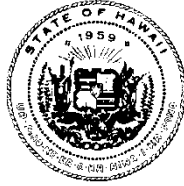


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
&
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022
1:00 PM – Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

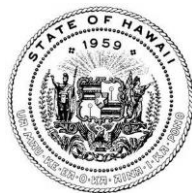
In consideration of
SB 2677
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Honorable Chair Chang, Honorable Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Senate Bill (SB) 2677, relating to homelessness.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports** the enactment of SB 2677, which establishes the long-term rental assistance pilot program to be administered by the HPHA for individuals over sixty-two years old 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. 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 Committees with the HPHA's testimony regarding SB 2677. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

February 1, 2022

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

The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

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

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

Hearing: Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports the intent of this measure and respectfully offers comments. The Coordinator defers to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA).

If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator requests that 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 over sixty-two years old 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.

This measure will address a key barrier to housing for seniors over age 62, including those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, by providing ongoing subsidies for rental housing. The Coordinator notes nearly one-third (27%) of renter households in Hawaii are severely housing cost-burdened, meaning that over half of their monthly income goes to rent and utilities. The housing cost burden is especially acute for seniors on a fixed income, such as Social Security or disability benefits, with limited family support.

As currently drafted, it is 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 shallow 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.

Page 4, lines 6-9 state that HPHA "shall require the long-term rental assistance program participants to participate in the Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry System for homeless services." The Coordinator notes that there is not currently 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 HUD. If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator suggests changing the word "shall" on page 4, line 6 to "may" to encourage participation in the CES, rather than require it.

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



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 COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2677

February 1, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Room 225 and Videoconference

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

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

Senate Bill No. 2677: 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; 4) provides HPHA procurement and rule-making exemptions for the implementation and administration of LRAPP; and 5) 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 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:

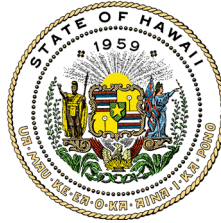
- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level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

ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR

Telephone
(808) 586-0100

Fax
(808) 586-0185

STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

LATE

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB2677
Relating to Homelessness**

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATOR LES IHARA, JR., VICE CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG, CHAIR
SENATOR DRU MAMO KANUHA, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: February 1, 2022
1:00 PM

Room Number: 225
via Videoconference

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
2 of Health, provides comments on SB2677, Relating to Homelessness.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates an unspecified amount of funds from the
4 general revenues of the State for fiscal year 2022-2023 to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority
5 for a long-term rental assistance pilot program for older adults who are over sixty-two years of
6 age and are homeless or at eminent risk of becoming homeless. The measure also includes two
7 full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) public housing specialist positions within the Hawaii public
8 housing authority to support the rental assistance pilot program.

9 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to establish the long-term rental assistance
10 pilot program for kupuna. Many of Hawaii's kupuna are on fixed incomes and with the high cost
11 of housing in Hawaii, many kupuna are forced to cut back on essential expenses, such as food,

1 transportation, and medical care to just afford their housing needs. Any setback in our Kupuna's
2 income can put them at risk for becoming homeless. Creative, long-term, affordable housing
3 options and creative, alternative housing strategies are direly needed to prevent our financially
4 struggling kupuna to prevent homelessness.

5 **Recommendation:** The EOA supports the intent of this measure for the Hawaii Public Housing
6 Authority to develop a long term rental assistance pilot program that will prevent Hawaii's low
7 income Kupuna from becoming homeless.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

P.O. Box 119
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119
Tel: (808) 586-0554
email: state.procurement.office@hawaii.gov
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>

TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES
ON
HUMAN SERVICES
AND
HOUSING

February 1, 2022, 1:00 PM

SENATE BILL 2677
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Chairs San Buenaventura and Chang, Vice Chairs Ihara and Kanuha, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 2677. The State Procurement Office (SPO) opposes the exemption language on Page 3, SECTION 2, lines 20 to 21 and Page 4, lines 1 to 5, set forth below.

“(b) The Hawaii public housing authority shall be exempt from chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in selecting a qualified non-profit organization to administer the long-term rental assistance program for kupuna, and shall, without regard to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, establish rules and qualification standards for participants of the long-term rental assistance pilot program.

The SPO objects to the procurement exemption and testifies that **selection of a non-profit organization to administer the program** should be conducted within the procurement code.

Chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the Hawaii Public Procurement Code (Code), is the single source of public procurement policy to be applied equally and uniformly, while providing fairness, open competition, a level playing field, government disclosure and transparency in the procurement and contracting process vital to good government.

