

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 16, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: SB 2371 SD2 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

HEARING: March 18, 2022 9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this draft and provides comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to establish a statewide homelessness information system working group to assess the feasibility of establishing a statewide information system to collect and track real-time data related to homelessness in the State, including availability of services, shelters, and low-cost housing in various regions of the State, and that may be utilized by various government agencies to provide efficient and effective assistance to individuals experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness. Appropriates moneys. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD2).

The SD1 made significant amendments as follows:

- (1) Establishing a Statewide Homelessness Information System Working Group within the Department of Human Services to first assess the feasibility of creating a statewide homelessness information system that could be utilized by various government agencies to provide efficient and effective assistance to individuals experiencing homelessness or at-risk individuals, before establishing the system itself;

- (2) Requiring the working group to report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023;
- (3) Requiring the working group's report to include:
 - (A) An assessment of the forms of statewide homelessness information systems that collect, track, and share data in compliance with federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to the protection of personal information, and the form of the system most suitable for implementation in Hawaii;
 - (B) A financial feasibility assessment, including a cost-benefit analysis, of establishing and maintaining the statewide homelessness information system; and
 - (C) An assessment of whether funding for the operation of the system should be included in the base budget of the Department of Human Services;
- (4) Inserting an effective date of December 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The SD2 amended the measure as follows:

- (1) Inviting, rather than requiring, representatives from specific private entities to serve on the task force;
- (2) Specifying the appointing authority for certain listed task force members;
- (3) Requiring that the legislative committee chairs appointed to the working group serve as co-chairs of the working group;
- (4) Clarifying the contents of the working group's report to the Legislature;
- (5) Inserting an appropriation of an unspecified sum for the Department of Human Services to contract with a third-party to prepare the working group's required report; and
- (6) Making technical nonsubstantive changes for purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The Department appreciates these amendments and agrees that understanding homeless data is fundamental to strategically addressing homelessness in Hawaii. The Statewide Homelessness Information System Working Group is a good opportunity for decision-makers and stakeholders to understand the capacity of existing systems and envision a path towards a comprehensive system and or data collaborative.

The Department respectfully requests the appropriation not replace or reduce budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES,
& HOMELESSNESS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2371, S.D. 2

**March 18, 2022
9:30 a.m.
Room 329 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2371, S.D. 2: 1) establishes the Statewide Homelessness Information System Working Group (SHISWG) within the Department of Human Services (DHS); 2) requires SHISWG to assess the feasibility of establishing a real-time, statewide homeless information system; 3) sets membership and reporting requirements for SHISWG; and 4) appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for DHS in FY 23 to contract with a third-party to prepare SHISWG's report to the Legislature.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

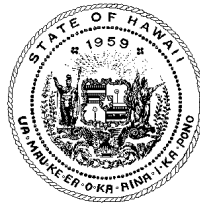
Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
1177 Alakea Street, 6th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

MAX N. OTANI
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Tommy Johnson
Deputy Director
Corrections

Jordan Lowe
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2371, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

by
Max N. Otani, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Friday, March 18, 2022; 9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of Senate Bill (SB) 2371, Senate Draft (SD) 2, which establishes a Statewide Homelessness Information System Working Group within the Department of Human Services (DHS), to assess the feasibility of creating a statewide homelessness information system and to provide a comprehensive report of its findings to the 2023 Legislature.

PSD has previously stated its support for a shared information system and is willing to participate as a member of the Information System Working Group proposed in this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-7400 • FAX: (808) 768-7515

STEVEN S. ALM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

THOMAS J. BRADY
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



THE HONORABLE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, AND HOMELESSNESS
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawai`i

March 18, 2022

RE: S.B. 2371, S.D. 2; RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in support of S.B. 2371, S.D. 2.

With 46 out of every 10,000 people in Hawai`i being reported as homeless--one of the highest rates in the nation--and 70% of our homeless individuals living in unsheltered locations, our State is clearly in a dire situation.¹ Indeed, homelessness not only presents a direct risk to the health and safety of affected individuals, it also serves as an added stressor and/or contributing factor in many crimes.

To pursue the most effective, data-driven initiatives to address homelessness, the Department strongly agrees that Hawaii needs a complete and accurate database of information, which can only be accomplished through a coordinated effort between government agencies and community organizations. The Department greatly appreciates the Legislature's support and resources in creating a Statewide Homelessness Information System Working Group to assess the feasibility and to ensure an efficient and effective system.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports the passage of S.B. 2371, S.D. 2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

¹ "2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress," U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), dated March 18, 2021. Available online at <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>; last accessed January 25, 2022.



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

TO: Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane
Chair, House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Honorable Representative Adrian K. Tam
Vice Chair, House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

FROM: Connie Mitchell MS, APRN, BC, Executive Director
IHS, The Institute for Human Services

SUBJECT: S.B. 2371, SD2 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

HEARING: March 18, 2022, 9:30 am Via Videoconference, State Capitol Conf. Room 329

POSITION: IHS offers comments for S.B. 2371, SD2.

IHS, Institute for Human Services, supports the original intent of S.B. 2371 to create a statewide data clearinghouse. The database would improve interdepartmental and interagency collaboration and allow for greater and more timely and coordinated assistance for homeless individuals. It would also be easier to provide data for the legislation about homelessness and impacts of programs.

