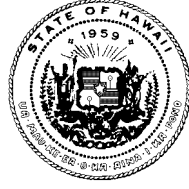


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

January 26, 2022

TO: The Honorable Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura
Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

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

HEARING: January 27, 2022, 3:10 pm
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the measure's intent and provides comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to establish a statewide homelessness shelter and housing data clearinghouse within the Department of Human Services to be administered by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. Makes an appropriation.

We agree that understanding homeless data is fundamental to strategically addressing homelessness in Hawaii. Other significant priorities that require investment are increasing available low-income housing statewide and predictable funding.

As the preamble described, there are multiple systems of homeless services information primarily based on the source of funding. Currently, the website maintained by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness is the primary resource for information on homelessness and services in Hawaii. The Governor's Coordinator draws available information from multiple systems. See <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/data>.

Also mentioned in the preamble, for communities to receive federal funds, the US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) requires communities to maintain the

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). HMIS collects client-level data and data on housing and services to homeless individuals, families, and persons at risk of homelessness. The State has two continua of care (CoC), Partners In Care (PIC) on Oahu and Bridging the Gap (BTG) for neighbor islands, and each CoC maintains its HMIS. Additionally, other government agencies may request data or request that its data be included in the HMIS. However, each entity must follow the CoC's policy and procedure to access the HMIS. Currently, with two HMIS, DHS submits a request for the data to each CoC individually, merges the resulting data sets, and then evaluates the merged data set to obtain the desired information.

To maximize resources, DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO) requires its homeless service providers to input relevant data into the respective HMIS as part of its contract provisions. DHS also includes performance measures in each contract. Since CoC providers also enter federally funded services data into HMIS, CoC HMIS has the most comprehensive information from multiple funding streams. Previously, when there was only one statewide HMIS, DHS provided funds to support the HMIS and training for service providers to improve data quality and timeliness. However, DHS no longer provides funds for the maintenance of either HMIS.

To make the data public-facing, HPO worked with BTG to develop data dashboards on its website with real-time data (see <https://www.btghawaii.org/>), and PIC also posts real-time data on its website (see <https://www.partnersincareoahu.org/>). In addition, the City & County of Honolulu maintains its website that links to Oahu-related information (see <https://www.honolulu.gov/housing/homelessness.html>).

HPO is working with the CoCs to develop statewide dashboards, reports, and monitoring tools of real-time data. However, this data dashboard would be limited to HPO funded programs; it will not include other executive branch programs or services, federally funded programs, county programs, or programs of the Judiciary.

Currently, the most comprehensive reports on homeless services, resources, and performance measures are submitted to the Legislature by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness (see https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/12-29-21_CB_Section-346-381_HICH-Part-1-Act-209-2018_Ohana-Zones-combined.GCH-signed.pdf)

and the DHS HPO's report on Housing First (see, https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/12-28-21_CB_Section-346-378_Housing-First-combined-signed.pdf).

Previously, the neighbor island CoC BTG provided federal funding for DHS to contract the evaluation of statewide homeless services utilization data. While the homeless services utilization reports were insightful, the reports were not as helpful as real-time data, as the evaluated data were more than a year old when the reports were issued. The previous homeless services utilization and other reports that address homelessness in Hawaii are available at <https://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/blog-category/homelessness?combine=&page=0>.

The Legislature may want to consider this one-time appropriation of \$300,000 to contract project management services to establish improved data sharing protocols or analytic capabilities between existing government and non-government entities. To maintain a comprehensive "data clearinghouse," future budget requests for funds for permanent staff and administrative costs will be necessary.

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



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

January 27, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

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

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

Hearing: Thursday, January 27, 2022, 3:10 p.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

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

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish a statewide homelessness shelter and housing data clearinghouse within the Department of Human Services (DHS) to be administered by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. Specifically, the bill requires the Coordinator to submit annual reports to the legislature regarding various performance metrics related to the State's efforts to reduce homelessness. The bill makes an appropriation of \$300,000 for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the establishment of the clearinghouse.

The Coordinator agrees that data on service utilization and access to resources is critical to develop, implement, and evaluate policies and programs to reduce homelessness statewide. In addition, accessible real-time data regarding shelter inventory and housing allows frontline homeless service providers to provide the best available options for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Section 346-381 (b) (5), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), requires the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) to "assemble accurate fiscal and demographic information to support policy development and track outcomes." The HICH, a 27-member statewide advisory

council, chaired by the Coordinator, regularly reviews data regarding homelessness systems 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 to the four key performance metrics, the website includes statewide fiscal mapping data of federal, State, and local funding sources for homelessness; homeless student enrollment data provided by the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE); and information relating to the federal funding administered through the Continuum of Care (CoC) programs.

