adult men, women, and families with children on Oahu for over 40 years. Currently, IHS operates supportive housing solutions such as Kahauiki Village for families and kupuna, re-entry homes for formerly incarcerated, and kupuna bridge housing.

The transition from living unhoused to housed comes with a steep learning curve for many, this is especially true for our chronically homeless neighbors. Supportive Housing provides wrap-around support during the housing transition period and thereafter, providing individuals connections to stabilizing programs and/or supportive rehabilitation services that promote independent living and building a new network of support in the community.

During initial intake with service providers, homeless individuals are entered into the Coordinated Entry System and assessed for needs. These assessments highlight the types of support that households need to maintain permanent housing. Supportive services look different per client but can include: ongoing case management, employment support, navigating mental and physical health care systems to access and sustain treatment, financial literacy, nutrition, and interpersonal skill training. IHS delivers these services daily through our City-funded Housing First, HUD-funded Permanent Supportive Housing and Community Care Services (CCS) programs, helping individuals and families learn to live in their apartments and in new communities.

Recognizing the benefits of supportive housing, IHS strongly supports the continued focus on permanent supportive housing solutions. The leverage of federal Medicaid funds matching with State dollars in this measure is important as it funds such critical support services. Without these services, many of our most vulnerable households would be unable to break the cycle that persists even when given the opportunity to be housed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**HB-1397-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 10:22:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angelina Mercado	Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:


The Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence supports this measure.

Sincerely,

Angelina Mercado, Executive Director



 808-733-7060  
 808-737-4977

 1259 A'ala Street, Suite 300  
Honolulu, HI 96817

February 24, 2023

**The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair**

House Committee on Finance

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

**RE: House Bill 1397, HD1, Relating to Supportive Housing**

**HEARING: Friday, February 24, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lyndsey Garcia, Director of Advocacy, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i and its over 11,000 members. HAR **supports** House Bill 1397, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide office on homelessness and housing solutions. Appropriates funds and establishes positions. Effective 6/30/3000

Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® believes everyone needs safe, decent and stable housing as housing and shelter is one of our fundamental needs. Supportive housing has proven to be a highly effective strategy that combines affordable housing with coordinated services to provide individuals with much needed services. As such, we support the creation of a supportive housing pilot program to help provide those without shelter a place to call home while providing them the support they need, especially for those with disabling conditions.

For the foregoing reasons, Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® supports this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.





**Testimony of the Hawai'i Housing Affordability Coalition**  
**SUPPORTING HB1397**– Relating to Supportive Housing  
Conference Room 303 & Videoconference  
**Friday Feb 24th, 2023 at 10AM**

Aloha Chair Yamashita Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the House Committee on Finance,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. HiHAC is in strong support of HB1397; Related to Supportive Housing.

Supportive housing is a proven solution to combating street homelessness. Supportive housing programs offer staff support and affordable housing for those in need of more support than is found in private market housing. This approach has positive benefits for both individuals and society as a whole. According to the Supportive Housing Working Group Report published in 2022 by the Statewide Office on Homelessness & Housing Solutions, individuals who can access supportive housing services show improvements in housing retention, health, and quality of life. The Hawai'i Pathways Project had a housing retention rate of 90% and the Honolulu City and County's Housing First program rate remains at 86%. On a systems level, supportive housing services have proven to decrease healthcare cost by 76% and lower incarceration costs as well. A 2022 evaluation of the City Housing First Program observed that of the people who exited the supportive housing program, not a single participant entered incarceration for two years in a row.

Supportive housing investments are critical to prevent homelessness to those most vulnerable in our community.

HiHAC applauds the legislature for introducing this pilot program and hopes that there can be sustainable and long-term funding for this program such as the revenue proposed through conveyance tax reform in SB678.

Mahalo for your support of this bill.



WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

16 NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BLVD. SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817  
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

Date: February 22, 2023

At the February 14, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board the board supported the concept of House Bill 1397,

Each year in November there is a surge of Mainland Homeless people who somehow arrive in Waikiki. This is probably a result of cold weather on the mainland and the great number of benefits available to Homeless persons in Hawaii. This group and our local homeless have created a huge and very expensive burden on the residents of the State of Hawaii.

The root causes of homelessness are many and no single solution to the problem is available to us. The impact of having homeless persons on the street is not just a terrible thing for the homeless person but for the residents who have to clean up after a homeless person uses a condominium parking lot for a toilet or is begging for dope money or shoplifting from a convenience store.

This group of bills creates the required management, funding for housing and services that will assist the counties in caring for and hopefully resolving many of the problems that drive and continue the suffering of our homeless population.

Mahalo for your concern,

*Robert Finley*

Robert Finley  
Chair



**IN SUPPORT OF HB1397 HD1**

Pacific Housing Assistance Corporation is a Hawaii nonprofit organization with a 43-year history of developing and operating affordable housing for very low to moderate income families, seniors, and persons with special needs. It has been our experience that developing and operating permanent supportive housing especially for those earning 30% of AMI and below is extremely difficult to achieve without government subsidy and support.

We strongly **support** HB1397 HD1 as it not only provides targeted development funds but delivers long term rental assistance and supportive service funding that are even harder to locate and secure. HB1397 HD1 will enable the creation of a variety of permanent housing solutions for a diverse and historically underserved population. We ask for your continued support of HB1397 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Audrey E. Awaya  
Executive Director



## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1397, HD 1

TO: Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Finance Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz  
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: February 24, 2023 (10:00 AM)

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Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** HB 1397, HD 1, which establishes a supportive housing pilot program in the statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions.

As noted in the bills findings, supportive housing “combines affordable housing with access to services to help special needs populations, such as chronic homeless individuals and families, individuals with intellectual, developmental, physical or severe mental disabilities, individuals transitioning from incarceration, emancipated foster youth, individuals with an alcohol or drug addiction, and frail elderly individuals, live more stable and productive lives.” Supportive housing also results in significant reductions to emergency room visits, hospital stays, ambulance calls, and for tenants with criminal legal system involvement reductions in arrests and night in jail.

HHRC Executive Director Heather Lusk currently serves as Board Chair of [Partners in Care O'ahu](#), a planning, coordinating, and advocacy alliance that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill needs within O'ahu's continuum of care for homeless persons. HHRC provides homeless outreach and housing placement navigation services in urban Honolulu and the Upper Windward Coast, including North Shore.

HHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We work 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, and have been deeply impacted by trauma that often includes histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**HB-1397-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 11:35:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am in **STRONG** support of HB1397 HD1. We need this pilot project now more than ever, and I know that we will continue to need supportive housing programs desperately in the years to come.

Mahalo for your consideration.

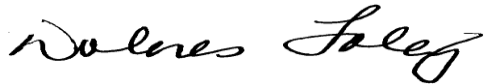


**Hearing Date: February 24 at 10:00 am**  
**House Finance Committee**  
**Submitted by Dolores Foley**  
HB 1397- Relating to Supportive Housing

Dear Chair Yamashita and Vice Chair Kitagawa

**Dolores Foley supports HB1397**, which will establish a supportive housing pilot program. Hawaii is facing an acute housing crisis with limited affordable options for many. This effort would help address our housing crisis. There is a need seek solutions to address housing crisis so that individuals can age safely and securely in their homes with dignity.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dolores Foley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dolores Foley

**HB-1397-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:05:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB1397 HD1.