Public procurement's primary objective is to provide everyone equal opportunity to compete for government contracts, to prevent favoritism, collusion, or fraud in awarding of contracts. To legislate that any one entity should be exempt from compliance with both Chapter 103D and Chapter 103F, HRS, conveys a sense of disproportionate equality in the law's application.

Exemptions to the Code mean that all procurements made with taxpayer monies will not have the same oversight, accountability and transparency requirements mandated by those procurements processes provided in the code. It means that there is no requirement for due diligence, proper planning or consideration of protections for the state in contract terms and conditions, nor are there any set requirements to conduct cost and price analysis and market research or post-award contract management. As such, Agencies can choose whether to compete any procurement or go directly to one contractor. As a result, leveraging economies of scale and cost savings efficiencies found in the consistent application of the procurement code are lost. It also means Agencies are not required to adhere to the code's procurement integrity laws.

The National Association of State Procurement Officials state: "Businesses suffer when there is inconsistency in procurement laws and regulations. Complex, arcane procurement rules of numerous jurisdictions discourage competition by raising the costs to businesses to understand and comply with these different rules. Higher costs are recovered through the prices offered by a smaller pool of competitors, resulting in unnecessarily inflated costs to state and local governments."

When public bodies are removed from the state's procurement Code, it results in the harm described above. As these entities create their own procurement rules, businesses are forced to track their various practices. Moreover, a public body often can no longer achieve the benefits of aggregation by using another public body's contract because different state laws and regulations may apply to the various public bodies making compliance more difficult.

Each year new procurement laws are applied to state agencies causing state agency contracts to become more complex and costly, while other public bodies, such as agencies with strong legislative influence, are exempted. Relieving some public bodies from some laws by exempting or excluding them from compliance with a common set of legal requirements creates an imbalance wherein the competitive environment becomes different among the various jurisdictions and the entire procurement process becomes less efficient and costlier for the state and vendors.

Thank you.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2677: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senate Committees on Human Services and Housing
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: **Tuesday, February 1, 2022; 1:00 pm; via videoconference**

Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Chang, and Members, Committees on Human Services and Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in Strong Support** of SB 2677, which would establish a long-term rental assistance pilot program for individuals over sixty-two years of age 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). **This bill is a critical step forward in enabling our elders to obtain safe and affordable housing.**

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.

We respectfully suggest amending the age criteria in this bill to : “individuals **who are 62 years of age or older**”. This would match the age criteria (62 or older) for many senior affordable rental projects. It would give seniors struggling to pay rent the opportunity to apply for these projects at age 62. Adding new programs requires more staff. 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.

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.

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.

Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org 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 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services and the
Senate Committee on Housing,

FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)

Hearing: Tuesday, February 1st, 2022, 1:00pm via videoconference

Position: **SUPPORT**

Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Chang and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing :

Partner In Care, Oahu's Continuum of Care, stands in support of **SB 2677 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



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

The State Legislature
The Senate Committee on Human Services
The Senate Committee on Housing
Tuesday, February 1, 2022
1:00 p.m.

TO: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair
RE: Support for S.B. 2677, Relating to Homelessness

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Chang, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over, with over 140,000 members in Hawai'i. **AARP supports S.B. 2677** which establishes the pilot long-term rental housing assistance program for individuals over sixty-two years old who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

Hawaii's high cost of housing is making it unaffordable for many, but especially for those at low or fixed income. These residents are more vulnerable of becoming dependent on other family members for shelter, or face homelessness. Until recently, the federal relief funds have assisted many residents with their housing expenses during this COVID-19 pandemic. However, those funds are diminishing or have stopped which now put many at risk in losing their place of residence. According to 2021 Statista/AARP analysis of census data available by United States Census Bureau (USCB), there were 310 evictions and 2,150 homeless among Hawaii residents 55 years and older. The 2022 forecast is grimmer. It shows that the number of evictions for older residents will jump from 310 to 1,050, and homeless kūpuna will rise to 2,980. It is essential to assist older adults from facing housing crisis and therefore, the proposed S.B. 2677 will help many vulnerable kūpuna from being displaced from their residence.

AARP supports this measure and recommends an amendment in Section 2 (a) (2), which states "individuals participating in the program should not pay more than 50% of their income on rent." This typically refers to the extremely low-income residents being eligible for the subsidy. Since this program is also intended to assist "low-income" kupuna who are rent burdened, we respectfully recommend changing the percentage from 50% to "30%" so that more low-income individuals can qualify for this rental assistance. Thank you very much for the opportunity to **support S.B. 2677**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keali'i S. Lopez". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Keali'i Lopez, State Director

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2677

TO: Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Ihara, & Human Services Committee Members
Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha, & Housing Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: February 1, 2022 (1:00 PM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports** SB 2677, 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.

