

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

February 16, 2022

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

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

**SUBJECT: SB 3168 SD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

February 18, 2022, 10:10 a.m.  
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent to extend the Ohana Zone pilot program and proposed appropriation of \$15,000,000 as these are similar to administration proposal SB3108/HB2140. However, the administration measure only extends the Ohana Zone pilot program for three years instead of five years and does not propose establishing a permanent program.

The Department is concerned that the SD1 establishes the Ohana Zones program within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) and not DHS; though HPHA has a rental supplement program, HPHA does not contract services for Housing First or other homeless services. The Department defers to the Department of the Attorney General and HPHA on relevant parts.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this measure is to extend the sunset date of the Ohana Zones Pilot Program from 6/30/2023 to 06/30/2028. Establishes an Ohana Zones Program within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority upon expiration of the pilot program. Appropriates funds. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD1)

The SDI made significant amendments as follows:

- (1) Establishing an Ohana Zones Program within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority as part of its Rental Assistance Programs, rather than within the Department of Human Services, upon expiration of the Ohana Zones Pilot Program on June 30, 2028;
- (2) Inserting a \$15,000,000 appropriation amount for the extension of the Ohana Zones Pilot Program and expenses related to facility construction, renovation, and maintenance; provision of services and staffing; and administrative costs;
- (3) Inserting an effective date of December 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The Ohana Zone pilot program has successfully supported innovative programs that address services gaps, especially for services where no federal programs or funds exist. Transitioning the pilot program into a permanent one may be feasible with an additional five years of data and experience, permanent funding, and increased staff resources.

However, the proposal to place the program in HPHA versus DHS may not be the most appropriate. Per Act 89, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010 (Act 89),<sup>1</sup> the Homeless Programs Office was moved from HPHA to the DHS Benefit, Employment & Support Services Division, as,

"[t]he benefit, employment, and support services division [BESSD] is the appropriate place within the Department of human services to embed homeless programs since the division offers programs that give homeless individuals the tools to attain self-sufficiency, such as employment and job training, child care, and general assistance. This realignment will improve the Department of human services' coordination and delivery of homeless services to Hawaii's homeless population, both individuals and families." See Act 89.

The Homeless Programs Office (HPO) within BESSD is one option that is a more appropriate placement for a permanent program for the same reasons noted in Act 89 and because the HPO contracts all other homeless services programs. Also, the current executive budget request includes one contract specialist to support HPO's current contracts. For HPO to take on additional contracts, two more permanent contract or procurement specialists are needed.

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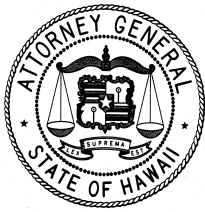
<sup>1</sup> See, Act 89, SLH 2010, [https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Archives/measure\\_indiv\\_Archives8-12.aspx?billnumber=910&billtype=SB&year=2010](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Archives/measure_indiv_Archives8-12.aspx?billnumber=910&billtype=SB&year=2010)

The other option would be for the Ohana Zone program to remain with the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and that two permanent or procurement specialists be established as part of the Coordinator's staff. Placing the permanent program with the Coordinator may be advantageous as the Coordinator is authorized to work on behalf of the Governor with County governments, a significant component of the innovative and successful strategy of the current Ohana Zones pilot program projects.

The Department also suggests that DHS or the Governor's Coordinator use a portion of the proposed appropriation to evaluate the pilot.

Lastly, DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not supplant or reduce existing budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

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



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2022**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 3168, S.D. 1, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**DATE:** Friday, February 18, 2022      **TIME:** 10:10 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 211, Via Videoconference

**TESTIFIER(S):**      **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**  
(For more information, contact Melissa L. Lewis,  
Deputy Attorney General, at 587-3050)

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Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments on this measure.

The purpose of this bill is to amend the Ohana Zones Pilot Program established pursuant to Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, by amending section 4, as amended by Act 128, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, to: (1) extend the Ohana Zones Pilot Program to June 30, 2028; (2) establish an Ohana Zones Program within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority upon expiration of the Ohana Zones Pilot Program; and (3) appropriate out of the general revenues the sum of \$15,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023.

Section 4 of the bill provides, on page 6, lines 11-14, that "any funds unused by June 30, 2028, shall be transferred" to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for the purpose of establishing the Ohana Zones Program as set forth in section 3 of the bill. This provision creates a constitutional problem.