## **HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair**

**Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair**

**Hearing Date: Friday, February 24, 2023, 10:30 am**

**Re: [HB 1397, HD1](#) - RELATING TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

**Aloha Chair Yamashita and Committee Members.**

**My name is Linda Dorset, a resident of Wailuku, Maui. I thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the above referenced legislation. I strongly support HB1397 which would establish a supportive housing pilot program with the goal of increasing and maintaining supportive housing opportunities for individuals and families with special needs. Supportive housing may serve survivors of domestic violence, individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and the elderly.**

**There is a need for significant public financing of supportive housing since the free market is not generating the essential inventory despite the need, and sustained funding is needed to ensure continued rental subsidies and services for clients served by the pilot program. The lack of a supportive housing system not only impacts on the ability of these individuals to live independently and positively in the community, but it can result in costly institutional care and other high public costs.**

**The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) has already testified in support of the enactment of HB 1397.**

**Linda Dorset**

**Wailuku Resident**

**HB-1397-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 10:04:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Arjuna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HB1397 we need robust supportive housing services

Friday, February 24, 2023

State Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Chair, Committee on Finance  
State Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

### **Testimony in support of H.B. 1397, H.D. 1, Relating to Supported Housing**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. 1397, H.D. 1. My name is Sandra Oshiro and I coordinate the Hawaii Young Adults in Transition, a support group for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.

I am submitting written testimony in support of H.B. 1397, H.D. 1, which creates a pilot program to support and serve populations who are homeless or in danger of homelessness in the state. Among them are those with intellectual or developmental disabilities, including those with autism spectrum disorder. ASD is a growing health issue. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that it now affects 1 in every 44 children.

ASD is a lifelong disability. Many adults on the spectrum have difficulty finding employment as well as housing because of intellectual, social, and mental health challenges. Without the support of family members, including parents who are aging and will soon be unable to care for them, individuals with ASD can find themselves living on the streets.

For a good part of 2022, a broad-based work group brought together by Majority Leader Nadine Nakamura and representing advocates for the homeless, veterans, those with substance dependencies, and a host of other underserved populations met regularly to come up with supported housing recommendations for the Legislature's consideration. H.B. 1397, H.D. 1, reflects many of these recommendations.

Supported housing has been shown to effectively shelter vulnerable individuals while helping them address physical, mental, and other challenges that can otherwise result in a continuing cycle of homelessness.

Hawaii's housing crisis has defied government effort, with those at or below 30 percent of the area median income particularly underserved. This measure's comprehensive approach, including project-based rent supplements, significant rental housing revolving funds, resources for support services, and needed data collection, represents a major step in addressing what Gov. Josh Green has rightly declared a housing emergency.

As others have testified to previously, we ask that the committee closely consider the need for broad exemptions as called for in the bill from Chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, covering rules governing supportive housing project awards. Transparency and public access are key to government trust, so a balancing of interests is necessary in addressing our housing crisis.

With passage of bills like H.B. 1397, H.D. 1, we can make measurable progress in ensuring affordable, equitable housing for those who are most in need. We look forward to your support.

February 24, 2023

TO: House Finance Committee

FROM: Carl Takamura

### **Testimony in Support of H. B. 1397, Relating to Supportive Housing**

My name is Carl Takamura and I appreciate this opportunity to express my strong support for H. B. 1397, which would establish a pilot supportive housing program.

We are all well aware that Hawaii is in the midst of an acute housing crisis and that there is an urgent need to find solutions so that people can live safely and securely in homes with dignity. This is especially true for those who are homeless and at great risk of becoming homeless, such as individuals and families with limited income, kupuna on fixed incomes, veteran with emotional and physical disabilities, and the growing number of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Included among the latter group are adults on the autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Without the help of their parents, who are aging and very concerned about the future of their adult children, many of these individuals with ASD may find themselves living on the streets of our communities.

A working group formed by Majority Leader Nadine Nakamura and composed of a broad cross section of our community, including advocates for the homeless and underserved populations, have made supportive housing recommendations, many of which are contained in H.B. 1397 and its companion measure, S.B. 1551. They did this because their research and experience have shown that providing housing for vulnerable individuals while assisting them to meet their mental, physical and other challenges is an effective homeless prevention strategy.

I urge your support for this important measure.

Mahalo,

*Carl Takamura*