Dolores Foley, PhD
Change AGEnts Hawaii
1389 Akalani Loop
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

TO: The Honorable Senators MORIWAKI, ACASIO, CHANG, DECOITE,
IHARA, KEITH-AGARAN, KIM, LEE, MISALUCHA

RE: 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. Appropriates funds.

Aloha Chairss and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is in support of SB 2677

Affordable Housing is a great need throughout Hawaii, It especially an issue for the elderly. The number of renters that are paying 30% of their income has increased. Many Hawaii residents are on the verge of homelessness.. This bill would target assisting kupuna in this situation.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to support SB 2677

Sincerely,

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

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 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services and the
Senate Committee on Housing,

FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)

Hearing: Tuesday, February 1st, 2022, 1:00pm via videoconference

Position: **SUPPORT**

Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Chang and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing :

Partner In Care, Oahu's Continuum of Care, stands in support of **SB 2677 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

SB-2677

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 10:27:43 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
GARY SIMON	Testifying for Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Chair Chang, Vice Chair Kanuha, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Housing,

I am Gary Simon, Treasurer of the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition (HFCC).

I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of HFCC.

HFCC strongly supports Senate Bill 2677.

We need to prevent our kupuna who are low-income and who need assistance with their rental payments from becoming homeless. Good public policy demands that we protect these vulnerable kupuna and assist them with the basics of housing. In addition, the effects of homelessness are severe. The homeless are at greater risk for developing health problems. Age exacerbates this risk. Homeless are more vulnerable to abuse. Intervention for these problems is costly. We are wise to prevent these maladies.

We urge you to support SB 2677.

We thank you for seriously considering the bill.

Very sincerely,

Gary Simon

Treasurer

Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition

LATE

SB-2677

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 10:55:04 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
John & Rita Shockley	Testifying for FREE ACCESS COALITION	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition coordinators support SB2677 to give access to the elderly homeless who need subsidized rent to get off the streets. This pilot program is a start on a larger serious problem facing our state.

Mahalo for your time.

SB-2677

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 1:06:56 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Stand in support.

SB-2677

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 8:22:24 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Fully support.

SB-2677

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 10:36:51 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

TO THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2022
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair
HEARING SB2677

POSITION SB2677: STRONG SUPPORT

Upon review of this bill, I stand in support of the language of this bill in its current form and its intent. This bill recognizes the need for a fund not currently set up to prevent seniors from becoming homeless. Furthermore, this bill displays prudence whereby in Lines 18 tasking HPHA to coordinate efforts with mental health services to assist and retain their housing. This area has usually been overlooked, the resources and the process may be laid out yet as time goes on many Kapuna may not have the same mental capacities as the larger general population. Having some entity that fulfills a case manager-type role is needed to promote a successful pilot program.

Though the state has the State's Homeless Emergency Grants Program, this bill will only be available to seniors. This move does make sense because the type of services the senior population may need will be different from other populations.

Should this bill become there are Kupuna that could benefit from the implementation of the program right now that live in HPHA housing. Consequently, according to the States on Homeless Service Utilization Report conducted in 2017 found that 1,386 homeless elders in Hawaii. This study was conducted before COVID it could be safe to assume that number could be much higher.

In my anecdotal observations as Neighborhood Board Chair (and before the onset of covid) I observed more elderly persons that were becoming homeless on the street and parks. I could see the look in some of their eyes that imagined that living on the streets and parks would be their new reality. I am sure many that I have seen never imagined that living on the streets and parks would be their new predicament.

I urge this joint committee to pass this bill out of committee and all changes that could be made to this bill all be to strengthen the intent of this bill and serve those seniors that will need to support this bill offers. Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

Mahalo,

Ken Farm

SB-2677

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 1:34:23 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Senators,

Please accept my FULL SUPPORT of SB2677. This bill would help the multitude of kupuna we are heartbroken to see struggling on the streets on a daily basis, and will have the added benefit of preventing even more from joining them!

Mahalo for your consideration of this bill.

Denise Boisvert

Waikiki

SB-2677

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 2:09:43 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm in FULL SUPPORT of SB2677.

Mahalo,

Kim Jorgensen

SB-2677

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:15:06 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jean Jeremiah	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Rental assistance should be appropriated to homeless individuals and those who are in danger of becoming homeless. At the same time, these individuals should be trained and educated to become self-sufficient; to get back on their feet.

As a suggestion, next to homeless shelters - they should provide a small "classroom" to provide such classes as carpentry, plumbing, painting, cooking, sewing, crafts, etc. Instructors can be volunteers from private business and even Senior students that are required to do volunteer community services before graduating. If the training classroom is next to the shelter, the homeless people will be encouraged to attend the classes and Mothers with small children don't have to worry about leaving their young ones at home.