Article VII, section 11, of the Hawaii State Constitution permits the carryover of general funds from one fiscal year to another: "All appropriations for which the source is . . . general funds shall be for specified periods. No such appropriation shall be made for a period exceeding three years[.]" Haw. Const. art. VII, §11. While the measure on page 5, line 13, through page 6, line 2, would appropriate \$15,000,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2022-2023 to the Office of the Governor for the Ohana Zones Pilot

Program, the proviso on page 6, lines 11-17, authorizes the carryover of any funds unused by June 30, 2028, to be transferred to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority for the establishment of the Ohana Zones Program. This carryover of general funds would violate article VII, section 11 of the Hawaii Constitution, in that the carryover occurs more than three years after the appropriation is made.

To comport with article VII, section 11 of the Hawaii Constitution, we suggest that the lapsing date of any unused general funds be changed to June 30, 2025. To accomplish this, we suggest that the following wording be inserted in the bill after page 6, line 2:

The appropriation made by this Act for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the office of the governor shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year for which the appropriation is made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation that are unencumbered as of June 30, 2025, shall lapse as of that date.

In addition, the paragraph starting on page 6, lines 7-17, should be revised to delete reference to the unconstitutional lapsing as follows:

~~The governor's designated executive branch agencies may expend any appropriation transferred pursuant to this section for the performance of its duties under the pilot program and may contract with any county or county agency in implementing the program[; provided that any funds unused by June 30, 2028, shall be transferred to the Hawaii public housing authority for purposes of establishing an ohana zones program as set forth by section 3 of this Act; provided further that any funds transferred to the authority pursuant to this section shall be in addition to and shall not supplant any portion of the base budget of the authority].~~

If this measure proceeds we respectfully request that the recommended modifications be made. Thank you for considering our comments.

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 3168, S.D. 1

**February 18, 2022**  
**10:10 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. 3168, S.D. 1: 1) amends Act 209, SLH 2018, as amended by Act 128, SLH 2019, to extend the 'Ohana Zones Pilot Program's (OZPP) sunset date from June 30, 2023 to June 30, 2028, and extend the annual reporting requirements of the pilot program to the 2028 Legislative Session; 2) establishes a permanent 'Ohana Zones Program (OZP) within the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority's (HPHA) rental assistance programs after the sunset of OZPP; 3) appropriates \$15,000,000 in general funds in FY 23 to the Office of the Governor (GOV) to fund the extended operations of OZPP through FY 28; 4) authorizes GOV to transfer OZPP funding to other expending agencies, as necessary, to implement OZPP; and 5) requires the transfer of any unspent amounts of the \$15,000,000 appropriation at the end of FY 28 to HPHA to establish the permanent OZP.

B&F notes that the provision requiring unspent funds that are appropriated by this bill in FY 23 to be transferred to HPHA at the end of FY 28 and expended by HPHA after FY 28 is in direct conflict with Section 11 of Article VII of the Constitution of the

State of Hawai'i, which states that general fund appropriations shall be for specified periods; that no appropriation shall be made for a period exceeding three years; and that unencumbered appropriations or portions thereof shall lapse at the close of the fiscal period for which the appropriations were made.

B&F also 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.

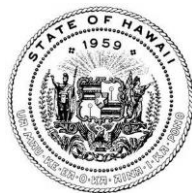
Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- 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.





EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

February 1, 2022

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

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

SUBJECT: **SB 3168 SD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.**

Hearing: Friday, February 18, 2022, 10:10 a.m.  
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

**POSITION:** The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this measure and appreciates the extension of the sunset date for the Ohana Zones pilot program until June 30, 2028. The Coordinator notes that a similar measure, [HB2512](#), recently passed out of the joint House Committees on Health, Human Services and Homelessness and Housing.

If this measure proceeds, the Coordinator defers to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) and Department of Human Services (DHS) regarding section 3 of this bill, which upon the June 30, 2028 expiration of the Ohana Zones pilot program establishes an Ohana Zones program within HPHA to provide temporary housing and services to homeless individuals and families based on principles like the Housing First program.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to extend the Ohana Zones pilot program to June 30, 2028. The bill also appropriates funds for the continuation and stabilization of the program and establishes a permanent Ohana Zones program within HPHA upon expiration of the pilot program.

The Coordinator appreciates the amendments by the Senate Committees on Human Services and Housing to insert a \$15,000,000 appropriation amount for the extension of the Ohana Zones pilot program and expenses related to facility, construction, renovation, and maintenance; provision of services and staffing; and administrative costs.