We do not need another working group without any resources to implement. The need is evident for a coordinated information system capturing the full spectrum of care utilized by individuals. Homeless individuals are often high utilizers of city, state, emergency and non-profit resources. Currently homeless individuals are added to the State's HMIS (homeless management information system) database when they consent to homeless services, however other utilized services are not tracked in the same place. Those arrested are added to the DPS database. Those who call 911, or seek care in emergency rooms are added to another, and so on... This leads to redundancy of some services and a lack of information to help guide an individual toward the most successful outcome.

A shared system would ensure that emergency services are included as part of the services and programs received by homeless persons, and even provide information from previous services that can help direct treatment at the point-in-time that information is most needed or helpful to avoid duplication of services or delivering interventions that might be counterproductive. Service providers and first responders could find assigned case managers, if one exists, and also track whether they have recently stayed in a shelter or accessed other medical or behavioral health resources, or received certain medications.

All services funded by taxpayers should be coordinated with the data management technology available today. We recognize there are concerns for protection of privacy for individuals, as the database would be accessed by more than service providers who currently use the HMIS system. Information can still be protected and used within the constraints of responsible planning and strict confidentiality expectations. Within this system there is also a wealth of non-identifiable data that could be incredibly valuable for the purposes of planning and allocation of resources to serve at-risk, homeless and chronically homeless individuals.

Thank you.



PARTNERS IN CARE

Oahu's Continuum of Care

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

COMMENTS ON SB 2371 SD 2 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness,

FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)

HEARING: Friday, March 18th, 2022, 9:30am

POSITION: **Comments**

Chair Yamane and Members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness:

Partner In Care, Oahu's Continuum of Care, would like to submit comments on this measure. Data is an integral part of assessing the needs and utilization of services and resources in the homeless service system. It is through the monitoring and evaluation of programs that providers, the community and policy makers can make decisions on the funding, policies and programs available within the community. Partners In Care is the Lead Agency for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and has worked hard to improve this system over the last several years and make more data analysis available to all stakeholders. Partners In Care takes the integrity of this system seriously and endeavors to protect client level data so that those who receive homeless services and resources trust that their information is not being shared inappropriately.

Partners In Care is committed to making aggregate data available to stakeholders and the community and encourage people to reach out to us to review this information on our website. We are also open to suggestions on other dashboards and reports that we could produce as well as the possibility of creating sharing agreements. While the need for a statewide report is understood, we would like any available funding to be placed in services and housing to address homelessness on Oahu and statewide. Both Continuums of Care in Hawaii (PIC and BTG) submit multiple reports throughout the year that helps to inform stakeholders of current trends and data. This includes the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) the Point In Time Count (PITC), reports to the Hawaii Interagency on Homelessness and much more. We work very closely with the Governors Coordinator on Homelessness as well as county representatives from the Mayor's Office on Housing and the Department of Community Services. It is through these relationships that provide guidance to our system.

We appreciate the previous amendments to this measure to create a working group to further discuss the issue of data within our state. At this time, we do not feel that the creation of a new database is warranted and that there are other ways to pull data in a manner that will meet the needs of all stakeholders. We also request that representatives from the Housing and Urban Development be included in this

working group. The majority of funds currently covering the HMIS throughout Oahu come from HUD along with regulations on use of this funding and the metrics required to come from the database.

Thank you for you're the opportunity to comment on this measure. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Aloha

SB-2371-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 11:39:50 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/18/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel M Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2371 SD2: Because doing a street numbers count is not getting a correct number. Another way to get a correct number is to issue a weekly glad trash bag tent to people who can't sleep in houseless shelters. These numbered tents would give the person a name and allow social workers and police a better way to track where they are moving to and who they are socializing with. <https://newatlas.com/glad-garbage-bag-tent/27451/>

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

March 18, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness

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

SUBJECT: **SB 2371 SD2 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

Hearing: Friday, March 18, 2022, 9:30 a.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness appreciates the intent of this bill, and respectfully offers comments. If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator requests that any appropriation not reduce or replace budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish a Statewide Homelessness Information System (HMIS) Working Group to assess the feasibility of establishing a statewide information system that collects and tracks real-time data related to homelessness in the State, including availability of services, shelters, and low-cost housing in various regions of the State, that would be utilized by various government agencies to provide efficient and effective assistance to individuals experiencing homelessness or at-risk individuals.

Comprehensive data is critical to develop, implement, and evaluate policies and programs to reduce homelessness statewide. Accordingly, the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) – a 27-member advisory council – regularly reviews data regarding homeless system performance metrics at its quarterly meetings. The data reviewed by the HICH includes: 1) Statewide Point in Time (PIT) count data; 2) Statewide Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data; 3) The percentage of individuals exiting a homeless program into permanent housing; and 4) The length of stay in homeless emergency and transitional shelters. This data is posted online at <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/data>. In addition, an overview of the

homelessness system and system performance metrics is submitted annually to the Legislature as required by statute.¹

The Coordinator notes that if a statewide information system is deemed feasible, an initial appropriation will be required for the planning and design of a data system that is able to pull data from multiple other sources. The State does not currently maintain such a shared system and has largely relied on the two Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) databases maintained by Partners in Care and Bridging the Gap for Oahu and the neighbor islands respectively. Consultation with the Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) or another agency with similar expertise in Information Technology will be necessary to determine the level of appropriation needed for planning and design, as well as an appropriate timeframe for development of a new statewide information system that is compliant with confidentiality requirements of section 346-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and other applicable federal and state privacy laws. Following development and implementation of a statewide information system, an ongoing appropriation will likely be necessary to maintain the system and implement system upgrades as technology advances.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹ Annual reports, as well as other reports presented at the regular meetings of the HICH, are compiled at: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/hich/hich-reports/>.