

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2207 SD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: March 2, 2022

Room Number: 211

1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (Department) **SUPPORTS** this measure
2 which would consider the needs of houseless LGBTQ+ youth by requiring a representative from
3 an LGBTQ+ focused organization as a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on
4 Homelessness.

5 **Department Testimony:** This bill is important because LGBTQ+ youth are disproportionately
6 affected by houselessness, as compared to non-LGBTQ+ youth. The “Hawai’i Sexual and
7 Gender Minority Health Report” 2018
8 [https://health.hawaii.gov/surveillance/files/2018/09/HawaiiSexualandGenderMinorityHealthRep
9 ort2018.pdf](https://health.hawaii.gov/surveillance/files/2018/09/HawaiiSexualandGenderMinorityHealthReport2018.pdf)) presented data from the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, showing that
10 transgender youth in Hawaii are eight times more likely to have unstable housing than cisgender
11 youth. Youth who are LGBTQ+ are more likely to be kicked out of their homes due to family
12 members who are homophobic or transphobic, or feel that their homes are not a safe, affirming
13 environment, therefore they are more likely to experience homelessness. According to Oahu’s

1 2020 Point in Time Count report on sexual and gender minorities, 39% of LGBTQ+ houseless
2 people experienced homelessness before the age of 18. Half of the LGBTQ+ people surveyed in
3 this report had a serious mental illness. ([https://www.partnersincareoahu.org/s/SGM-Sub-Report-
4 2020-Final.pdf](https://www.partnersincareoahu.org/s/SGM-Sub-Report-2020-Final.pdf)).

5 For these reasons, the Department strongly supports SB2207 SD1 which will create a position on
6 the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness to be filled by a representative from an
7 LGBTQ+ focused organization.

8 **Offered Amendments:** None.

9 **Fiscal Implications:** None for the Department of Health (DOH).

10 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-2207-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 5:34:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (formerly the LGBT Caucus) Hawai'i's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports SB 2207 SD 1.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair and SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH

SB-2207-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 7:45:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Testifying for Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 strongly supports SB2207. We appreciate the inclusion of a designated representative from an LGBTQ+ focused organization on the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness. Please pass SB2207, SD1.

Mike Golojuch, Sr. Secretary/Board Member, Rainbow Family 808



28 February 2022

Members of the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means:

As a grassroots network striving to bring people together across O'ahu's north and windward shores to ensure that the region that we call home is welcoming, inclusive, and supportive of LGBTQ+ individuals, the North Shore Ko'olau Diversity Collective offers its **Strong Support of SB2207 SD1**.

As the text of the bill makes clear, the problems and challenges of homelessness are particularly acute for LGBTQ+ youth. It is essential, therefore, that an organization experienced in understanding and serving the needs of this vulnerable and underserved population be represented and involved as a formal member of the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness.

Wherever and whenever decisions are being made, nothing about us without us.

Thank you for your attention and leadership on these concerns,

*Joe Wilson, Liz Rago, Michelle Johnson Blimes, Hao Le
Bethany Berry-Weiss, Kunane Dreier, Torrey Lock, Risa Isard*
Organizing Committee

nskdiversitycollective.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2207, SD 1

TO: Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, & JDC Committee Members
Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, & WAM Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: March 2, 2022 (9:30 AM)

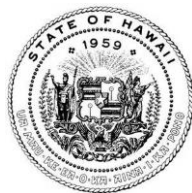
Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** SB 2207, SD 1, which would add a representative of an LGBTQ+ focused organization as a member on the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Representation matters. A key component of harm reduction is to include impacted persons in discussions around programs and policies designed to serve them. In this case, it is important to include the needs of trans and LGBTQ persons experiencing housing instability, including unsheltered homelessness. Trans and LGBTQ persons face range of minority stressors, including structural stigma and internalized shame, that can better inform the policymaking process around homelessness services delivery.

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 currently provides outreach and housing placement and navigation services for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness who are trans and LGBTQ. We also helped to ensure that gender identity and sexual orientation were included the Point-in-Time survey of O'ahu's unsheltered homeless population.

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 impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many have behavioral health problems, including those related to substance use and mental health conditions. Many of our program clients and participants have also been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

March 2, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

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 2207 SD1 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS.**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 2, 2022, 9:30 a.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this measure.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to add a representative of an LGBTQ+ focused organization as a member on the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH).

The Coordinator currently serves as Chair of the HICH, which is a 27-member advisory council, that advises on statewide planning and policy development with broad representation from state and county government and the community. Currently, there is no specific representation for the LGBTQ+ community on the council.