In December 2021, the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) – a 27-member advisory council chaired by the Coordinator – adopted policy priorities for the 2022 legislative session, including a specific focus on promoting affordable housing for people transitioning from homelessness through an extension of the Ohana Zones program. Since its establishment in 2018, the Ohana Zones pilot program supported 20 projects statewide. As of November 2021, the Ohana Zones pilot program aided 5,510 homeless individuals statewide, including 1,368 placed into permanent housing.

The [Ohana Zones pilot program](#) provided flexible funding for the State and counties to develop innovate programs reflecting the local needs of specific communities, including rural areas of Hawaii island and Oahu. Based on regional needs, Ohana Zones funding supported expansion of emergency shelter and navigation programs, as well as permanent housing projects for individuals and families transitioning out of homelessness. Examples of Ohana Zones include the [Homeless Outreach and Navigation for Unsheltered \(HONU\)](#) program on Oahu, as well as permanent housing projects such as [Kamaoku Kauhale](#), [Huliau](#), [Kealaula at Pua Loke](#), [Kumuwai](#), and [Hale Maluhia](#). The flexibility of Ohana Zones also enabled the State and counties to rapidly adjust and expand shelter capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic, as demonstrated by the [Ka Lamaku](#) and [Hale Hanakahi](#) projects. The [HICH annual legislative report](#)<sup>1</sup> provides a detailed overview and evaluation of the Ohana Zones pilot program.

A key strength of the Ohana Zones pilot program are the contracts executed directly between the Coordinator’s office and the four counties instead of with individual service providers. The direct contracts with the counties enable the counties to leverage county-level funding, land, and facilities to supplement Ohana Zones funding. For example, the Kumuwai and Hale Maluhia projects on Oahu leverage facilities owned by the City & County of Honolulu and purchased with City funds. Similarly, the Keolahou Assessment Center on Hawaii island leveraged land and facilities under the jurisdiction of Hawaii County. In addition, the HONU program leverages City park facilities to provide space for the program. The close partnership

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<sup>1</sup> Report available at: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/HICH-Report-to-2022-Legislature-FINAL.pdf>

between State and counties to implement Ohana Zones acknowledges that addressing homelessness is a shared responsibility.

An extension of the Ohana Zones pilot program will provide additional resources to address increasing levels of homelessness and housing instability statewide. In January 2021, the Economic Roundtable released [a report](#) that projected the pandemic recession would increase chronic homelessness nationwide by 49% over the next four years.<sup>2</sup> Similarly, historical data for the statewide homeless Point in Time (PIT) count also indicates demand for homeless services is likely to increase in the wake of the current economic recession. Following the last significant downturn in 2009, the statewide PIT count increased 37% between 2009 and 2016. On a more hopeful note, statewide PIT count data also reflected stark decreases in homelessness between 2016 and 2020, indicating it is possible to reverse upward trends in homelessness with a concentrated focus and investment in housing-focused strategies, such as Ohana Zones.

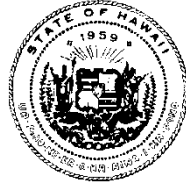
The HICH acknowledges Ohana Zones are just one piece of a more comprehensive effort to address homelessness, which includes reducing upfront barriers to accessing rental housing and expanding programs that assist key homeless sub-populations (e.g., unsheltered youth, adults with severe mental illness, etc.). For more information about the 2022 HICH policy priorities, visit: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/advocacy>.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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<sup>2</sup> Report available at: <https://economicrt.org/publication/locked-out/>

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 WAYS AND MEANS**

**Friday, February 18, 2022**  
**10:10 AM – Videoconference – Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of  
**SB 3168, 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) 3168, SD1, relating to homelessness.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **appreciates the intent, and offers the following comments**, for SB 3168, SD1, which extends the sunset date of the Ohana Zones Pilot Program from 6/30/2023 to 6/30/2028. Establishes an Ohana Zones Program within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority upon expiration of the pilot program. Appropriates funds.

As you may know, Act 89, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, transferred the Homeless Programs Office (HPO) from the HPHA to the Benefit Employment and Support Services Division (BESSD) of the Department of Human Services (DHS). This was strategically done to ensure that our homeless population would be provided with the delivery of services that the HPO could coordinate and administer. Please know that the HPHA will defer to the Department of Human Services and the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness in regards to this measure.