The HICH annually reports to the Governor, Legislature, and Mayors of each county regarding the progress of activities, including an overview of the homelessness system and system performance metrics as required by statute.¹ The annual report utilizes data from multiple sources, including the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), PIT count, HIC, and DOE McKinney-Vento Act data. The [most recent report](#) also reviewed data related to SNAP and Medicaid enrollment and Emergency Rent Assistance (ERA) utilization to review the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on homelessness. In addition, the recent report included projections for supportive and special needs housing provided by the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) and the Department of Health (DOH).

The Coordinator has engaged in numerous other efforts to utilize data to strengthen local efforts to reduce homelessness. For example, the Coordinator and staff produce a [Daily Emergency Shelter Vacancy List](#) that includes vacancy data from both government and privately funded emergency shelters statewide.² In addition, the Coordinator worked with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and the Oahu CoC Partners In Care to facilitate a data-sharing agreement to identify homeless native Hawaiian beneficiaries on the DHHL waitlist who were in the PIT count.

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/>.

² The shelter vacancy report is compiled and e-mailed to stakeholders Monday to Friday, and also available online at: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/daily-emergency-shelter-vacancy/>.

A statewide homelessness shelter and housing data clearinghouse would enhance the current efforts of the HICH and Coordinator to reduce homelessness statewide. If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator respectfully requests clarification on whether the statewide homelessness shelter and housing data clearinghouse is a data system that will pull client-level data from existing databases (e.g., HMIS, etc.) or if the intent is to compile available aggregate data from other government entities (e.g., DHS, DOH, DOE, Department of Public Safety, Judiciary, counties, etc.) to produce a comprehensive written report and analysis of data to the Legislature.

If the intent is the former, consultation with the State Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) and Department of the Attorney General may be required to address concerns related to data security and client consent and the one-time appropriation could be utilized for planning and design of the clearinghouse. If the intent is the latter, the Coordinator suggests utilizing appropriated funds to contract a consultant to identify other federal, state, and local agencies that collect and maintain homeless-specific data and facilitate data sharing agreements to receive and analyze aggregate data from these entities to support and scale the current efforts of the HICH. In addition, ongoing funding in the budget will be needed for staffing and administrative costs to maintain and update the clearinghouse beyond fiscal year 2022-2023.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,
State of Hawai‘i to the Senate Committee on
Human Services**

January 27, 2022

S.B. No. 2371: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender supports S.B. No. 2371.

The purpose of this measure is to establish a statewide homelessness shelter and housing data clearinghouse to be administered by the governor's coordinator on homelessness.

An informal group brought together by the Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki and identified as the Ending Homelessness Group (“EHG”), representing twenty-plus representatives from eleven state, county, and non-profit agencies (including the Office of the Public Defender), has been meeting since June 2021 to discuss problems and difficulties in ending (or at least reducing) homelessness and in finding solutions to prevent and end homelessness. The EHG came up with many different proposals to meet gaps in housing, enforcement, and treatment/system flow. One such solution is to establish a statewide homelessness shelter and housing data clearinghouse to be administered by the governor’s coordinator on homelessness.

Currently the State lacks a comprehensive and coordinated data system that tracks data related to homelessness. Various State agencies, including the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Public Safety, and the Judiciary, as well as county agencies, maintain data relating to homelessness. Moreover, the two HUD-funded programs responsible for collecting data on the homeless, administering federal funding, and overseeing the coordinated entry system for homeless resources – Partners in Care (Oahu) and Bridging the Gap (Hawai‘i, Maui, and Kauai) – do not share their client-level data between themselves nor with the State and county agencies.

The data relating to homelessness are only shared between governmental agencies and other organizations on a case-by-case basis to accomplish specific tasks. The lack of data sharing among the agencies is problematic; if they were linked, more

effective use of limited resources could identify and increase those services, treatment, and housing, and also evaluate the effectiveness of providers in reducing homelessness.

A central statewide shared homelessness information system can be used to accomplish the following: report on the status of the homeless; develop policy and program solutions; measure the effectiveness of programs in ending homelessness; advocate for homeless services and housing needs; identify and report on gaps where homelessness services, shelter, or housing are required; determine the availability of services at any point-in-time to identify appropriate services, shelter, or housing available to assist persons experiencing homelessness or at-risk individuals; obtain federal, state, local and private funds to develop and to sustain long term solutions to house the homeless; and inform policymakers on where funding may be appropriated to address those gaps.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on S.B. No. 2371.