According to the [Partners in Care Sexual and Gender Minorities 2020 Sub-Report¹](#) for the Oahu Point in Time (PIT) count, 94% of sexual and gender minorities experiencing homelessness on Oahu were unsheltered in January 2020. Sexual and gender minorities is an umbrella term that encompasses individuals identifying as LGBTQ+ and individuals whose sexual orientation or gender identity varies. The Partners in Care sub-report found that sexual

¹ Report available at:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5db76f1aadbeba4fb77280f1/t/5f3dab1d2185484ea4ca0578/1597877022199/SGM+Sub-Report+2020+Final.pdf>.

and gender minorities experiencing homelessness have higher rates of disabling conditions compared to the overall homeless population. For example, nearly half of sexual and gender minorities experiencing homelessness reported a physical, developmental, or other disability that impaired their daily life.

The addition of a representative from an LGBTQ+ focused organization would add value to the HICH. A designated representative would enable clear community feedback regarding the development of programs to better meet the unique needs of sexual and gender minorities experiencing homelessness.

If this measure proceeds, the Legislature may consider adjustments to the budget to support this addition of a new member to the HICH, as the addition of a new non-governmental member may add ongoing operational costs. Per [section 346-382 \(b\), Hawaii Revised Statutes](#), non-governmental members of the HICH shall be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



Aloha for All is Good Business

February 28, 2022

RE: Testimony in SRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2207 Relating to the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness

Dear Senators,

The Hawaii Rainbow Chamber of Commerce has a mission to educate and advocate for the advancement of equality of economic and societal opportunities for Hawaii's LGBTQ+ community.

With this mission, we STRONGLY support that the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness include adding a representative of an LGBTQ+ focused organization to be a member of that Council. As you are aware, many studies have shown a disproportionately high number of those experiencing homeless, whether youth or adults, identify as LGBTQ+, which presents an additional set of challenges and concerns. The LGBTQ+ homeless community needs to have dedicated advocacy on its behalf at all levels in working towards solutions.

Particularly concerning are the hugely disproportionate numbers, perhaps 40% of homeless youth, who identify as LGBTQ+ according to different surveys. These young people in particular face long-term consequences of homelessness and are at much greater risk in their mental and physical health, higher risk of sexual abuse and exploitation, and greater risk for drug and alcohol abuse, amongst other social concerns.

As these young people age, it has been found that they naturally experience lower levels of educational attainment, placing them at an even greater long-term disadvantage when they enter the job market with fewer formal skills and education. Growing up without the stable housing, supportive family structures and regular social support of course results in longer-term detrimental issues known by all in the field.

As various levels of government and nonprofits join together to work towards solving this complex issue, we ask that due to the disproportionately high numbers of people experiencing homelessness who identify as LGBTQ+ that a representative of an LGBTQ+ focused organization be a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Winston Welch
President, Hawaii Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

SB-2207-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 3:35:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ashley Galacgac	Testifying for AF3IRM Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2207 SD1, which would consider the needs of houseless LGBTQ+ youth by requiring a representative from an LGBTQ+ focused organization as a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Extreme poverty and homelessness are symptoms of the compounding discrimination and injustice that LGBTQ+ youth experience. Solutions to ensure the safety and care of all in our community need to be led by those with lived experiences.

This bill is important because LGBTQ+ people are more likely to be affected by homelessness. According to Oahu's 2020 Point in Time Count report, 39% of LGBTQ+ houseless people experienced homelessness before the age of 18. Half of the LGBTQ+ people surveyed in this report had a serious mental illness. (<https://www.partnersincareoahu.org/s/SGM-Sub-Report-2020-Final.pdf>). The "Hawai'i Sexual and Gender Minority Health Report" in 2018 also showed that transgender youth in Hawaii are eight times more likely to have unstable housing than cisgender youth.

Thank you for your consideration.

SB-2207-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 11:56:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the JDC and WAM Committees,

As a public health professional and concerned community member, I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2207 SD1, which would consider the needs of houseless LGBTQ+ youth by requiring a representative from an LGBTQ+ focused organization as a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness.

This bill is important because LGBTQ+ people are more likely to be affected by houselessness. According to Oahu’s 2020 Point in Time Count report, 39% of LGBTQ+ houseless people experienced homelessness before the age of 18. Half of the LGBTQ+ people surveyed in this report had a serious mental illness. (<https://www.partnersincareoahu.org/s/SGM-Sub-Report-2020-Final.pdf>). The “Hawai’i Sexual and Gender Minority Health Report” in 2018 also showed that transgender youth in Hawaii are eight times more likely to have unstable housing than cisgender youth.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

SB-2207-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 7:59:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support. Including a representative from the LGBTQ+ community as a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) will enhance solutions to prevent and end homelessness, especially the group targeted by this bill, i.e., the needs of homeless LGBTQ+ youth. This will help to assure that this group is not overlooked in the HICH's strategies to prevent and end homelessness.

SB-2207-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 8:35:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Danielle Sato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Danielle Sato, and I am medical student writing in strong support of SB2207 SD1, which would consider the needs of houseless LGBTQ+ youth by requiring a representative from an LGBTQ+ focused organization as a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness.