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

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3168, SD 1

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

FROM: Nikos Leverenz  
Grants & Advancement Manager

DATE: February 18, 2022 (10:10 AM)

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Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports** SB 3168, SD 1, which extends the 'ohana zones pilot program to 2028, appropriates funds for the continuation and stabilization of the program, and establishes an 'ohana zones program within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

'Ohana zones have been useful mechanism to address unsheltered homelessness in recent years.

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.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3168 SD1: RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
Hearing: **Friday, February 18, 2022; 10:10 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 Support** of SB 3168 SD1, which extends the sunset date for the Ohana Zones Pilot Program to 6/30/2028, establishes an Ohana Zones Program within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority upon expiration of the pilot, and provides funding. 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 supports extending the Ohana Zones pilot program and providing additional funding, as well as making it permanent. **We suggest that upon the expiration of the pilot program, a more appropriate "home" for this program would be the Department of Human Services (DHS).** Ohana Zones provide services, often similar to Housing First services, which are funded under DHS. Close collaboration of housing and services within DHS are critical to successful outcomes.

During the past 3 years, some Ohana Zones projects only needed one time funding to create housing. Others that provide ongoing services will need continued funding. Twenty projects were created that other federal funding could not address. These projects built on the strengths of the local communities that know their needs. The funding provided an opportunity to respond to these needs in new and creative ways. Working with the counties was an important part of this funding and should be continued.

The initial pilot program demonstrated that addressing the issue of homelessness on the local level through Ohan Zones funding was effective. Hundreds of beds were added to the homeless service network, including creative initiatives like tiny homes.

We urge your support for funding to continue and expand the Ohana Zones program during this next phase of the pilot program, as long as it does not impact funding for other ongoing proven homeless services.

Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 373-0356 or [alohabettylou@hotmail.com](mailto:alohabettylou@hotmail.com), if you have any questions.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone (808) 373-0356 • [bettylou.larson@CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org](mailto:bettylou.larson@CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org)






February 17, 2022

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

Thru: Mary Scott-Lau, Executive Director  
Kimberly Cummings, Kauai Program Director

From: Sharon Graham, Housing Director 

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB3168, SD1 Ohana Zones Pilot Program

Thank you very much for allowing us to submit our testimony. We are in strong support of this bill, as it extends the sunset date and appropriates additional funds to the already existing pilot programs statewide.

On Kaua'i Ohana Zone funds were used to create Kealaula on Pua Loke, which is our County's first Permanent Supportive Housing project. This project consists of 28 rental housing units, of which there are 6 studio units and 28 1-bedroom units, an administration building and a classroom building.

Women In Need (WIN) currently operates Kealaula. This program provides wrap around support services for families and individuals who are transitioning from houselessness using the Housing First model. The Housing First model was developed to house houseless families/individuals first without restrictions, and then provide them case management services to become self-sufficient, be able to afford, secure and maintain permanent housing. Additionally, we provide follow-up case management services for up to 1 year with residents that move into permanent housing to be able to ensure that they are still on track with their goals.

Our services include, but are not limited to financial education, how to properly care for your home, applying for voucher assistance (TBRA & Sec.8 programs), nutrition classes, housing applications, job applications and interview. For those with substance abuse issues, we offer assessments, and treatment classes. We make connections with other service providers such as mental health professionals, property managers, real estate brokers, and also community members.

Another successful component of our program is requiring in-person meetings for each resident at least 2 hours each month. This is so we can discuss what they would like to achieve, how we can help them, and set their goals so we are able to develop their service plans. Services that each client receives is tailored to their needs, one person may need more services and another may not.

Our successes show that this model works, to date we have housed 39 households or 97 individuals (49 adults & 48 keiki's); we have had 12 households or 34 individuals (14 adults & 20 keiki's) transition into permanent housing. It's important to note that the 12 households transitioned out of Kealaula prior to hitting their 1-year anniversary. This is why we feel so strongly that case management services, especially funding for these types of services, is vital to the success of projects such as these or any type of housing projects that involve those transitioning from houselessness. We have over 100 households on our waitlist.

February 17, 2022  
SB3168, SD1 Ohana Zone Pilot Program  
Page 2

Our families that transitioned out of this program, were able to secure better employment, reduce their debt, either start or increase their savings, attended financial education and ready to rent classes, and actively participated in case management. The most important tool that they had at their disposal was the courage to ask for and seek assistance from their case managers. This is why we believe our program is so successful and have had such a positive effect on our community.