LATE



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the Thirty-First Legislature, 2022 Regular Session

Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Thursday, January 27, 2022, 3:10 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by:

Rodney A. Maile
Administrative Director of the Courts

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 2371, Relating to Homelessness.

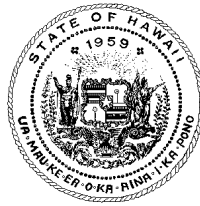
Purpose: Establishes a statewide homelessness shelter and housing data clearinghouse.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary supports Senate Bill No. 2371 because the data that will be collected and maintained by the statewide homelessness and housing data clearinghouse will provide critical information to assist judges, probation officers, and other Judiciary staff in assessing the needs of homeless individuals who are involved in judicial proceedings, as well as identifying the appropriate assistive services that would be available for these individuals.

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

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. _____

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2371
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

by
Max N. Otani, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Thursday, January 27, 2022; 3:10 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) has reviewed Senate Bill (SB) 2371, Relating to Homelessness, which seeks to establish a statewide homelessness shelter and data clearinghouse within the Department of Human Services (DHS) to be administered by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness. The Department supports the intent of this measure, especially in view of creating a statewide data clearinghouse.

At any given time, a number of homeless individuals are incarcerated in PSD jails for whom, limited information is available. A comprehensive data clearinghouse would facilitate the sharing of information amongst public and private sector agencies to identify programs and resources, service gaps, and new opportunities for interventions to enable more effective delivery of services to the homeless.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2371

January 27, 2022
3:10 p.m.
Room 225 & Videoconference

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

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

Senate Bill No. 2371 adds a new section to Chapter 346, HRS, to: 1) establish a statewide homelessness shelter and housing data clearinghouse (SHSHDC) within the Department of Human Services (DHS) to be administered by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness (GCH); and 2) set reporting requirements for an annual report to be submitted by the GCH to the Legislature on the homelessness data collected by the SHSHDC. The bill also appropriates \$300,000 in general funds in FY 23 to DHS for the establishment of the SHSHDC.

B&F notes that 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.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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STEVEN S. ALM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

THOMAS J. BRADY
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



THE HONORABLE JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawai`i

January 27, 2022

RE: S.B. 2371; RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in support of S.B. 2371.

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 for coordinated data collection related to homelessness, with the necessary resources to pursue this endeavor, which would better inform any future initiatives.

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. 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.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2371

TO: Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Ihara, & Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: January 27, 2022 (3:10 PM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports** SB 2371, which establishes a statewide homelessness shelter and housing data clearinghouse within the Department of Human Services, to be administered by the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, and makes an appropriation to build and maintain the clearinghouse.

We hope that the bill can be amended with explicit language to help ensure the confidentiality of data at the individual level.

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. Real-time data helps facilitate the effective provision of services to members of under-resourced populations, including those persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Unfortunately, the state Department of Human Services no longer provides for the funds for maintenance of the two Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) used by service providers on O'ahu and on the Neighbor Islands.

HHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawaii 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 testify on this measure.

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 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services,
FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)
Hearing: Thursday, January 27th, 3:10pm via videoconference
Position: **Comments**

Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Senate Committee Human Services:

Partner In Care, Oahu's Continuum of Care, stands in support of the intent of this measure and would like to offer comments.

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. 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 Governor's 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.

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

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 12:33:02 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/27/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Samuel Mitchell	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Hi my name is Samuel Mitchell, I'm a member of the Makiki Neighborhood Board 10 and I've also involded with Homeless issues thru Food not Bombs who feeds the Homeless every week at Thomas Square. I support SB-2371 because Hawaii needs a centralized housing clearing center. Because too many of the homeless who are not veterans or Hawaiian are not being sheltered.

SB-2371

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 1:45:18 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/27/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

Please accept my FULL SUPPORT for SB2371.

The proposed bill will provide a much-needed strategy to help deal with the many-faceted homelessness problem that affects homeless and non-homeless residents, tourists, as well as a majority of the state and local agencies involved in it.

Not enough can be said about the benefits of strategic coordination!

Sincerely,

Denise Boisvert

Waikiki

SB-2371

Submitted on: 1/26/2022 2:03:40 PM

Testimony for HMS on 1/27/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

As a long-term resident of Waikiki, I see the affects of homelessness on a daily basis. The homeless persons need assistance and many of them may not want it. Coordination of services and agencies statewide is critically needed and SB2371 should address that.

Mahalo,

Kim Jorgensen