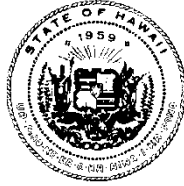


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
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Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, February 23, 2022
10:05 AM – Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 2677, SD1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

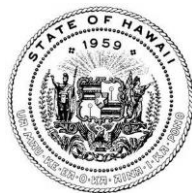
Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 2677, SD1, relating to homelessness.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** the enactment of SB 2677, SD1, which establishes the long-term rental assistance pilot program to be administered by the HPHA for individuals sixty-two years of age or older who are homeless, or at imminent risk of becoming homeless, so long as it does not adversely affect the Governor's Supplemental Budget.

The HPHA would truly appreciate the opportunity to administer the long-term rental assistance pilot program and has the expertise and track record to collaborate with the non-profit community to develop and manage this program to assist our most disadvantaged kupuna. While the HPHA does not normally request exemptions, please know that if the intent is to immediately establish this program, the HPHA would need to be exempt from the Hawaii Public Procurement Code. If the HPHA is not exempt from the Hawaii Public Procurement Code in this measure, it will take approximately 6-8 months to go through the normal rule making process.

The HPHA stands ready to assist 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 and homeless related issues in Hawaii.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with the HPHA's testimony. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

February 23, 2022

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

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

SUBJECT: **SB 2677 SD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 10:10 a.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports the intent of this measure, suggests an amendment, and defers to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA).

If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator requests its passage not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the executive budget request.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish the long-term rental assistance pilot program to be administered by HPHA for individuals sixty-two years of age or older who are homeless, or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. The bill also appropriates funds for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the program, including two full-time public housing specialist positions.

The Coordinator appreciates the amendments by the Senate Committees on Human Services and Housing to amend the age criteria for the Long-Term Rental Assistance Pilot Program and delete the exemption from the Hawaii Public Procurement Code.

If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator suggests a friendly amendment to change the word "shall" on page 4, line 6 to "may" to encourage participation in the Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry System (CES) for homeless services, rather than require it. Notably, the Continuum of Care (CoC) does not currently have a mechanism for individuals at risk of homelessness that are unstably housed to access the Coordinated Entry System (CES), as the

system is currently designed for individuals experiencing literal homelessness as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Coordinator recognizes the need to increase housing support for seniors aged 62 and older. Nearly one-third (27%) of renter households in Hawaii are severely housing cost-burdened, and this burden is especially acute for seniors on a fixed income, such as Social Security or disability benefits.

However, it remains unclear whether the long-term rental assistance pilot program will provide shallow or deep rental subsidies for the population served. A [recent U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\) policy brief](#)¹ describes shallow subsidies as providing a lower level of assistance than deeper subsidies provided by the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program or permanent supportive housing. According to the HUD brief, shallow subsidies are often based on a set monthly amount. For example, HPHA currently administers shallows subsidies through the State Rent Supplement program that provides up to \$500 per month of rental assistance per household. If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator suggests the Legislature clarify what level of subsidy will be provided. A shallow subsidy will likely result in a greater number of households served.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹ Policy brief available at: <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/COVID-19-Homeless-System-Response-Shallow-Rental-Subsidies.pdf>. 3

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



BONNIE KAHAKUI
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

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TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS
February 23, 2022, 10:05 AM

SENATE BILL 2677, SD1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committees, the State Procurement Office (SPO) wants to thank the legislature for considering our testimony to remove any procurement exemption language from SB2677.

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
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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 WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2677, S.D. 1

**February 23, 2022
10:05 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

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

Senate Bill No. 2677, S.D. 1: 1) establishes the Long-Term Rental Assistance Pilot Program (LRAPP) within the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority (HPHA); 2) sets the duties and responsibilities of HPHA regarding the administration of LRAPP; 3) authorizes HPHA to enter into memoranda of agreement with counties or specialized non-profit organizations to implement LRAPP; and 4) sets a sunset date of June 30, 2025, for LRAPP. The bill also appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to HPHA to establish LRAPP and authorizes 2.00 full-time equivalents to establish two Public Housing Specialist positions.

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.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2677 SD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senate Committees on Ways and Means
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: **Wednesday, February 23, 2022; 10:05 AM; via videoconference**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in Strong Support** of SB 2677 SD1, which would establish a long-term rental assistance pilot program for individuals sixty-two years of age or older who are homeless, or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. 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 75 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless, 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.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i has a Housing Assistance Program that counsels and assists elders to obtain affordable housing. Our biggest challenge is the lack of rentals that our clients can afford on their low incomes. This Program currently has 53 seniors who are over 62 on our urgent waitlist (homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness). The average age is 75 years old! They are often long term renters who have been displaced. D. is homeless and living in a car since 2018, since he could not stay where he had been living. DW's lease ended and could not afford a new rental due to low income, so is living in a van. C's brother died and the heirs want her out in a few months. These sad stories go on and on.

Another case that should never happen just walked into our offices recently. An 81 year old woman with limited English had become homeless (living at a bus station) after she fell ill and could no longer work (at 81!). Although alert and able to use public transportation, all we could do immediately was to help her get on a waitlist for an emergency shelter which was full. She kept repeating, "I have never had to ask for help before."

The proposed long term rental assistance program to be operated by the Hawaii Public Housing Authority is much needed for our elders who face homelessness. We strongly support housing counseling and landlord assistance and other services to enable the most vulnerable elders to access housing. The economic stress of homelessness and the anxiety of facing no place to go when a lease ends or rent is increased, can have a huge impact on their health. In order for this program to provide timely services, we strongly support funding for two full-time public housing specialist positions within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Please help. Please provide our kupuna with the assistance to find housing and pay the ongoing rent. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 373-0356 or alohabettylou@hotmail.com if you have any questions.



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.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT SB 2677 SD1 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means,
FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)
Hearing: Wednesday, February 23rd, 2022, 10:05am
Position: **SUPPORT**

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means :

Partner In Care, Oahu's Continuum of Care, stands in support of **SB 2677 SD1 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

Kupuna has a deep and honored position in our Hawaii community. Our Kupuna should be honored and respected and should be seen as living treasures, but that is not the case for so many of our senior community members. Due to the high cost of living in Hawaii, we are pricing our Kupuna out of housing and much of their support system is moving away from the islands.

Partners In Care has assisted many seniors with housing assistance and this is one of the most difficult populations to find housing for due to their fixed income and complex health needs. This measure proposes housing assistance that will allow seniors 62 years of age and older that does not exceed 50%. We should continue to work to get more affordable senior housing in our community. Hawaii has a large aging population and we need to recognize this and support our Kupuna.

Our Kupuna deserve better, our elders deserve affordable housing so that they can be a resource and a teacher for our generation and beyond.

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

Aloha

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2677, SD 1

TO: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, & Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: February 23, 2022 (10:05 AM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports** SB 2677, SD 1, which establishes the long-term rental assistance pilot program to be administered by the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for individuals over sixty-two years old who are homeless, or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

HHRC underscores the finding language noting that many seniors who are on fixed incomes face the prospect of homelessness given ever increasing rents. Housing costs have accelerated even during this pandemic period, and seniors are especially vulnerable to price inflation outside of the context of housing.

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'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.

SB-2677-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 11:56:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara J. Service	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and committee members

Please support SB2677 relating to long-term rental assistance for seniors. Being homeless, the result of many factors, most not in the individual's control, is devastating. It is believed that a number of homeless folks are Kupuna. (For some reason, this figure is not adequately measured in annual homeless counts). Please approved this pilot project to ensure that Kupuna do not have to suffer.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Barbara J. Service. MSW (ret.)

Kupuna Advocate