We recognize that houselessness is a difficult issue to solve, there will never be an easy answer to its resolve. However, we strongly believe that programs such as Kealaula is a great start to addressing this issue, providing wrap around services and gaining trust is an essential part of the solution.

Ohana Zone programs such as Kealaula, Kauhale and other programs are essential to each County's success in addressing our houseless population.

WIN stands in support of SB3168, SD1, we urge for the passing of this bill. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to submit our written testimony.



# PARTNERS IN CARE

*Oahu's Continuum of Care*

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

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3168 SD1 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means,  
FROM: Partners In Care (PIC)  
Hearing: Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 10:100pm via videoconference  
Position: **SUPPORT**

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

Partner In Care, Oahu's Continuum of Care, stands in support of **SB 3168 SD1 RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**. This measure will provide additional funding, extend the lifetime of the pilot project and establish a permanent ohana zones program.

Over the last 3 years, there have been several innovative programs created within the ohana zones throughout the islands. 20 programs were created that other federal funding is not able to address. These programs have added hundreds of beds to the homeless service system including emergency shelter, tiny homes and more, which is essential in addressing the issue of homelessness. We support the continuation of this program and the resources needed to fund them for the next 5 years.

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

Aloha



18 February 2022

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hearing Time: 10:10 a.m.  
Location: Virtual  
Re: SB 3168, SD1, Relating to Homelessness

Aloha mai e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

We are writing in **support** of SB 3168, SD1, relating to homelessness with a comment. This bill extends the ohana zones pilot program to 06/30/2028. It appropriates funds for the continuation and stabilization of the program and establishes a permanent ohana zones program within the Department of Human Services upon expiration of the pilot program.

We request that the program continue to be situated in the Department of Human Services rather than transferred to Hawaii Public Housing Authority because we believe that DHS has the request expertise for success.

We are in support of the continuation of the ohana zones program and believe that it is serving its intended purpose to provide critical services to the State's homeless population. The Opportunity Youth Action Hui is especially concerned about homelessness among youth, with research showing that youth aged 12–17 are at higher risk than adults of becoming homeless. According to a recent report, transition-aged youth between 18 and 24 years are one of the fastest growing homeless populations. Homeless youth often do not receive adequate services. They may not meet shelter admission policies, and, at times, there is a lack of bed space for youth. Although homeless young adults can use shelter services, services may not always be a good fit for the needs of the transitioning population. This bill is an important step among many that need to be taken to address homelessness in our community. We ask that you support it.

The Opportunity Youth Action Hui is a collaboration of organizations and individual committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth, promoting equity in the justice system, and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs.

We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth houselessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally-informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

**Please support SB 3168, SD1.**

**SB-3168-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 1:08:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2022 10:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jared Watumull	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The ohana zone program works and gives funding to programs that help get people off our streets.

**SB-3168-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/17/2022 9:15:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2022 10:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Carli Gardner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
From: Clara Kathman  
Subject: Support of Senate Bill 3168 SD1 relating to homelessness

Aloha! My name is Clara Kathman and I am currently a senior at Kalaheo High School. I strongly support SB3168 SD1 and ask you to vote yes on this bill.

This bill would ask the state to extend the sunset of the Ohana Zones Pilot Program five years and establish a permanent program with the Hawaii Public Housing Authority upon its expiration. This program has helped to house 1,100 houseless people since its start in 2018. Keeping this program is extremely vital to the assistance of the, “6,458 people experiencing homelessness statewide” (2020 PIT count).

Houselessness is an issue that no one in Hawaii can ignore. No matter where you go it is staring you in the face. Everyone I know has had positive and negative interactions with the houseless people in our community including myself. For the most part, these are kind and generous people just trying to get by, but they cannot do it without the State's help. It is no secret that housing prices are extremely high and navigating the affordable housing world is nothing short of complicated. With the continued support of the Ohana Zones Program, houseless people will be able to get off the streets and in to fulfilling community roles

The state can no longer ignore this crisis. I strongly urge you to support the thousands of residents of Hawaii currently on the streets by voting YES on SB3168 SD1.

Sincerely,

Clara Kathman

Citations

“Point in Time Count.” *Point in Time Count*, <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/point-in-time-count/>.

“Point in Time Count.” *Point in Time Count*, <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/point-in-time-count/>.

“State of Homelessness: 2021 Edition.” *National Alliance to End Homelessness*, 16 Aug. 2021, <https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness-2021/>.

**SB-3168-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/17/2022 4:42:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/18/2022 10:10:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Bronsten Kossow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support, Mahalo!