We know that the LGBTQ+ community is disproportionately be affected by houselessness. According to Oahu’s 2020 Point in Time Count report, 39% of LGBTQ+ houseless people experienced homelessness before the age of 18. Half of the LGBTQ+ people surveyed in this report had a serious mental illness. (<https://www.partnersincareoahu.org/s/SGM-Sub-Report-2020-Final.pdf>). The “Hawai’i Sexual and Gender Minority Health Report” in 2018 also showed that transgender youth in Hawaii are eight times more likely to have unstable housing than cisgender youth.

It is imperative that we provide structural supports like this bill for this already vulnerable population. Mahalo nui for your consideration.

SB-2207-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 5:57:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB2207 by Senator Misalucha which adds a representative of the LGBTQ+ community to the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness. As you all probably already know, LGBTQ+ youth make up a disproportionately high number of homeless young people. There is nothing more dangerous for a young person than to have no shelter, no understanding, and no support. Let's practice aloha in Hawaii for this particularly vulnerable group of children. Please pass SB2207.

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749

SB-2207-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 6:50:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sonia Blackiston	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2207 SD1, which would consider the needs of houseless LGBTQ+ youth by requiring a representative from an LGBTQ+ focused organization as a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness.

This bill is important because LGBTQ+ people are more likely to be affected by homelessness. According to Oahu's 2020 Point in Time Count report, 39% of LGBTQ+ houseless people experienced homelessness before the age of 18. Half of the LGBTQ+ people surveyed in this report had a serious mental illness. (<https://www.partnersincareoahu.org/s/SGM-Sub-Report-2020-Final.pdf>). The "Hawai'i Sexual and Gender Minority Health Report" in 2018 also showed that transgender youth in Hawaii are eight times more likely to have unstable housing than cisgender youth.

Thank you for your consideration.

SB-2207-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 7:03:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Stop lableingm people this is racist!!

SB-2207-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 8:12:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maddalynn Seseapasara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2207 SD1, which would consider the needs of houseless LGBTQ+ youth by requiring a representative from an LGBTQ+ focused organization as a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness.

This bill is important because LGBTQ+ people are more likely to be affected by homelessness. According to Oahu's 2020 Point in Time Count report, 39% of LGBTQ+ houseless people experienced homelessness before the age of 18. Half of the LGBTQ+ people surveyed in this report had a serious mental illness. (<https://www.partnersincareoahu.org/s/SGM-Sub-Report-2020-Final.pdf>). The "Hawai'i Sexual and Gender Minority Health Report" in 2018 also showed that transgender youth in Hawaii are eight times more likely to have unstable housing than cisgender youth.

Thank you for your consideration.

Maddalynn Seseapasara

SB-2207-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 8:57:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anika Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of SB2207 SD1, which would consider the needs of houseless LGBTQ+ youth by recruiting a representative from an LGBTQ+ focused organization as a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness.

This bill is important because LGTQ+ people are more likely to be affected by homelessness. According to Oahu's 2020 Point in Time Count report, 39% of LGBTQ+ houseless people experienced homelessness before the age of 18. Half of the LGBTQ+ people surveyed in this report also had a serious mental illness. An LGBTQ+ representative serving as a member on the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness would provide the LGBTQ+ community representation and a chance to be advocated for in respects to such a strong issue (homelessness).

Thank you for your consideration.

SB-2207-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 7:03:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Stop lableingm people this is racist!!

SB-2207-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 9:06:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jody Shiroma	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2207 SD1, which would consider the needs of houseless LGBTQ+ youth by requiring a representative from an LGBTQ+ focused organization as a member of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness.

This bill is important because LGBTQ+ people are more likely to be affected by houselessness. According to Oahu’s 2020 Point in Time Count report, 39% of LGBTQ+ houseless people experienced homelessness before the age of 18. Half of the LGBTQ+ people surveyed in this report had a serious mental illness. (<https://www.partnersincareoahu.org/s/SGM-Sub-Report-2020-Final.pdf>).

Having worked in the nonprofit community for over 15 years, I have seen the effects that this has had on our LGBTQ+ community. A simple yet important fix like this can change the trajectory of many in a positive manner.

The “Hawai’i Sexual and Gender Minority Health Report” in 2018 also showed that transgender youth in Hawaii are eight times more likely to have unstable housing than cisgender youth.

Thank you for your consideration.

With aloha,

Jody Shiroma

SB-2207-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 9:12:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/2/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH
1177 Queen St. #2707 Honolulu, HI, 96814
February 28, 2022

Hawai'i State Legislature Re: Testimony in Support of SB2207 SD1

Aloha Members of the Hawai'i State Senate JDC/WAM Committee,

I am a child, adolescent, and adult psychiatrist on O'ahu writing in support of an LGBTQ+ representative on the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness.

39% of LGBTQ+ houseless people experienced homelessness as children, and transgender youth in Hawaii are 8x more likely to have unstable housing than cisgender youth.

This representation would support the safety and wellbeing of so many of our Keiki most at risk.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH, FAPA